

## U-M's building boom to continue

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ELIYAHU GURFINKEL, THE ANN ARBOR NEWS  
The University of Michigan plans to build a new \$102 million academic building for the Law School on part of the parking lot on the corner of South State and Monroe streets in Ann Arbor.

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**"In the 18 months I've been here, every single dean has told me that his or her (unit) needs a new building. And then deans would ask me, 'How do I get a new building?' Well it turns out no-one has an answer to that question." - U-M Provost Teresa Sullivan.**

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**BY DAVE GERSHMAN**

*The Ann Arbor News*

Construction cranes will continue to be a fixture across campus for years to come as plans for a \$102 million expansion of the [University of Michigan Law School](#) and a new \$51 million data facility for the health system received the green light on Thursday.

The U-M [Board of Regents](#)

approved both projects, and authorized the university to hire architects to draw up schematic designs. In addition, the regents were presented with the university's annual request for state money for three more projects that are still on the horizon.

U-M's wish list for state funding includes its long-standing desire to build a new \$175 million biology building; a \$133 million renovation of the G.G. Brown Laboratory Building on North Campus; and a new \$122 million health sciences education building.

While all of these projects are just the latest in a campus construction boom, the university has started a study of its existing space.

Provost Teresa Sullivan, appearing before the faculty Senate Assembly last month, called the current process "ad-hoc," but said new guidelines are under consideration that would help central administrators decide which projects should move forward.

"In the 18 months I've been here, every single dean has told me that his or her (unit) needs a new building," said

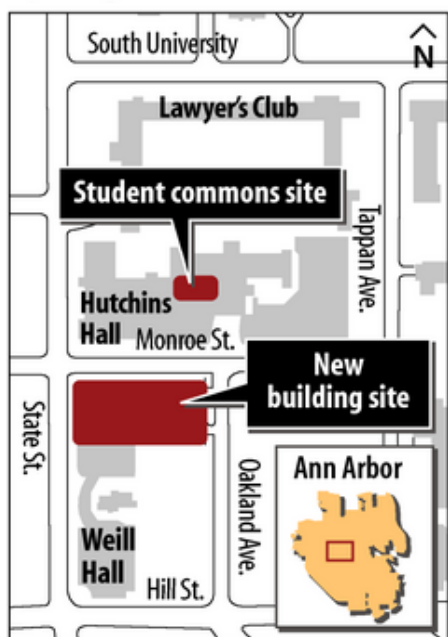
Sullivan. "And then deans would ask me, 'How do I get a new building.' Well it turns out no-one has an answer to that question."

A template is being developed to allow central administrators compare requests for capital projects, and set priorities, she said.

"This means we won't be considering the proposals on an ad-hoc basis and it'll let us find synergies among the proposals," said Sullivan. "So, for example, if two deans are proposing classroom buildings, those two buildings could be combined in one building depending upon its location. We may be able to save money for both schools."

## Law school expansion

U-M plans to expand its law school by building a new academic building on a parking lot south of Monroe Street.



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The law school expansion is the first major addition of instructional space since the iconic, English Collegiate Gothic style Law Quadrangle was finished in 1933. The quad has been expanded since then, but for additional library space. Meanwhile, over the years, the law school's student enrollment doubled to 1,100 students, and its faculty quadrupled.

U-M will construct a 100,000-square-foot building on a parking lot across Monroe Street, just south of the law quad. It will contain smaller classrooms with greater technological capabilities, as well as spaces for group work and meetings. Every square inch of space in the existing law quad, even in the basement, has been pressed into service, but it's still not enough, Sullivan told the regents.

Also part of the project is the construction of a 16,000-square foot commons area that will connect Hutchins Hall and the Legal Research Building, which form part of the law quad. It will be designed as a central gathering space for students and faculty.

Private donors, law school funds, and university investment proceeds will pay for the work, which will be designed by Hartman-Cox Architects of Washington, D.C., with Michigan-based Integrated Design Solutions.

The 47,000-square-foot data center for the health system will be built on North Campus, with money from the health system. Timothy Slottow, chief financial officer at U-M, said the center will meet the future needs of the health system as it expands.

Dr. Robert Kelch, chief executive of the health system, said redundant power and cooling systems in the building will

allow the hospitals to operate if local utilities are interrupted.

Built to be tornado resistant, the data center will be able to withstand gusts of up to 200 miles per hour. The engineering firm X-nth, Inc., which has its headquarters in Maitland, Fla., will design the building.

The new biology building, new health sciences education building and the renovation of the Brown Laboratory were also listed in U-M's capital funding request to the state last year. The state allocates capital funds periodically, but not necessarily on a yearly basis. U-M listed projects that are "difficult to fund through fundraising," said Slottow.

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