



Friday, December 6, 2002

BOT approves new e-mail system

At the Dec. 4 formal meeting of the **OU Board of Trustees**, several items were passed by the board, including:

- Approval of the fiscal year operating budget that will now be submitted to the Department of Management and Budget of the State of Michigan;
- Approval of the Golf and Learning Center operating budgets for 2003, 2004 and 2005;
- Approval to add a 457(b) deferred compensation plan to Oakland University's retirement benefits packages;
- Approval to add three new traffic control measures to campus roads;
- Approval of a 4 percent salary increase for President Gary Russi;
- Approval of audited financial statements for the fiscal year;
- Approval of recommendation of final undergraduate and graduate reports;
- Approval to adjust the endowment spending rate to 4.5 percent;
- Approval of agreement between Oakland University and Oakland University Professional Support Association - Michigan Education Association/National Education Association;
- Approval of Amendment to Article XVI of the 2000-2003 agreement between Oakland University and the Oakland University Chapter, American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

Other news of note from the meeting:

- The board approved the implementation of a new campus-wide e-mail system, which should be operational in early 2003.
- Vice President for University Relations Susan Davies Goepf announced that a newly formed 501(c)3 management group will now operate the Concours d'Elegance, which had previously been managed by Meadow Brook Hall. The new arrangement, effective immediately, will free up Meadow Brook Hall staff and volunteers to devote more of their time and energies to hall events, said Goepf.

President's Report:

- President Russi recognized the efforts of three Employees of the Month. They were:
 - September: Terry Meija, office assistant I in the Payroll Department
 - October: Barbara Fortier, office assistant II in the Office of Admissions
 - November: Eilene Lohmeier, executive secretary in the School of Nursing
- Virinder Moudgil, interim vice president for academic affairs and provost, recognized two professors who received Faculty Recognition Awards. They were:
 - Ronald Finucane, professor of history
 - Robert Jarski, associate professor of exercise science
- President Russi addressed the issue of state budget cuts and how the anticipated cuts might affect Oakland University. "We have contingency plans in place for potential cuts at various levels, and our leadership team has made a list of prioritized areas that would be protected as much as possible from budget reductions," Russi said. He cited the following high priority areas:

- o managed growth and faculty support
- o quality initiatives
- o distinctive undergraduate programs and general education
- o collaboration and partnerships
- o capital campaign
- o student services and retention
- o graduate and research programs, including grants and contracts
- o IT support

Russi cited several areas in which the university has worked to contain costs.

“We have realized significant savings in recent years by outsourcing services, such as custodial services, the bookstore, office supplies, food service and the management of the Meadow Brook Music Festival,” Russi said. “We also have realized savings by investing in energy monitoring systems to better regulate consumption and lower costs, and we are now purchasing our electrical supply in the open market, which is projected to save the university approximately 15 percent per year.”

The next **Board of Trustees** meeting will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the Elliott Hall Auditorium.

SUMMARY

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