

Resolution in Support of the UW-Madison Chemistry Building Renovation and Construction Project

Submitted by ASEC

Whereas the Daniels and Matthews chemistry buildings, which house the chemistry instructional laboratories, were constructed in the late 1960's and are outdated and deteriorated;

Whereas new instructional chemistry laboratories are needed due to an increased enrollment in chemistry classes and safety issues. The current laboratories do not conform to modern safety and hygiene standards;

Whereas 55% of UW-Madison undergraduate students take at least one course from the UW-Madison Department of Chemistry, and 40% of freshman take a chemistry course during their first semester on campus;

Whereas due to current space limitations the Chemistry Organic lab courses are identified as "bottleneck" courses which cause longer time to degree outcomes in STEM disciplines which require organic chemistry as a requisite for graduation;

Whereas due to safety and space issues, the chemistry laboratory curriculum has been altered in both length and content, diminishing the breadth and depth of hands-on experiments that undergraduate students experience;

Whereas the lack of safe, adequate, and modern chemistry instructional laboratories impairs the educational quality students receive;

Whereas the preliminary study and design has already been completed and further delay may cost the state additional funds due to increased pricing and staff time; and

Therefore the Academic Staff Assembly at the University of Wisconsin-Madison requests that the Wisconsin State Legislature approve the UW-Madison Chemistry renovation and construction project as an exceptional case due to the high impact of the project on undergraduate education.