

Board Meeting
September 23, 2010

ROLL CALL

RATIFY AGREEMENT AND APPROVE PROJECT FOR URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
BIG BROADBAND (UC2B) – FIBER OPTIC INFRASTRUCTURE INSTALLATION,
URBANA

Action: Ratify Agreement and Approve Project for Urbana-Champaign Big
Broadband (UC2B) – Fiber Optic Infrastructure Installation

Funding: Federal Grant Funds, State Grant Funds, City Grant Funds, and Institutional
Funds Operating Budget

In recent years the Urbana campus and the cities of Urbana and Champaign have collaborated on plans for a fiber optic network that would enhance the campus's data and communication infrastructure and provide broadband access to underserved segments of the community. In August 2009, the University and the cities formed a consortium called the "Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband" (UC2B) to facilitate competition for federal stimulus money made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for broadband development projects. As part of the application process and to ensure effective response within brief and strict application deadlines, the cities and the University negotiated an agreement governing their consortium. After being named a finalist in December 2009, the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration awarded UC2B, with the

University identified as lead agency, one of 23 grants. The University also applied for and received a \$3.5 million in state match funding.

The \$29.4 million proposed infrastructure project will provide 188 route miles of fiber-optic infrastructure. The UC2B project would make high-speed internet available to 4,650 households and 200 businesses as well as anchor institutions. It also would address lingering issues with the University's fiber optic infrastructure. The UC2B backbone design specifically provides redundancy for the Blue Waters building, capacity for the next phase of the Research Park, connectivity for new South Farm facilities to the campus network at full gigabit or 10-gigabit speeds, service to the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) to allow research results to flow securely back and forth to campus at very high data rates, and support public safety needs at Willard Airport.

UC2B holds the potential for the University to deploy a blended learning model and to rethink how it schedules its classes, to make more efficient use of existing classrooms and to alleviate the need for constructing new classroom space.

Funding for this project would be provided by grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, City grant funds and institutional funds operating budget of the Urbana campus.

Accordingly, the Chancellor at Urbana with the concurrence of the appropriate administrative officers, recommends that the Board ratify the UC2B consortium agreement and approve the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) –

Fiber Optic Infrastructure Installation project with a budget of \$29.4 million.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The President of the University concurs.