

**APPROVED**  
**MARCH 5, 2019**

Item #E-3  
March 5, 2019

**PUBLIC UNIVERSITY  
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** This item recommends approval of the following public university non-instructional capital project:

<u>University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign</u>	
Baseball Training Facility	\$8,500,000
New Construction (Indoor)	

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the non-instructional capital project at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign to construct a new baseball training facility, including a full baseball infield with netting for pitching and hitting tunnels, as well as a reception and recruiting lounge.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**PUBLIC UNIVERSITY  
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL CAPITAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign is seeking Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) approval of the project presented in this item in order to proceed. This item provides details regarding the project's scope, cost and funding source, campus input, and schedule.

<u>Institution/Project</u>	<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign: Baseball Training Facility, including a full baseball infield with netting for pitching and hitting tunnels, as well as a reception and recruiting lounge.	\$8,500,000

**Statutory Citation and Requirement:**

110 ILCS 205/8 of the Board of Higher Education Act outlines procedures for annual budget and capital development and approvals among IBHE, the Illinois Community College Board and the public universities. Guidelines for university non-instructional capital items are referenced as follows:

*“Each State university must submit its plan for capital improvements of non-instructional facilities to the Board for approval before final recommendations are made if the total cost of the project as approved by the institution’s board is in excess of \$2 million. Non-instructional uses shall include but not be limited to dormitories, union buildings, field houses, stadium, other recreational facilities and parking lots. The Board shall determine whether or not any project submitted for approval is consistent with the master plan for higher education and with instructional buildings that are provided for therein. If the project is found by a majority of the Board not to be consistent, such capital improvement shall not be constructed.”*

Project Background and Scope

The goal of the project is to construct a new baseball training facility built at Illinois Field (current baseball facility) at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. The new facility will be located just west of the playing field and immediately south of the existing Illinois Field clubhouse. The new structure will be connected to the existing baseball clubhouse and through utilization of existing locker and meeting areas, will create a complete indoor facility. The new facility, as currently envisioned, will be a 23,500 gross square foot building and will include a full size collegiate turf infield surface along with a player and recruiting lounge, as well as pitching and hitting tunnels with retractable netting for additional targeted training opportunities. These aspects of the facility will allow for indoor training and player development in all areas of the game when the Midwest weather makes it difficult for such events to occur outdoors. Site

improvements will include a new paved parking lot and new entry drive with gateway access from Kirby/Florida Avenue. Planning for the facility is currently underway with expected construction completion in early Fiscal Year 2022.

### Project Rationale

The University of Illinois, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) is seeking to invest in facility improvements as they are committed to provide student athletes with the resources required to realize their full potential as students, athletes, and well-rounded citizens. Illinois Field was constructed in 1988 and after thirty years, requires new provisions to keep the facility/program current with state of athletics in a competitive environment. While the baseball facility has seen several upgrades over the years, most notably the installation of a turf playing surface in 2008, necessary upgrades still remain. Intercollegiate sports require year round training, and with an outdoor sport such as baseball, that becomes a challenging proposition. Much like the new playing surface installed in 2008, which greatly increased field use, this new indoor training facility will further increase training and practice opportunities for the baseball team year round.

### Project Cost and Financing – (Institutional Funds and Debt Issuance)

Resources required for this project:

Construction Budget	\$6,805,000
A/E/ Owner’s Cost	1,014,400
Bidding Contingency	340,300
Construction Contingency	<u>340,300</u>
Total Funds	\$8,500,000

No student fees or tuition dollars will be used in construction or operation of this facility.

### Constituency Input/Decision-Making

The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois approved the plan to finance the Baseball Training Facility on January 31, 2019. Currently, almost \$3 million dollars has been pledged toward the construction of the Baseball Training Facility. The Board of Trustees has given support for each of these projects advancing at each respective step.

The fundraising for this project is part of a much larger \$2.25 billion dollar fundraising campaign. As part of that campaign, the DIA has an ambitious goal to raise \$300 million dollars to enhance student athlete support and experiences, along with a goal of raising funds for infrastructure improvements. As a result, several athletic projects, to include this project, have been funded with the aid of private funds.

### **Recommendation**

Staff has reviewed the project presented in this item and found it to be in accordance with the Board’s *Non-Instructional Capital Project Guidelines*, approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in August 2002, and administrative rules. The project is consistent with the mission and scope of the institution; provide needed additional, replacement, or more efficiently utilized space; and are economically feasible, as required by administrative rules.

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the non-instructional capital project for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to construct a baseball training facility, as included in the item.*

