5 points for Project consideration

To move through the consideration process, the Capital Projects Advisory Committee will use the following criteria to evaluate a proposed project?

1. Does the program outcome intended by the project drive Willamette’s intended strategic outcomes?
2. Does the project remediate our deferred maintenance?
3. Does the project fulfill our need to be in compliance, improve our operational effectiveness, lead to successful outcomes around accreditation?
4. Does the project hold funding leveraging opportunities?
5. Has there been thoughtful analysis of the overall opportunities and consequences to Willamette?

Does the program outcome intended by the project drive Willamette’s intended strategic outcomes?
Each project is weighed against our strategic plan. This evaluation gives WU a path to establish clear connection between our capital expenditures and our strategic intent. This is not an onerous or cumbersome filter, but our program statement should be the source document for connecting our programmatic needs to our intention of infusing capital into a project.

Does the project remediate our deferred maintenance?
Each project likely contains an opportunity for the intended project outcome to eliminate and deferred maintenance. When a project is focused on a strategic outcome, and it lowers our burden of deferred maintenance, it has a multiplier effect for Willamette and this is a desirable outcome for our long term financial health. Not all projects will score high in this category of evaluation; however, we need to be disciplined about evaluating each project for the opportunity to improve the impact that comes from the capital expense.

Does the project fulfill our need to be in compliance, improve our operational effectiveness, lead to successful outcomes around accreditation, and provide necessary programmatic improvement?
Like deferred maintenance, WU has an ongoing need to update our assets to become more compliant with safety, security, regulatory, mandates, accreditation compliance, thoughtful improvements, and projects that makes Willamette a more hospitable place. To do this, we review the complexity, and evaluate how the project improves impact, operations. This is a step and a standard intended to ensure that whenever possible, a project is reviewed to evaluate its intended outcomes, and the universities overall need to be continuously improving, operationally. Often a capital project entails a capital renewal in order to improve physical assets we already have in place. This could mean that the project improves our physical assets and at the same time improves our effectiveness or efficiency.

Does the project hold funding leveraging opportunities?
Outside funding through gifts, partnerships, and other methods, allows our precious capital project dollars to be spread to do more. Leveraging funding is a complex area of evaluation. However, when the situation is right, this should be an important filter that guides us to opportunity. If we follow the rubric presented in this document, any project we move forward will have the potential to improve our strategic intent, lower our deferred maintenance, and improve our standing in compliance and best practices for operations. When we find the support of unbudgeted capital for a project, one can see that we are truly leveraging every opportunity of improvement.

By thoughtful analysis, do we understand the overall opportunities and consequences this project brings in its intent to improve the Willamette experience?
Have we connected the dots? Do we know what this project choice means to all who are a part of Willamette? Will we forgo other opportunities by making this project choice? Will we create other opportunities by making this choice? Is this a stand-alone project, or is it a step toward something bigger?