

Community college moves forward with plans for new classroom building

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By Holly Fesperman Lee

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College is moving forward with plans for a new classroom building on the Salisbury campus.

The Board of Trustees approved a site and schematic plan for the new building 400 Monday.

The new classroom building has been in the works for some time. The college received \$5.2 million from the 2000 state college bond that will go toward its construction and Rowan County Commissioners agreed in 2006 to provide \$3.7 million toward the project.

Irvin Newberry, chair of the building committee, told board members the committee considered a number of options for the building site but decided to recommend site No. 4 because it was the best for future growth on the campus.



Where it will be: This aerial photograph of the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College campus shows the location of the proposed classroom and its relationship to the rest of the buildings on campus.

building site but decided to recommend site No. 4 because it was the best for future growth on the campus.

"We felt like site No. 4 was the best site overall for the campus," Newberry said.

College President Richard Brownell added that "another advantage to this site is it doesn't interfere with the education process going on in the other buildings" during construction.

Building on site No. 4 won't require crews to remove any existing utility lines or remove any primary parking spaces, according to information listed on the site analysis for scheme No. 4.

Board members voted unanimously to accept Newberry's recommendation and move ahead with site No. 4.

Phase one of the project will include a two-story, 35,000-square-foot classroom building with 200 parking spaces.

Future phases include one to two classroom buildings, either 70,000 square feet or 35,000 square feet each, that will adjoin the 400 building with an additional 400 parking spaces.

The board would also like to extend the rear entry drive around the site to connect it with Rowan Tech Road.

During the meeting, Brownell said the programs that would occupy the new building would be mostly stand-alone programs.

Law enforcement, community services, computer and art classrooms, as well as administrative and faculty offices, are slotted to occupy the first floor.

Pre-college classrooms, G.E.D. testing, general purpose classrooms and more offices are in the works for the second floor.

Contact Holly Lee at 704-797-7683 or hlee@salisburypost.com.