



September 17, 2020

Mr. Michael Behrendt
Director of Planning and Community Development
Town of Durham
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

Re: UNH Health Sciences Simulation Center – RSA 674:54 submission

Dear Michael:

The University is funding and managing the design and construction of a new Health Sciences Simulation Center (HSSC) to provide space for the growing enrollments in health professional programs. In July 2019 the State of New Hampshire provided \$9m to the University to grow the health professional programs to address the growing needs across the state for more health professionals. Enrollments in Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Communications Sciences & Disorders are all growing and expected to continue to grow. This new 20,000 sf building is being designed and constructed very rapidly to bring this space online in time for Fall 2021 instruction. It is anticipated that the long-term home for these programs will be in a more comprehensive facility with other College of Health & Human Services programs in a fully renovated and expanded Nesmith Hall. For the next 5-10 years this facility will provide the necessary specialized simulation labs and other instruction spaces to meet the growing needs of the College.

The building will be located on land that has been previously developed (a parking lot and an open area previously occupied by chicken coops). Sitting on the west side of the RR tracks, it is within easy walking of the academic core of campus, but it is in a precinct that has a mix of different building types and designs. Because of the very compressed time available to bring this building online and because it is expected to serve these specific needs for just 5-10 years, the University has chosen to build it as a single story building using wood frame construction. It is anticipated that this building will continue to be used for other campus purposes when these programs move out, but the lifetime of this building is more in the time frame of 20-40 years, rather than the typical 100+ years of most campus buildings.

I am submitting the attached material in compliance with New Hampshire RSA 674:54 to explain the elements and construction of this project. The project has been reviewed by the USNH Board of Trustees in June prior to the beginning of actual design and will be brought back for their approval in the next two weeks. The project is being done on a fast track basis under a design-build form of contract with Lavallee Brensinger Architects as the lead design firm and Wright-Ryan as the lead build firm.

The one story design has four functional components: an office wing, a simulation suite, a group instruction suite, and student commons space. The simple gable forms allow

for mechanical equipment to be housed in the attic rather than on the roof or ground. The siding will be composite material such as Hardie board siding with an asphalt shingle roof. The building mass is broken by a rotation of one wing with a flat roof portion at the hinge point.

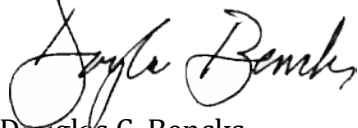
This new building will sit on an existing 40 car parking lot that will be relocated adjacent to the new building as part of this project. The parking lot will impact wetlands, but the building will not. Because of the need to start construction on the building this fall, the construction is being broken into two phases with the construction of the parking lot happening next summer after a full wetlands permitting process is completed. The parking lot construction will include the necessary and appropriate stormwater management components that meet NH DES and UNH Stormwater Center expectations.

The capacities of water and sanitary sewer lines in this area can accommodate the limited increase created by this new building. The University will separately submit to Durham Public Works the calculations for water and sewer usage for the HSSC.

Excavations and foundations are expected to begin in early November with framing and building systems to follow during the winter. Site work and the parking lot construction will happen next summer with the entire project completed by August 2021 so that instruction can begin for the Fall semester 2021.

Attached are the most current drawings available at this time for review. I am prepared to meet with the Planning Board at their convenience to hear comments and answer any questions they may have about this project.

Respectfully,



Douglas C. Bencks
University Architect and Director of Campus Planning

Copy: William Janelle, Chris Clement, Mica Stark

Attachments: 14 copies of the following:

Location map

Design development drawings - site plans and floor plans

3D images of the exterior