To increase nanotechnology research support, the university wants to double the space of its Nanofab center that is reaching its capacity.

According to a plan submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the university wants to expand the Nanotechnology Research and Teaching Facility by over 50,000 gross square feet, which could cost about $60 million. The building is operating near capacity, with many faculty members housed in other buildings across the campus, said Provost Donald Bobbitt.

The idea is to double the current building's capacity to further support the research enterprise by providing additional resources, he said.

Nanofab center director and electrical engineering professor Zeynep Celik-Butler said work done within the center is unique in its collaborative and interdisciplinary projects.

"We want to continue pushing forward whether the building is expanded or not," she said. "We are bringing in a lot of grants and contracts that would not have been possible without the dedicated researchers working here."

The center’s activities include research through associations of chemistry, electrical engineering, materials science and physics, as well as collaborative efforts with other universities.

Last year, the center received a total of $1 million in improvements through university funds and a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The plan submitted to the board also includes a list of long-term plans for additional buildings ranked by
The Nanofab’s expansion is ranked seventh on the list at the moment, meaning there are other needs that have been rated as a higher priority.

Higher priorities include renovations for the Life Science Building, a new General Academic Building and a University Center parking garage.

The center and other projects are still in the pending stage and have not been submitted for approval, said Thomas Keaton, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Finance and Resource Planning director.

“The timeline, square footages and costs are estimates and could change by the time the project is actually submitted to the THECB for approval,” he said.

The Nanofab center’s expansions are set to begin Sept. 2014 and end May 2016.

“It’s still too early to tell how or what funds we’ll use to pay for it,” Keaton said. “But it could be a combination of many funding sources.”

Funding sources could include tuition revenue bonds, UT System revenue bond proceeds, external gifts, private donations and natural gas royalties.

1 comment

Muthu • 2 years ago

The NanoFAB at UTA is now housed in what was formerly the UTA Bookstore, circa 2003-4 or earlier I believe. It would be great to see additional labspace; go UTA!
http://www.uta.edu/engineering/news/mediareleases/0111/UT-Arlington hopes to double research space of Nanofab center.htm