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Miami U. eyes another \$25 million in construction projects

Miami University is seeking state funds for \$25 million in new construction.

The school's board of trustees approved a funding request for three construction projects. They are planned as part of its 2015-2020 capital improvements request, which must be approved by the state.

It's the latest construction activity for one of the Dayton area's largest university, which has also recently approved construction on a new \$13 million athletic center. Contractors for that project have not been finalized, a school spokesperson said.

Among renovation projects the school is planning:

- A \$22.75 million renovation to Shideler Hall:
- An \$800,000 renovation of the Mosler Hall Science Laboratory at the school's Hamilton campus; and
- \$500,000 in IT and electrical upgrades at the Gardner-Harvey Library at the school's Middletown campus.

Also planned are a number moves for school units:

- Miami will terminate leases with American Classical League and the Miami Employees Federal Credit Union at the Demske Culinary Support Center Building, and move the Burkhouse Staff Development Center to that site.
- Staff and training facilities will be moved out of Symmes Hall in order to create a new dining hall.

The funding request must now go to the Ohio Board of Regents for approval. School officials said dates of construction and renovation will depend on when the board of regents gets back to them on the project.

"The (university) presidential committee convened by the governor to prepare a recommendation is to complete its work by the end of the month," David Creamer, vice president for finance and business, told me. "The governor is likely to introduce the capital appropriation to the Ohio General Assembly in February. It is always difficult to anticipate exactly when the General Assembly will act."