



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget  
**Project Request Justification**

2006-2008

Biennium

Date: July 22, 2005

**A. General Information**

1. Agency name: Virginia Tech Construct      2. Agency code: 208
3. Project title: Addition to Veterinary Medicine Instruction Facility      4. Agency priority: 13
5. Contact Person: M. Dwight Shelton, Jr.
6. Contact's telephone number: (540) 231-8775
7. Contact's e-mail address: mdsjr@vt.edu

**B. Proposed Project**

1. Project Cost:

General Fund/General Fund supported debt	7,350,000
Nongeneral fund	
9 (c) revenue debt	
NGF supported 9 (d) revenue bonds	1,400,000
<b>Total request</b>	<b>8,750,000</b>

2. Project cost changes:

NONE.

3. Description:

- The Addition to the Veterinary Medicine Instruction Facility has been on the university's plan since 1993, formerly titled Veterinary Medicine Addition. This project requests authorization to construct an addition of about 31,000 gross square feet for faculty office and related workspace. The existing space will be renovated for faculty office space as part of the project to minimize the amount of new construction.
- The scope of the project was established based conservatively on the amount of space needed to relieve overcrowding of the existing faculty and to accommodate planned hires.
- The life expectancy of the project is 80 years with proper maintenance.

**4. Project scope change:**

NONE.

**5. a. Approved Master Site Plan:**

Yes  No

If not, explain:

**b. 2004-10 Capital Outlay Plan:**

Yes  No

If not, explain:

**6. Equipment for a previously funded project.**

NONE.

**7. Supplement to a previously funded project.**

NONE.

**C. Project Justification**

**1. a. Existing condition:**

- The existing classroom and office space in the College of Veterinary Medicine, constructed over twenty-five years ago, is no longer capable of meeting the needs and demands of the school's modern clinically-based teaching and learning program. Faculty are currently housed in a limited number of eight-foot by eight-foot open cubicles which are far below the recommended state guideline size.
- The existing overcrowded, open system results in the faculty's academic and scholarly books, papers and specimens being stacked on floors and in hallways. In this day of increased concern over technological and scientific knowledge theft, the security of faculty academic materials is inadequate.
- The current open cubicle environment is inadequate for meeting with and advising students, for holding confidential conversations with other faculty, and for housing the expanded technology for preparation of instructional materials. Overall, faculty productivity is stressed because of the distractions caused by background noise, for example hearing other's conversations and equipment noise.
- There are few conference and seminar rooms available for faculty and graduate students to meet and develop team lesson plans and collaborative projects, thus impeding the College's academic success.
- Further, the College is expanding its faculty as it grows its clinical and outreach programs and as it successfully competes for externally funded research. The College has outgrown the office space planned in the 1960's and recruitment of new faculty and retention of current faculty is difficult because of the ill-suited space.

**Higher Education Only**

**b. Facility Condition Index:**

FCI \_\_\_\_\_

**c. Space deficit:**

Yes  No

**2. Programmatic information:**

- The College of Veterinary Medicine enrolls 455 graduate and profession students in the study of animal medicine. The American Veterinary Medical Associations' Council on Education, which is the accrediting body for the College of Veterinary Medicine, has indicated that a lack of adequate faculty workspace has become a major concern for the program.
- In order to assure the College's continued accredited status, the university needs to have plans in place to resolve this deficiency. Further, faculty recruitment and retention are becoming increasingly difficult due to the lack of appropriate space for scholarly activities and student interaction. As an example, in the past year, three intensively recruited faculty candidates declined our invitation to join the faculty with a compelling reason being lack of adequate office and laboratory space.
- Three hundred sixty professional and 95 graduate students interact with the 95 faculty of the college on a regular basis. With constrained, non-private individual faculty offices, these meetings must often occur in public venues where confidential material and issues may be compromised.
- The program also requires conference and seminar rooms to support the faculty's ability to provide quality instruction and mentoring of both professional and graduate students, as well as an enable greater faculty interaction and collaboration.

**3. Alignment to strategic plan:**

This project will support Virginia Tech's strategic plan in the areas of Research and Scholarship, Graduate Education, and Undergraduate Education. The Veterinary Medicine Instruction Addition will provide increased faculty workspace needed to ensure continued program accreditation and to support the following university goals:

Research and Scholarship:

1. Increase the stature of Virginia Tech as a national research university in quality of research and scholarship.
2. Increase the stature of Virginia Tech as a national research university in quantity of research and scholarship.

Graduate Education:

1. Increase the quality of the graduate programs.

Undergraduate Education:

1. Maintain a current, relevant, and comprehensive undergraduate curriculum.

2. Strengthen the quality of undergraduate instruction.
3. Create learning experiences for undergraduate students that maximize the benefits of attending a large research university.

#### **D. Options Considered**

Other options considered but not selected include leasing, renovating existing space, or delaying the project entirely. Constructing an addition to the current facility is the selected option because the additional space needs to be located near the current veterinary medicine facilities for program coordination and shared use of laboratory and office resources.

Leasing is not a feasible option because there is no available space for lease near the College of Veterinary Medicine and, to maintain program functionality, the required additional faculty workspace must be adjacent to the current facility.

Renovating an already existing facility is not a viable option for the additional space required due to a shortage of office and classroom space in the vicinity of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Thus, no existing space is available to allocate for renovation to accommodate this expanding program.

Delaying the project to a future biennium is not a viable option because the American Veterinary Medical Associations' Council on Education (AVMA COE), which is the accrediting body for the College of Veterinary Medicine, has indicated that a lack of adequate faculty workspace has become a major concern for the program. In order to assure the College's continued accredited status and ability to recruit faculty, the university needs to have plans in place to resolve this deficiency. The College is required to initiate a self-study in FY2006 to prepare for the 2007 site visit from the AVMA COE. The University needs to have plans in place to address this issue in the 2006 Self-Study.

#### **E. Project Schedule Changes:**

NONE.