

## **FAQ – Relocation of EMU College of Business to central campus**

### **What is happening?**

Eastern Michigan University plans to relocate the primary operations of the College of Business to Boone Hall, on central campus. The move includes the selling of the Gary Owen Building, present home of Eastern's College of Business. The authorization to pursue the sale was approved by the Board of Regents at its regular meeting Thursday, April 23. The public meeting was held remotely because of the COVID-19 health crisis.

### **When is this happening?**

Boone will undergo significant renovation, tentatively beginning in April 2021. We do not have a final date for when Boone Hall will be transformed to house the new COB. Given the uncertainty surrounding the resumption of construction activities due to COVID-19 government directives, it is difficult at this time to provide a precise completion date. The University is targeting a project timeline of 28-36 months after the COB moves out of the Owen Building.

As has been the case in recent years, COB faculty and staff were already scheduled to move to Halle Library at the end of the semester for the summer of 2020. The University hopes that move will proceed as planned and scheduled, but it may be impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Plans for COB faculty and staff for the fall semester will be determined as soon as possible based on health directives related to the resumption of on campus and construction activities.

Tentative plans are for the present occupants of Boone Hall to be relocated next April 2021, following completion of the winter 2021 semester.

### **How will the planning process work?**

COB faculty and staff will be part of the process to plan the renovation of Boone and associated offices in other buildings. That process will begin this fall (2020), coordinated by Jim Carroll, associate provost and associate vice president for administration in the Provost's Office. The process will be similar to the successful planning that took place for the renovations of Sill, Strong, Mark Jefferson and Pray-Harrod.

### **Why is the College of Business moving to central campus?**

Such a move offers benefits in terms of academics and student success, and it will benefit the downtown Ypsilanti community.

The University has for some time discussed its desire to return the College of Business to central campus because such a move will benefit students, faculty and staff, and will support all of the institution's strategic priorities.

The move is a continuation of the University's ongoing effort to strategically modernize its academic facilities. Over the last 10 years, EMU has invested millions of dollars to renovate Mark Jefferson, Strong Hall, and Sill Hall, among other buildings, to ensure

Eastern can offer exceptional academic facilities that help train Eastern students for high-demand jobs and fulfilling careers.

In addition to facilitating academic and student success, the move will also reduce utilities, maintenance, and transportation costs that the University incurs by housing the College of Business away from central campus.

### **How does this move tie-in with the Eastern Michigan University Strategic Plan?**

The relocation of the College of Business supports all of the University's Strategic Plan priorities:

- **Student Success & Engagement:** Returning the COB to central campus in a modern facility will expand opportunities for interdisciplinary learning with the other colleges and reduce the need for students to travel to an off-site location to take COB courses.
- **High Performing Academic Programs & Quality Research:** The *Princeton Review* consistently ranks the COB as a "Best in the Midwest". Providing the COB with a modern facility that is integrated with the rest of campus will allow us to continue that tradition of excellence and will provide more opportunities for faculty collaboration across campus. This move is also a continuation of the University's ongoing effort to modernize academic facilities. Over the last 10 years, Eastern Michigan has invested millions to renovate Mark Jefferson, Strong Hall, and Sill Hall, among other buildings, to ensure we offer world-class academic facilities.
- **Serve & Engage EMU & Regional Communities:** This transition will be a vital improvement to the community. Downtown Ypsilanti is enjoying a renaissance. Adding the Gary Owen Building to the city's tax rolls and creating new investment will further enhance downtown Ypsilanti.

### **Why Boone Hall?**

Boone Hall is a very appealing facility in which to move the College of Business. It is an open and welcoming academic building prominently located on a busy section of Cross Street on the southeast side of campus. Locating the College of Business there will add to the attractive gateway effect at that end of campus, which also boasts Pease Auditorium and the 9/11 Memorial.

### **How will this move affect students?**

The move will enhance student success and engagement. It will do so by returning the College of Business to central campus in a modern facility that will provide an enhanced learning and networking environment for all students, and will reduce the need for them to travel to an off-site location to take business school or other courses.

Students now must access the College of Business by walking several blocks to downtown, by taking a public bus route or a shuttle bus from the main campus, or they can drive and park at the adjacent parking structure.

### **What is Boone Hall's present function?**

Boone Hall presently houses a variety of administrative offices, including Engage @ EMU, Enrollment Management and the Office of Research Development and Administration.

### **Who is buying the Gary Owen Building, present home of the College of Business, and for what price?**

The authorization to pursue the sale of the Gary Owen Building to River Caddis Development for \$2.7 million was approved by the Board of Regents at its regular board meeting on Thursday, April 23. The meeting was held remotely because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **What are the buyer's plans for the building?**

Future plans for the building will be determined by the buyer and they will share those plans when they are in position to do so.

### **Are there other financial benefits for the sale?**

In addition to supporting the University's strategic priorities, this move will also reduce utility, maintenance, and transportation costs that the University incurs by housing the COB away from central campus. This is particularly important as universities across the country are facing significant financial challenges caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

In addition, the Owen College of Business building is estimated to have \$13.2 million of deferred maintenance in the various building systems, for which the University will not be responsible following the sale.

### **What effects might the move have on downtown Ypsilanti?**

The move will be a significant improvement to the downtown Ypsilanti community, which is enjoying a renaissance. Adding the building to the city's tax rolls and creating new investment will further enhance downtown Ypsilanti.

Ypsilanti Mayor Beth Bashert said, "Eastern Michigan University and its College of Business have been wonderful partners with the City of Ypsilanti for decades. The University greatly contributes to Ypsilanti's distinctive and vibrant downtown community. We are truly excited about how this move and the new building owners will continue to enhance the investment and the ongoing revitalization of our city."

### **How long has the College of Business been in the Gary Owen Building?**

Construction began on the Gary Owen Building in 1988 and it was dedicated in 1991.

**Who is the building named after?**

It is named after Gary M. Owen, former Michigan Speaker of the House. Once Boone Hall is reopened, Owen's name will be retained on the newly renovated building.