

**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

**Resolution No. 2024.10/57
Authorization of
Expenditures for College of
Engineering Project
Temporary Space**

Resolution

Whereas, the University engaged the Education Advisory Board (EAB) in 2016 to investigate the feasibility of establishing new engineering degree programs at Illinois State University, and;

Whereas, in June 2018, the University established an Academic Steering Committee to investigate the establishment of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering programs at Illinois State University, and;

Whereas, the Academic Steering Committee examined the feasibility of establishing programs in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering to leverage the already existing faculty expertise in the departments of Physics and Technology and other departments and schools across the University, and;

Whereas, in the Fall of 2019, the University hired Cannon Design to complete an Engineering Master Plan for the implementation of a new Engineering Program at Illinois State University. The Master Plan had two phases. Phase 1 utilized the ISU John Green Building and Carter Harris Administration Building as the location for the initial enrollment phase with 520 total students and the steady-state Phase 2 which required an additional to-be-built facility that would accommodate an overall enrollment of 1,000 total students. Since the Master Plan was published, the University has elected to purchase property that has the capacity to accommodate both Phase 1 and Phase 2 enrollment in order to save overall cost, and;

Whereas, the Board of Trustees approved in May of 2021 (2021.05/09) for the University to request Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) approval for Illinois State University for three new Units of Instruction in Engineering (i.e., a College of Engineering, a Department of Electrical Engineering, and a Department of Mechanical Engineering); and;

Whereas, the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) approved Illinois State University for three new Units of Instruction - a College of Engineering, a Department of Electrical Engineering, and a Department of Mechanical Engineering in March 2022, and;

Whereas, The College of Engineering Freshman Class will begin instruction on campus in the Fall of 2025. Spaces have been identified in Williams Hall to house classroom Design Studios and Student Support Spaces. Lab equipment and Lab furnishings will need to be purchased to equip the Design Studio spaces. The equipment and furnishings have already been designed into the permanent home for the College of Engineering and will be relocated to the new building when it opens in the Fall of 2026. In addition, power and data improvements will be required for the installation of the new lab equipment.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees authorizes expenditures not to exceed \$750,000 for all necessary College of Engineering – Temporary Space Furniture, Lab Equipment, Furnishings and Construction to be prepared for Freshman Engineering Classes in the Fall of 2025 to be held in Williams Hall.

Board Action on:	_____	Postpone:	_____
Motion by:	_____	Amend:	_____
Second by:	_____	Disapprove:	_____
Vote:	Yeas: _____ Nays: _____	Approve:	_____

ATTEST: Board Action, October 11, 2024

Secretary / Chairperson

**Board of Trustees
Illinois State University
Authorization of Expenditures for College of Engineering Project Temporary Space**

Background

The University engaged the Education Advisory Board (EAB) in 2016 to investigate the feasibility of establishing new engineering programs at Illinois State University through a combination of quantitative data analytics and secondary research. EAB sought to assess the need and viability of engineering programs at Illinois State University.

In 2018, the University established an Academic Steering Committee and undertook a study to investigate the feasibility of establishing engineering programs at Illinois State University. The committee examined the possibility of establishing programs in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering to leverage the already existing faculty expertise in the departments of Physics and Technology and other departments and schools across the university.

To further vet requirements, members of the Academic Steering Committee visited engineering programs at comparable schools and attended engineering focused academic conferences. Committee Members also met with executives from local industries to gather insights into desired industry desirable curriculum, and to understand the resources (e.g., faculty, staff, equipment, facilities, support structures) needed to establish high-quality programs in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering.

Based on information gathered through school visits and interactions with industry executives, the Academic Steering Committee recommended further efforts to secure the implementation of Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering programs at Illinois State University.

University Program Intent

Illinois State University plans to expand its curriculum to address workforce needs in Illinois, the Midwest, and beyond to include bachelor’s degree programs in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and general engineering. The three new majors will build upon a strong foundation of existing programs in engineering technology, construction management, information technology and physics.

College of Engineering Freshmen Design Studios and Collaboration Spaces

Since the College of Engineering building will not open until the Fall of 2026, the first engineering cohort starting in August 2025 will have freshmen engineering classes in temporary spaces within Williams Hall. These spaces will consist of engineering design labs and collaboration spaces utilized by freshmen engineering students for completing projects, studying, and tutoring. The specialized equipment and furniture required for the engineering design studios will need to be purchased and set up during the Spring of 2025 so the classrooms are operational when the college first opens. The specialized equipment and furniture purchased for the temporary engineering design studios will be reused in the new engineering building when it opens. Minor modifications to electrical power and data to support the lab equipment will be required.

This resolution requests the Board of Trustees to authorize expenditures, not to exceed \$750,000, for all necessary College of Engineering – Temporary Space Furniture, Lab Equipment, Furnishings and Construction to be prepared for Freshman Engineering Classes in the Fall of 2025.

Resource Requirements

Lab Equipment & Furnishings	\$500,000
Audio Visual Equipment & Support	\$100,000
Construction Costs	\$130,000
Moving Costs	\$20,000
Total Phase 1 – Temporary Space Costs – Not to Exceed	\$750,000

Source of Funding: General Revenue Reserves financed through tax exempt COPS debt.