

MU state funds request rejected

\$10 million sought for engineering site; UWM, Bradley Center plans advance

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Madison — Marquette University's request for \$10 million in state funds for the first phase of a new engineering center was rejected by the Wisconsin Building Commission on Wednesday.

Granting one such request might open the floodgates to similar requests from other private colleges and universities, officials warned.

The commission approved two other Milwaukee projects — \$240

million in improvements for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee over the next six years and \$5 million over the next 10 years to help maintain the Bradley Center. The votes sent both Milwaukee projects to the full Legislature, which must approve them this summer.

In all, the commission asked the Legislature to authorize \$1.4 billion in long-range construction projects. Of that, \$485 million would be paid for with state tax funds, and

"We have a very legitimate interest as a state in making sure that it continues to operate."

Gov. Jim Doyle,
on the privately run Bradley Center

the rest with federal aid, fees and private donations.

Gov. Jim Doyle, who chairs the Building Commission, said Marquette's request for \$10 million in

help was one of \$460 million in similar projects developed by private colleges and universities statewide.

Those schools hoped they would qualify for help through the federal stimulus package, but Congress did not approve using the one-time cash that way, Doyle said. Stimulus money will not pay for building projects recommended Wednesday.

Helping one private college

Please see **MU, 5B**

