

**Agendum
Oakland University
Board of Trustees Formal Session
June 27, 2025**

**DATA CENTER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) AND PRE-DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES AGREEMENT**

A Recommendation

1. **Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Finance and Administration.
2. **Introduction:** Oakland University (University) has developed *Strategic Vision 2030* which included a Mission-based Entrepreneurship initiative aimed at expanding the University's revenue streams.

As a key outcome of *Strategic Vision 2030*, the University finalized its *Campus Plan 2035*, which identified multiple Entrepreneurial Opportunity Zones. One such zone has been designated as a potential site for the development of a data center.

The proposed data center presents an opportunity to generate new revenue through public-private partnerships, while also supporting strategic priorities such as smart campus technology, artificial intelligence research, and digital learning. In addition to providing commercial capacity, the facility could accommodate the relocation of the University's existing data center and offer dedicated space for related academic and research functions.

The proposed location for the facility is parking lot P35, situated adjacent to a DTE substation with available capacity – making it well-suited for this type of development.

To move forward, the University has issued a public Request for Proposal inviting qualified firms to submit proposals for the development of a data center on the proposed site. A pre-development services agreement will be executed allowing both the University and the chosen firm to engage in due diligence prior to finalizing a formal development agreement and/or land lease. Board approval will be sought prior to moving forward with a development agreement and/or land lease.

3. **Previous Board Action:** On February 7, 2025, the Board accepted the *Strategic Vision 2025*. On April 11, 2025, the Board accepted the *Campus Plan 2030*.

4. **Budget Implications:** The project would reduce annual operating costs associated with the property. Any net proceeds generated through this development will be used to support the mission and strategic vision of the University. Additional economic

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benefits will be outlined in a draft business plan, pending approval of the development agreement and land lease.

5. Educational Implications: The RFP specifically requests that prospective development partners collaborate with the University on academic and experiential learning initiatives including student internships and research opportunities.

6. Personnel Implications: None.

7. University Reviews/Approvals: This recommendation was formulated by the Office of the Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration, and reviewed by the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, Office of Legal Affairs, and President.

8. Recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President and Senior Vice President for Finance Administration, and respective designees to interview qualified firms and select a preferred candidate for the data center project following the public bid process and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President, the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, and their respective designees, to perform all acts and deeds and to negotiate contract terms and execute a pre-development agreement whereby the University and chosen firm will complete due diligence and, be it further

RESOLVED that, following the pre-development phase of work, University will complete a draft business plan to be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its consideration, prior to final approval of a development agreement and land lease; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that said contracts shall be reviewed by and be in a form acceptable to the Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel and be in compliance with the law, legal standards, and with University policies and regulations, prior to submitting to the Board of Trustees for approval.

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9. Attachment: None.

Submitted to the President
on _____, 2025 by

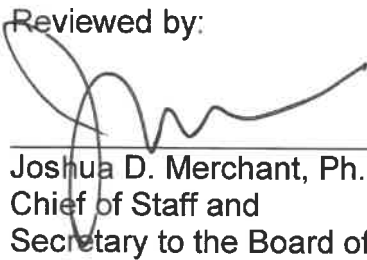
Amy Thompson, Ph.D., FESG, CHES
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Provost

Stephen W. Mackey
Senior Vice President for Finance and
Administration
and Treasurer to the Board of Trustees

Recommended on _____, 2025
to the Board of Trustees for Approval by

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by:



Joshua D. Merchant, Ph.D.
Chief of Staff and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees