

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: A new College of Innovation & Technology at UM-Flint

ACTION REQUESTED: Creation of a new College of Innovation & Technology

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 17, 2020

**BACKGROUND**

UM-Flint has launched an aggressive new action plan referred to as Project 2020 that outlines a set of actions to help reposition UM-Flint for the next 20 years. Development of new “in demand” programs is an important feature of this plan and the creation of a new College of Innovation and Technology is a centerpiece of Project 2020. The College of Innovation and Technology is solidly aligned with market demands and job placements. It has widespread support from regional industry leaders as well as legislators. Once established, it will only be the state of Michigan’s second program of its kind: a free-standing college of technology. It is expected that this new College will sustainably grow UM-Flint’s enrollment and positively impact the regional economy.

Technology is applied engineering. The College of Innovation and Technology graduates will fill a gap in the technology workforce that exists between vocational technical training offered by community colleges and the science based Bachelor’s degree programs in engineering and computer science. The four-year Bachelor’s degree in College of Innovation and Technology will prepare graduates with technical skills for employment in automotive, manufacturing, AI, health care, aerospace, cybersecurity and other sectors. The UM Flint College of Innovation and Technology will begin with a generous \$10 million gift from the C.S. Mott Foundation.

This is the first college in the history of UM-Flint that will be established from the ground up, i.e., not separating from a progenitor school or college. The College of Innovation and Technology will drive innovation not only within academic programs and degrees offered, but also in its administrative structure and operations. Led by a dean, it will have advisory boards to help maintain programmatic flexibility and responsiveness to changing market needs. The dean of the College of Innovation and Technology will report directly to the Provost. As the College hires new faculty, it will create governing structures through elected faculty, approved by the Board of Regents on the recommendation of the chancellor.

The concept and plans for the establishment of the College of Innovation and Technology were first outlined on Jan 22, 2020 by the Chancellor in his Inaugural Town Hall. Subsequently, it was discussed with deans, faculty and vice chancellors as well as several external stakeholders.

## RECOMMENDATION

I am pleased to recommend the creation of the new UM-Flint College of Innovation and Technology effective September 17, 2020.

Approval of this recommendation will require revisions to several Regents' Bylaws which will be forthcoming and in accordance with the Procedures for the Revision of Regents' Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deba Dutta". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Deba Dutta  
Chancellor, University of Michigan-Flint

September 2020