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— of Conference Call - July 13, 1976 —
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Oakland University
Board of Trustees
Conference Call
July 13, 1976

Participants: Chairman Saltzman, Trustees Adams, Headlee, Katke,
Lewis and Schwartz

University representatives: President O'Dowd and Mr. De Carlo

A conference call was arranged in order that the President could request approval on the following projects:

1. Authorization to construct a 195-car
parking lot east of Varner Hall
2. Increased funding for faculty positions BUDGET

(Reports on the above subjects were circulated to the Board of Trustees on July 9th.)

Mr. O'Dowd stated that the need for additional parking space resulted from an engineering survey by Giffels-Webster Engineers. The firm advised the University to increase the size of the lot previously authorized by the Board in order to better utilize the land available. In addition, some unexpected drainage work was identified by the engineering firm increasing the cost.

Mr. Katke inquired into the increase in cost per parking space. He had no question with respect to the additional parking spaces if they were required.

Mr. O'Dowd stated that the original costs were estimates developed by the University staff. The costs set forth in the report under review are estimates by the engineering firm. Mr. O'Dowd observed that in his opinion these estimates were high.

Mr. Katke requested that the University obtain three or more bids. Mr. O'Dowd concurred.

Mr. Katke inquired about the source of funding for the parking lot.

Mr. O'Dowd stated that the Transportation Use Fee would be utilized to pay for the lots over a ten-year period. The construction contract would be paid from other University fund accounts with these accounts credited over a ten-year period from income from the Transportation Use Fee account.

Mr. Saltzman requested a report at the next meeting of the Board on the University's program for financing parking facilities. He then called for a vote on Mr. O'Dowd's request.

The Board unanimously approved the recommendation. (This matter will be presented to the Board at the August 9th meeting for formal ratification.)

Increased Funding for Faculty Positions

Mr. O'Dowd stated that he was requesting an increase in funding for additional faculty due to the fact that the University's headcount was stable, but the number of credit hours per student was declining. He attributed the source of decline to the unavailability of certain courses for students. If students are unable to obtain the courses desired, they postpone the taking of additional credit hours until their preferred courses are available. It was Mr. O'Dowd's opinion that the University did not have a satisfactory array of courses due to the reduction in faculty.

Mr. Saltzman inquired about the funding implication for 1977-78. Would the faculty be retained or cut during the next fiscal period?

Mr. O'Dowd responded that if the students registered for the programs, they would pay for themselves, and the programs and courses would be continued.

Mr. Lewis requested an estimate of the increase in FYES by making a \$100,000 expenditure.

Mr. O'Dowd estimated that approximately sixty or seventy FYES would be added. He stated that this would not be a net increase, but would just compensate for the loss in FYES.

Mr. Schwartz inquired about the cost in gross dollars through the loss of sixty or seventy FYES.

Mr. O'Dowd responded approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Katke inquired if Mr. O'Dowd was contemplating the hiring of part-time faculty and whether they could be dropped in the event the projected enrollment did not materialize.

Mr. O'Dowd indicated that depending upon the faculty members involved, there would be variable arrangements. Some would be hired on the contingency of adequate course enrollment. Others could not be hired under this condition.

Mr. Saltzman inquired if the present proposal would prejudice the position-shift action taken in the Classics and the Academy of Dramatic Art.

Mr. O'Dowd responded that it would not prejudice this action.

Mr. Katke expressed some concern regarding this expenditure as it related to the budget presented to the Audit Committee. The proposed budget did not provide for any additional cuts. Mr. Katke observed, however that the report submitted to the Board requesting increased funding indicated that budget cuts would be made if the enrollment did not materialize through the hiring of additional faculty.

Mr. O'Dowd stated that the State appropriation is now substantially higher than anticipated at the time the budget was reviewed with the Audit Committee.

Mr. Katke observed that the added faculty would result in additional fee income and in view of the increase in Legislative appropriation there was little risk in this action since the University had two sources for the return of the "investment" being requested.

Mr. Saltzman called for a vote on the recommendation and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Saltzman then requested that Mr. O'Dowd make a report at the October Board meeting on the results of the approval of additional faculty. (This matter will also be placed on the August 9th agenda for ratification.)

The conference call was concluded.

John De Carlo
Secretary, Board of Trustees

JDeC/mp