Subject: Building Naming

Action Request: Authorization to Name the Facility in Honor of Ann and Robert H. Lurie

Background:

The College of Engineering received a gift of $8 million from Ann Lurie to partially fund the construction of a laboratory facility being built as an addition to the Advanced Technology Laboratory Building and to renovate the Advanced Technology Laboratory. When completed, this new facility will provide 62,000 gross square feet of research, instructional, and administrative space for the Department of Biomedical Engineering. In recognition of the significant, long-term relationship between Ann and Robert H. Lurie and the University of Michigan, we propose that the Advanced Technology Laboratory and its new wing be identified as one building and named in honor of Ann and Robert H. Lurie. The official building name will be the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Biomedical Engineering Building.

Ann Lurie (Hon. 2003) is president of Lurie Investments and president and treasurer of the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Foundation. Over the past twelve years, Ann Lurie’s philanthropic support of the University has changed the campus intellectually and physically. Her late husband, Robert H. Lurie (BSEE 1964, MSE 1966), was a Chicago-based real estate investor who attributed much of his success to the undergraduate and graduate education he received in the College of Engineering.

Ann’s commitment in 1993 to the College of Engineering led to the construction of the Robert H. Lurie Engineering Center and the landmark Ann and Robert H. Lurie Tower, a carillon located on North Campus. In 1999, Ann, together with Sam Zell (AB 1963, JD 1966), Bob Lurie’s former business partner, established the Samuel Zell and Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Business School. The Marion Elizabeth Blue Professorship at the School of Social Work, established in 1999, is dedicated to the memory of her mother. Ann’s $8 million gift for this project is part of a $25 million gift she has made to The Michigan Difference campaign.

In recognition of this significant commitment from Ann Lurie, which will support the laboratory facility addition to the Advanced Technology Laboratory Building, we recommend that the Regents formally designate the proposed new wing and the Advanced Technology Laboratory Building as the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Biomedical Engineering Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Gibala
Interim Dean
College of Engineering

Timothy P. Slottow
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

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