



SR021539

A Resolution Supporting the Renovation of Pearson Hall

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Sponsors

Submitted to Student Senate on: November 10th, 2015

- Whereas:** Pearson Hall was opened in 1986 and has not been renovated since its initial construction
- Whereas:** Pearson Hall's energy usage is among the highest of any building on campus
- Whereas:** Over 80% of all undergraduate students at Miami University will have a class in Pearson Hall, which houses both the Biology and Microbiology departments
- Whereas:** Annually, over 5,100 students take a course in Pearson Hall, with 4,900 of those students enrolled in a STEM course
- Whereas:** 83,000 hours of laboratory coursework is performed in Pearson Hall
- Whereas:** 96,000 hours of laboratory and related research are conducted by undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in STEM independent studies based in Pearson Hall
- Whereas:** Annually, more than 2,000 Miami undergraduates work on externally funded research projects and about 40 percent of Miami seniors work on a research project with a faculty member

Whereas: Miami graduates the 2nd highest number of undergraduate students in the *hard sciences* (life and biological sciences, physical sciences, and mathematics) and the 4th highest number of STEM undergraduate students among Ohio public universities

Whereas: The current state of Pearson Hall is not conducive to modern teaching and learning techniques, which interferes with the University's ability to train students to use technologies currently needed and demanded by employers

Whereas: An updated and renovated facility will provide flexible state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories that are critical for the University to continue to recruit and retain high quality STEM students and preeminent STEM faculty

Whereas: Adequate study and breakout spaces are not available, and the building and its facilities do not accommodate these needs sufficiently

Whereas: The students and faculty who work in Pearson Hall have achieved credible, published research while using outdated and limited resources, and could further advance their research with updated facilities

Whereas: Over the past four years, students in Biology and Microbiology have won several national awards including three Astronaut Scholarships, 2 Goldwater Scholarships, a NASA Astrobiology Institute Early Career Travel Award, a Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Early Career Travel Award, a European Psychological Society award, a Great Lakes National Scholarship Program award, and a National Cancer Institute award to promote diversity in health-related research, all through research at Pearson Hall

Therefore be it resolved: On behalf of the Student Body, the Student Senate affirms its support for the Capital Budget request for the renovation of Pearson Hall

Further be it resolved: The Student Senate also recommends the addition of specific amenities to the Pearson Hall renovation including designated student study spaces, updated lab equipment including

suitable safety equipment, and increased storage capacity, as well as the implementation of energy efficient infrastructure.