

Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#05-33



RESOLUTION

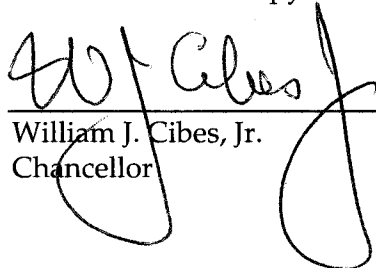
concerning

THE USE OF PLANT FUNDS  
BY  
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
TO RENOVATE  
ELIHU BURRITT LIBRARY  
TO REORGANIZE  
LIBRARY OPERATIONS

May 6, 2005

- WHEREAS, The Elihu Burritt Library was originally constructed in 1972, and
- WHEREAS, The circulation desk and support staff are located on the second floor of the facility, and
- WHEREAS, The library wishes to relocate the main circulation desk and support staff to the lower ground level to more easily accommodate students and faculty, and
- WHEREAS, This relocation will permit the development of new lounge space for students and internet use and computer support spaces, and
- WHEREAS, This reorganization will improve ADA access to the library, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That Central Connecticut State University is authorized to use up to \$1,000,000 in plant funds to renovate Burritt Library to reorganize library operations.

A Certified True Copy:

  
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 William J. Cibes, Jr.  
 Chancellor

**ITEM**

The use of plant funds by Central Connecticut State University to renovate Elihu Burritt Library to reorganize library operations.

**BACKGROUND**

Elihu Burritt Library was constructed in 1972 and houses the library collection and associated staff. Recent renovation work completed on the library includes the installation of a new roof, upgrade of the existing elevator and HVAC renovations to the upper floors of the building.

The 1999 Master Plan recommends the comprehensive renovation of the existing facility and the construction of a 161,980 square foot addition to accommodate the future needs of the library as well as the relocation of Media Services, Information Systems and Computer Services. This project will result in the consolidation of all academic and administrative computing departments and services along with the library functions and collection into one centralized facility. This project, however, is not anticipated to commence before 2010.

**ANALYSIS**

The main entrance to the Library is accessed by a monumental staircase located on the exterior of the building, with the main circulation desk located on the second level of the building; however, staff and students enter the facility by way of the ground level entrance located under the monumental stair. To the uninitiated, the library is perceived as a warren of corridors and rooms through which visitors, students and staff must navigate to locate an elevator or stairwell to traverse to the second floor. From time to time, the exterior stairway entrance has been closed due to water penetration issues on the decking above. The 1999 master plan recognized the ineffectiveness of the library's physical organization and recommended that the main entrance of the facility be relocated to the ground level for ease of access.

The university proposes to relocate the main circulation desk and office support to the lower level to respond to the master plan recommendations and to clarify the internal organization of the library. In addition, they would like to improve ADA access and visibility by removing many of the partitions and rooms that obscure its location at the rear of the building. At the same time, they intend to construct lounge space for students and internet access and computer support spaces. This work will entail removal of interior masonry partitions and faculty toilet rooms, replacement of ceilings and lighting and the installation of new telecommunications/electrical wiring.

To accomplish this work, the university has designated \$1,000,000 of their plant fund specifically for this purpose. These funds will cover the design fees as well as demolition and construction costs for the proposed project. Work will be coordinated with an HVAC renovation project recently initiated through the Department of Public Works. The HVAC project includes the modification of air

handlers and heat exchangers, piping upgrades on the first and second floors and other improvements in the stack areas.

The designation of unrestricted fund balances for specific projects at a university is authorized by Board policy. Expenditure of these funds requires Board approval. Of particular note is that CCSU's undesignated fund balance meets the requirements of the Board's fund balance guidelines.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the utilization of up to \$1,000,000 of plant funds by Central Connecticut State University to renovate Burritt Library to reorganize internal library operations.