

APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR KATKE-COUSINS BUNKER PROJECT
A Recommendation

1. Division and Department: Golf and Learning Center and Facilities Management Department

2. Introduction: The Katke-Cousins Golf Course at Oakland University serves as a premier campus athletic and recreational facility for students, student-athletes, faculty, alumni, and community members. The course's current bunkers were installed over 20 years ago and have reached the end of their design life.

Over time, structural degradation has led to significant operational and playability challenges:

- The existing bunker drainage systems are failing, leading to severe water retention and washouts during rain events.
- Deterioration of the sub-base material has caused subsurface rocks and sediment to seep through into the bunker sand, creating poor playing conditions and potential hazard/safety issues for players.
- Excessive maintenance hours are required to continuously clear debris, re-shape washed-out sand, and extract contaminated sediment.

To solve these persistent infrastructure issues and safeguard course standards, the Golf and Learning Center, in partnership with Facilities Management and Ray Hearn Design, proposes implementing a comprehensive Bunker Master Plan. This plan will evaluate current bunker placement, sub-grade construction, modern liner technology, drainage infrastructure, and sand selection to establish a roadmap for course renovation.

Goals and Benefits:

Developing and executing a Bunker Master Plan provides several long-term strategic advantages for Oakland University:

- **Increase Course Rankings:** Modernized bunker design, premium sand quality, and enhanced aesthetics will elevate Katke-Cousins' reputation and national/state rankings among collegiate and university-affiliated golf courses.
- **Long-Term Sustainability & Cost Efficiency:** Advanced liner and drainage technologies prevent soil/sediment migration, drastically reduce post-storm washout repair costs, and lower ongoing labor and material expenditures.
- **Host Major Events:** Upgrading bunker infrastructure to modern championship standards will enable Katke-Cousins to bid for and host prestigious NCAA, regional, and tournament events, enhancing university visibility and institutional prestige.

3. Previous Board Action: None

4. **Budget Implications:** Funding for the development of the Bunker Master Plan

5. **Educational Implications:** The project directly enhances the athletic training environment for Oakland University's NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Golf teams, providing championship-level playability required for varsity competition. Additionally, the Golf and Learning Center serves as a recreational venue for students and faculty. Where they can play, learn the game or even walk the trails that intermingle with the golf course cart paths. The Golf and Learning center employ's students and provides hands-on opportunities for students interested in sports management, environmental sustainability, and Hospitality management.

6. **Personnel Implications:** None.

7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** This recommendation was prepared by the Golf and Learning Center and Facilities Management Department.

8. **Recommendation:**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees formally approves the \$3.5 million not to exceed budget authorized for use for the Katke-Cousins Bunker Renovation Project; and, be it further.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees directs the President, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, and their respective designees, to perform all acts and deeds and to execute and deliver all contracts, instruments, and documents required by this resolution that are necessary, expedient, and proper in connection with the Katke-Cousins Bunker Renovation Project and the ongoing administration of the Project; and, be it further

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

9. **Attachments:** None

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Board of Trustees Formal Session
October 16, 2026
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Submitted to the University President
on Oct 6, 2026, 2026 by

Steven Waterfield

Steven Waterfield (Oct 6, 2026 10:38:22 EDT)

Steven C. Waterfield
Director of Athletics

Stephen W. Mackey

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

Recommended on 10/6, 2026
to the Board for approval by

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz

Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.
President

Reviewed by

Joshua D. Merchant

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