FUTURE ACTION ITEM #1  
WSU Tri-Cities, Academic Building  
Design Approval and Pre-Construction  
(Stacy Pearson)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT:  
WSU Tri-Cities, Academic Building Design and Pre-Construction

PROPOSED:  
That the Board of Regents authorize the Academic Building to proceed to design and pre-construction using the Design-Build (DB) process pursuant to RCW 39.10, and further delegate authority to the President or his designee to select a Design-Build contractor and enter into any and all contracts necessary to commence the design and pre-construction for the project, with costs not to exceed the budgeted amount of $3,000,000.

SUBMITTED BY:  
Stacy Pearson, Vice President for Finance and Administration

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:  
The Academic Building will facilitate future growth in STEM-focused high demand bachelor’s degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, Computer Science, and in Education with STEM content area endorsements, providing dedicated space for introductory and preparatory STEM coursework. The new building will allow expansion of new degree offerings in other disciplines as existing classroom space becomes available.

A major focus will be on interdisciplinary programming and enhanced collaborations between the campus and adjacent research facilities within the Tri-Cities Research District, including those at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). The campus is poised to offer the hands-on educational experiences that will lead to career opportunities in these areas and others provided by STEM-focused Hanford contractors and many others. The existing laboratory space for teaching and training is not adequate, nor does it meet current standards for state-of-the-art instruction in the life and physical sciences. The potential benefit of the new academic building is great: WSU providing interns and graduates in STEM majors to the above scientific entities, and throughout our state, helping to meet the STEM industries’ recruiting needs.
The Academic Building will be located across from the BSEL building, adjacent to the CIC building.

The University received $400,000 for pre-design in 2015-17 and $3,000,000 for the design and pre-construction in the 2017-19 state capital budgets. The University plans to request construction funding the 2019-21 State capital request.