

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(Agency 208)**

Capital Project Budget Amendment Proposal

Planning Replace Randolph Hall

	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
Additional Funds Requested:		
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Nongeneral Fund	\$11,000,000	\$0

Virginia Tech's College of Engineering is comprised of 12 departments, 298 faculty, 8,411 undergraduates, and 2,143 graduate students. The undergraduate engineering program is ranked 9th nationally among public universities by US News and World Report and 13th among all universities. A Wall Street Journal survey of employment recruiters ranked Virginia Tech the 5th best school for engineering graduates, and the college generates \$90 million annually in externally sponsored research expenditures.

Randolph Hall is the University's largest engineering building and was constructed in two phases between 1952 and 1959. The existing 166,000 gross square feet, 67 year-old building is one of the most outdated academic buildings on campus with extensive egress and ADA deficiencies, deteriorated building systems, and a facility condition index of 35 percent in the FICAS system. The existing Randolph Hall does not support engineering teaching and research in the 21st century engineering disciplines, cannot sustain the existing enrollment in these engineering programs, and cannot support the demand for engineering degrees from Virginia Tech.

The undergraduate enrollment in the College of Engineering has grown 63 percent since the fall of 2006 and is projected to grow further in both students and faculty members. The undergraduate enrollment in the College of Engineering will exceed 10,000 students by 2023-24 with the opportunity to grow beyond that due to the tech talent pipeline statewide initiative existing plans call for additional growth. In addition, recent commitments made by the University to support the commonwealth's technology talent pipeline initiative calls for even more graduates in computer science and technology-related fields, further pressuring the University's engineering facilities. This additional expansion of enrollment growth is essential to fulfil the state's workforce development expectations for industry and government.

As an illustration, to accommodate a target enrollment increase of 2,000 students in computer sciences, some of the out-year growth must be housed in an expanded Randolph Hall once the Data and Decision Sciences Building reaches maximum utilization. Without improved and expanded space for these programs, the University will not have the facilities necessary to support the demands for talent needed by industry and government.

This project request is to demolish the existing 166,000 gross square foot building and replace it on site with a new and expanded facility containing high quality academic and research space appropriate to the needs of the students and faculty. The proposed replacement building would be 284,000 gross square feet with a total project cost of \$231.9 million. The funding plan calls for \$208.71 million of General Fund and \$23.19 million of nongeneral fund based on an 80 percent instruction and 20 percent research programmatic split for the project.

This request is for an \$11 million appropriation to complete detailed planning for the project. The University developed a two-phase renovation program for the College of Engineering that includes refurbishment and expansion of Holden Hall followed by a demolition and replacement of Randolph Hall. The Holden Hall project is underway with an expected completion date in December 2021. The estimated planning period for Randolph Hall is 30 months. Thus, the university needs to initiate planning for the Randolph Hall by July 2020 to synchronize the start of construction with the occupancy of Holden Hall.

Because of the importance of this project to the state's work force development goals and the University's mission and strategic plan, the university is prepared to temporarily fund the planning work with nongeneral fund resources until an appropriation for the entire project is available. Nongeneral funds expended for planning may be reimbursed from future General Fund appropriations for this project or count toward the nongeneral fund component of the total project budget when the project is funded to move into the construction phase.