Minute No. 369
Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 20, 2022

Item No. 14 Letter of Support for Grant Funding to the University of Winnipeg

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That a letter of support be provided for the University of Winnipeg's Student Learning Commons Project, to be used by the university in future grant applications.

2. That the Province of Manitoba be requested to provide a letter of support to the University of Winnipeg for its Student Learning Commons Project, to be used by the university in future grant applications.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 20, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee and submitted the matter to Council.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 23, 2022, the Assiniboia Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the University of Winnipeg is an economic, social and cultural engine in Winnipeg's downtown, with a student population of close to 12,000, and an all-in annual economic impact of $1.75 Billion;

AND WHEREAS the University of Winnipeg recently announced that students will be returning to in-person classes starting May 2, 2022, which will be a significant boost for downtown;

AND WHEREAS the University of Winnipeg's Student Learning Commons Project will bring new life to the downtown's west-end district and will encourage students who are coming from all of Winnipeg's neighborhoods to stay downtown longer;

AND WHEREAS the new Student Learning Commons Project will provide significantly more space for collaboration;

AND WHEREAS universities and colleges are often the place where ideas and businesses are born, and the University of Winnipeg's role in the downtown is one of the big reasons why Winnipeg was just named one of the world's most intelligent communities;

AND WHEREAS post-COVID, it makes sense for the City of Winnipeg to support projects that will re-energize our downtown, which is an important economic driver in our City and in Manitoba;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the University of Winnipeg's Student Learning Commons Project will include a green energy retrofit and is being designed as Indigenous space, informed by local elders and knowledge keepers;

AND WHEREAS the project will be an important example of reconciliation and a signal that Winnipeg is inclusive and welcoming;

AND WHEREAS in 2020, the University of Winnipeg contributed $1.74 billion to Manitoba's economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following be recommended to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That Council be requested to provide a letter of support for the University of Winnipeg's Student Learning Commons Project, to be used by the university in future grant applications.

2. That Council request the Province of Manitoba to provide a letter of support to the University of Winnipeg for its Student Learning Commons Project, to be used by the university in future grant applications.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.