



Thursday, July 10, 2003

Auxiliary budgets discussed at BOT meeting

Proposed budgets for Oakland University's auxiliaries were the main items of business discussed at the July 9 **Board of Trustees** working session.

Prior to the working session, the board convened in a special formal meeting to approve the refinancing of Oakland University general revenue bonds. The refinancing will allow the university to borrow approximately \$2 million while not increasing the monthly repayment cost for debt service on the bonds. The board approved the administration's earmarking of the funds for deferred maintenance projects.

The board then adjourned the special formal meeting and called to order the regularly scheduled working session.

Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder led a discussion on a proposal that would allow Oakland University to obtain a liquor license for special events in the west addition of the **Oakland Center**, which will open in the fall. The special liquor license would be limited to events that are solely for educational, recruitment, public service and continuing education purposes. Several other state universities have such arrangements in their conference centers.

Vice President for Finance and Administration Lynne Schaefer introduced the proposed ancillary activities operating budgets for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2004, 2005 and 2006. Schaefer introduced the directors of each auxiliary, who each made a brief presentation of their respective proposed budget to the board:

- Director of University Housing Eleanor Reynolds presented the **University Housing** budget and said the number of students living on campus increased by about 7 percent over last year. This increase was largely attributed to the opening of the new student apartments. Reynolds detailed several of the renovation projects completed or begun in the past year in the residence halls and said the proposed budget was based on a room and board increase of 5.5 percent. She said she anticipates full capacity in the student apartments and a small increase in the traditional residence halls next fall.
- Director of the Oakland Center Richard Fekel presented the **Oakland Center's** proposed budget. He focused on the current renovation of the Oakland Center and said completion of the project was on target. Traffic in the Oakland Center is expected to increase during the coming school year, Fekel said.
- Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Nancy Schmitz presented the proposed budget for **Graham Health and Counseling Center**. Schmitz said that both patient visits and participants in the student health insurance program rose over last year's numbers. She said the hiring of a consulting psychiatrist in June 2002 provided a valuable resource for students.
- Director of Auxiliary Services Peggy Cooke presented the **Meadow Brook Theatre** budget. Cooke said the creation of a new non-profit corporation – the Meadow Brook Theatre Ensemble – to lease the theatre facilities will increase opportunities for building strong relationships between the ensemble and students in academic theatre programs. With university support and continued robust ticket sales, the theatre expects to break even this year.
- Director of the Lowry Early Childhood Education Center Christine Boisvert presented the budget for Lowry. Boisvert said the opening of the new education building provided the springboard for a successful year at the center. Boisvert said community participants rose significantly in winter 2003 over the same period last year.
- Peggy Cooke presented the proposed budget for the **Meadow Brook Music Festival**. Cooke said the festival just completed its sixth year of a 10-year operational agreement between Oakland University and Palace Sports and Entertainment. Despite a slight increase in actual concerts, gross revenues and attendance fell last year, although the majority of shows did well. Cooke said the relationship between the university and Palace Sports and Entertainment continues to thrive. The university receives a guaranteed annual payment of \$105,000 from the Palace.
- Director of Campus Recreation Greg Jordan presented the proposed **Campus Recreation** budget. Jordan said student

usage of the Recreation Center increased last year, although non-student memberships declined.

- Athletic Director Jack Mehl presented the proposed **Intercollegiate Athletics** budget. Mehl said revenues are projected to decrease slightly due to a change in the Mid-Continent Conference revenue distribution, as the conference admitted another university member and the conference's performance in the men's NCAA basketball tournament has declined.

Vice President for Student Affairs Mary Beth Snyder presented a proposal to accept the bid made by Dill Inc. to continue to provide snack bar services in the **Recreation Center**. The current contract expires Aug. 31. Dill Inc. is the parent company of Pic-A-Deli. Snyder requested that the board consider approval of a new five-year contract with a university option for a sixth year with Dill Inc. to continue to provide snack bar services in the Recreation Center.

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil presented a proposal to authorize the university to purchase the necessary digital, analog and trunk cards, installation and labor to move main campus telecommunications to the Siemens Hicom telephone switch. Assistant Vice President for University Technology Services Theresa Rowe said the university's primary telephone switch is old and outdated, and the new proposal would be a significant upgrade. Under the proposal, the cost of the new equipment is not to exceed \$478,341.

The next formal meeting of the **Oakland University Board of Trustees** will be Wednesday, Aug. 6, in Elliott Hall Auditorium.

SUMMARY

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Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, July 10, 2003

Article Start Date: Friday, September 12, 2003