

Feb 20, 2001 query from Ronald G. Ehrenberg

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As I understand it the university operating subsidy to Ward Lab is \$200k a year. The cost of decommissioning the lab is \$4 million (if this number is wrong stop here). This money will have to come out of general funds of the university. If the university instead puts \$4 million into an income earning account, it will generate more than \$200 a year, which would cover the cost of the subsidy. Thus, there does not appear to be any financial gain to the university of closing the lab.

This analysis is simplistic of course. Is there any other use for the space? Are there subsidies that have not been made explicit which could be reduced if it was closed (eg we could hire fewer radiation safety technicians). Are there safety risks which we would rather avoid.

So what is the key issue that the lab poses for the university?

Ron