

A Request for \$100M from the State of Texas to Reinvigorate the Core of the UT Austin Science Campus

WELCH HALL RENOVATION FAQs



85-year-old Welch—the *largest educational building* on UT Austin Campus—is home of the 12th-ranked Department of Chemistry.



10,000+ UT students (25% of UT's undergrad population) use Welch Hall classrooms and teaching labs.



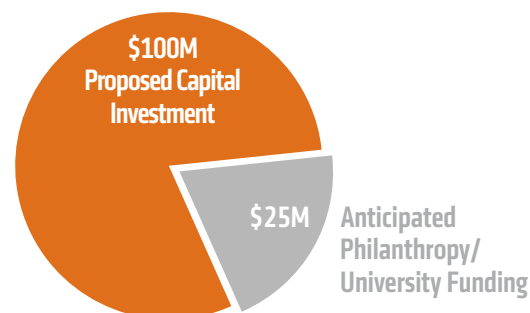
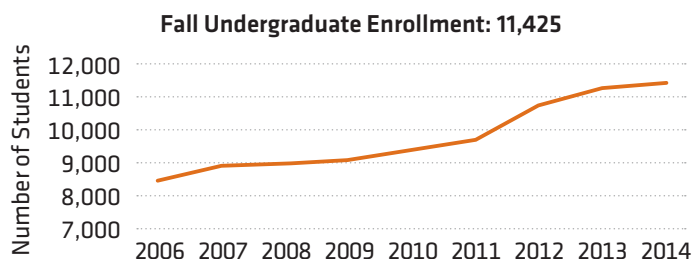
\$125M renovation required to address *aging infrastructure* and meet *laboratory safety* expectations.



The 50 faculty members in Welch Hall brought in **\$13.6M in external research funding** in the 2013-14 academic year, out of a total \$100M for the entire college.

WHY RENOVATE?

1. Renovation of Welch provides a **creative and fiscally responsible** solution to a dramatic increase in undergraduate student enrollment in College of Natural Sciences.
2. The renovation of Welch Hall is the first phase of a multi-year plan to **repurpose our existing space** allowing us to create a combined undergraduate teaching/research hub for the 10,000+ UT Austin students who take classes in Welch everyday.
3. Updated Science facilities ensure the State of Texas maintains its **competitive advantage** in the US for top Science, Technology, Engineering and Math talent.
4. Enhanced teaching laboratories allow for innovations in the undergraduate curriculum improving our ability to attract top undergraduate students, **increase graduation rates**, and improve student learning outcomes.



WHAT IS THE COST TO RENOVATE WELCH?

Total project cost \$125 million

- \$100 MILLION – Proposed capital investment request from the 2015 Texas Legislature
- \$25 MILLION – Anticipated Philanthropy/University Funding

Key Renovations to Enhance Welch

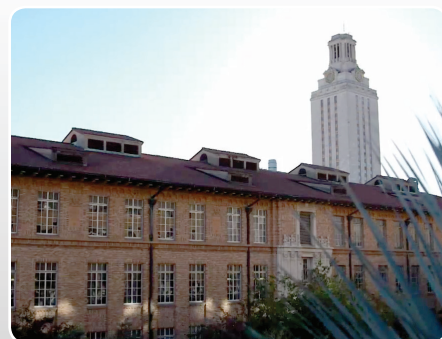
- Creation of new classrooms, dedicated Freshman Research Initiative labs, and open, bright and flexible community space adjacent to the Speedway colonnade and pedestrian mall
- Renovations of teaching labs and research labs
- HVAC and other system upgrades to ensure lab and building safety

“The College of Natural Sciences space plan provides us with guidance to strengthen our education and research programs within the constraints of existing buildings. The planned renovations will promote greater interdisciplinary collaboration, a key component of our future success as a college.” LINDA HICKE | Dean

WELCH HALL AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Enrollment in the UT Austin College of Natural Sciences (CNS) has risen dramatically throughout the last decade due to increased interest in STEM majors and pre-med education. Mindful of budget and land constraints, CNS developed a five-year Master Space Plan to help guide renovation decisions that will enhance the college's infrastructure to promote innovation, community and discovery. Of the four major projects that form this space plan, renovation of **Welch Hall is our top priority**.

Detailed analysis show that HVAC, electrical, plumbing and fire protection systems in Welch Hall have reached their life expectancy, resulting in unreliable working conditions for the faculty and students.



KEY COMPONENTS TO THE WELCH RENOVATION



Classroom renovations and additions

Few buildings on campus host as many students as Welch Hall. Modern classrooms, innovating teaching labs and upgraded and reliable facilities are critical to meet CNS' student demand.



Lab enhancements

Laboratory renovations and system updates will provide safe research space for the 12th-ranked Department of Chemistry and allow for increased recruitment of top faculty and graduate students whose research and discoveries bring in crucial funding for UT and the State of Texas.



Community Space

Re-purposing of existing, yet underutilized space, will provide gathering spaces for both undergraduate and graduate students from across campus, helping define Welch as an interactive learning environment.

Your voice matters! Learn more about how you can support the renovation of Welch Hall at texasexes.org/advocate