

Capital Project for English Field Improvements
JOINT BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE
AND FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

May 3, 2011

The university's Six-Year Capital Outlay Plan approved by the Board of Visitors at its March 28, 2011 meeting included a project to improve English Field for the baseball program. As a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Virginia Tech competes among the highest level of baseball competition in the NCAA. The university is in the process of enhancing its baseball program by working to attract and maintain high caliber athletes and coaches. Proper facilities are a critical element for obtaining that objective.

The existing playing surface and dugouts are key areas of needed improvements. The natural turf currently on English Field does not adequately meet the needs of the baseball program because of the negative effect winter months have on the turf. To address the playing surface needs of the athletes and coaches, the university proposes to replace the natural turf with a synthetic turf. The synthetic field will provide a consistent field surface that is not affected by the weather and is easier to maintain. Once the natural turf is removed, laser grading will be performed to prepare the surface, and extra conduit runs will be added below surface for future expansion of electrical service to the scoreboard and future television camera positions. In addition to the synthetic turf, the dugouts will be expanded toward the playing surface by eight feet. The necessary padding, safety fence, and complimentary camera position for each dugout will also be addressed.

The estimated project costs inclusive of design and construction are \$1.6 million. As with all self-supporting projects, the university has developed a financing plan to provide assurance regarding the financial feasibility of the project. This plan calls for the use of cash generated from Athletics operations. This fund source is sufficient to cover the proposed project costs. As a result, the university is confident that the financial plan is sufficient to move forward with the full project authorization.

Under the 2006 Management Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the university, the Board of Visitors has the authority to approve the budget, size, scope, and funding of nongeneral fund capital outlay projects. This request is for a full project authorization to move forward with design and construction of the proposed \$1.6 million English Field Improvements project.

**RESOLUTION ON CAPITAL PROJECT FOR THE
ENGLISH FIELD IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, as a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, the university's baseball program competes among the highest level in the NCAA; and,

WHEREAS, the natural turf on English Field does not adequately meet the needs of the baseball program; and,

WHEREAS, the university proposes to replace the natural turf with a synthetic turf; and,

WHEREAS, laser grading will be performed to prepare the surface and extra conduit runs will be added below surface for future expansion of electrical service to the scoreboard and future television camera positions; and,

WHEREAS, the dugouts will be expanded toward the playing surface and the necessary padding, safety fence, and complimentary camera position for each dugout will be addressed; and,

WHEREAS, the estimated project cost inclusive of design and construction is \$1.6 million with a funding plan that includes cash generated from Athletics operations; and,

WHEREAS, under the 2006 Management Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the university, the Board of Visitors has authority to approve the budget, size, scope, and funding of nongeneral funded major capital outlay projects; and,

WHEREAS, the university may address minor cost variances provided sufficient funds are available to support the full project costs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the university be authorized to move forward with a capital project for improvements to English Field funded entirely with nongeneral fund revenues at a total project cost not to exceed \$1.6 million.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution authorizing Virginia Tech to move forward with the English Field Improvements be approved.

June 6, 2011