

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2021-1033

TITLE: Allocation of Reserves for Projects within Recreational Sports

AUTHOR: Student Body President Cooper Brown

SPONSORS: Budget and Appropriations Chairwoman Elizabeth Hartzog and Budget and Appropriations Committee

AMOUNT: \$1,424,189.00

Recreational Sports project descriptions listed below:

Southwest Recreation Center Weight Room Expansion: \$530,000.00

Background:

The expansion of the weight room at SWRC by approximately 7,000 square feet would allow an increased capacity in both the existing space and new space. The weight room expansion project also allows RecSports the opportunity to work more closely with students with disabilities and sport club athletes to achieve greater universal design.

Expanding the Southwest Recreation Center weight room has been a priority for Recreational Sports (RecSports) for almost a decade. Students standing in line outside of the weight room, waiting to exercise, is a consistent challenge for RecSports and the student body. For a campus community as large as UF, we do not have adequate indoor recreation space. This is especially true for strength training spaces that serve students, and faculty/staff members. From August of 2019 to February of 2020, during peak hours, 87% of the time the weight room was crowded, 64% of the time very crowded, and 34% of the time overcrowded.

Students, staff, and faculty join commercial gyms in Gainesville due to the crowding of university recreation spaces. This is especially concerning for students who pay Activity and Service fees to use RecSports but are challenged whether they can withstand the wait times. Overcrowding is the number one criticism that RecSports receives.

Intent:

The proposed expansion, approximately 7,000 square feet, would allow an increased capacity in both the existing space and new space. The weight room expansion project also allows RecSports the opportunity to work more closely with disabled students and sport club athletes to achieve greater universal design. A goal in this project is to better accommodate UF students with physical and/or mental disabilities, enhancing student wellbeing by providing a facility and equipment that will contribute to their health. We would also like to provide greater opportunity for the Weightlifting and Olympic Lifting sport clubs. At present sport clubs receive very little

practice time and must schedule practices during non-peak hours. We are also unable to host events for these groups at present.

LED Lighting Upgrade at Recreational Sports Facilities: \$619,787.00

Background: Upgrade the lighting structures for the following complexes: Maguire Field, Southwest Fields, Softball Complex, and UVS Field/Sand Volleyball Courts. Upgrades would transition lighting fixtures from metal halide to LED. The main function of the selected field complexes is to support the Sport Clubs program (2,000+ participants), the Intramural Sports program (12,000+ participants), bootcamp, and open recreation. The selected field complexes comprise over 21 acres of lit outdoor recreational field space on the UF campus. By installing more energy-efficient LED lighting at these field complexes, the project will increase safety by adding more light to the field(s); be better neighbors by spilling less light to surrounding areas; and reduce energy consumption and operating/maintenance costs to increase stewardship of student fees.

Intent: The addition of synthetic turf at Maguire Field is expected to increase the number of lit hours on a weekly basis with increased opportunities for programming and open recreation. Southwest Fields and UVS Field support nightly intramural (IM) games, sport club practices, and weekend events. Fields are often lit for 4 – 6 hours per night for eight months out of the year.

UVS Sand Volleyball and the Softball Complex are open daily for open recreation, IM sports, Sport Clubs, or bootcamp. Over the past three years, RecSports has averaged \$11,000 in maintenance costs to replace bulbs and fixtures on outdoor fields due to high usage. The transition to LED lights would significantly reduce annual maintenance costs.

Lake Wauburg North Waterfront Boat Rescue Shelter/Boatlift and Accessible Observation Deck: \$239,402.00

Background:

The new rescue boat shelter/boatlift and accessible observation deck project supports student success by maintaining our high levels of safety and risk management as well as providing an excellent student experience in a natural setting providing opportunities for engagement, holistic wellbeing, and increased accessibility.

Intent:

Watercraft usage and the swim area are high demand activities. The need to store and moor the rescue boats near the Lake Watch and Shore Lifeguards are critical to maintaining our high levels of safety and risk management. The rescue boat shelter/boatlift replaces the unsalvageable boatlift, and the accessible observation deck replaces the observation tower (which was located above the boatlift) created by the December 2019 tornado.

Lake Wauburg North Equipment Check-Out: \$35,000.00

Background:

Addition of a Waterfront Equipment Checkout centrally located at Lake Wauburg North Shore to increase accessibility of equipment and customer service.

Intent:

This Waterfront Equipment Checkout adds to the inventory and takes advantage of location to better assist students with loading in and out of watercraft and to have a central point for accessibility at North Shore.

Proviso: This allocation is a one-time reserve transfer that will exhaust at the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2022. The projects are scheduled to reach completion prior to May 1, 2022.