

**Minutes of the Formal Meeting  
of the  
Oakland University Board of Trustees  
April 2, 2003**

**Present:** Trustees David J. Doyle, Ann V. Nicholson, David T. Fischer, Dennis C. Muchmore and Dennis K. Pawley

**Absent:** Chair Henry Baskin, Vice Chair Penny M. Crissman and Trustee Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr.

**Also Present:** President Gary D. Russi; Vice Presidents Susan Goepf, Lynne C. Schaefer and Mary Beth Snyder; Interim Vice President Virinder K. Moudgil; General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Victor A. Zambardi and Assistant Rhonda G. Saunders; and Student Liaisons Rhonda R. Hanna and David M. Jewell

**I. Call to Order**

Trustee David T. Fischer was selected as the Acting Chairperson for the meeting in the absence of Chair Henry Baskin and Vice Chair Penny M. Crissman. He called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Elliott Hall of Business and Information Technology.

**II. Roll Call**

Mr. Victor A. Zambardi, General Counsel and Secretary to the Board of Trustees, conducted a roll call. All of the Board members were present except Chair Baskin, Vice Chair Crissman and Trustee Rex E. Schlaybaugh, Jr.

**III. President's Report:**

President Gary D. Russi reported the following information:

- Ms. Sheryl Klemanski and Ms. Michelle Southward were recognized as the February and March Employees of the Month. Supervisory comments on each recipient were provided in a video presentation.
- Dr. Virinder K. Moudgil, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, recognized the accomplishments of Dr. Ronald Schwartz, Professor of Education and Philosophy, whose career spans 32 years of service. During that time, Dr. Schwartz's commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship has been expressed in his teaching, service and scholarship. He teaches the philosophical foundations of education to undergraduate students, and special education, early childhood development and educational leadership to graduate students. Dr. Schwartz has

a long history of service as a member of executive committees, committees on appointments and promotion, committee on instruction and the Elementary Education Governor's Council, the University Senate, and the Faculty Reappointment and Promotion Committee. He also served on the School of Education and Human Services task force during the Creating the Future initiative. Dr. Schwartz is a member of the planning committee for YMCA Camp Phoenix, a summer academic program in Pontiac. He is respected for his scholarly contributions and has developed a self-governing educational philosophy, which draws on the works of John Dewey, Bertrand Russell, Karl Popper, Homer Lane, A.S. Neill and Paul Goodman. Dr. Schwartz has created a 17-part video series titled "Education in Multi-Cultural Societies," and he recently moderated two video discussions with internationally known psychiatrist, Thomas Szasz, chronicling Szasz's academic development.

- Dr. Moudgil also recognized the outstanding achievements of Dr. Brian Connery, Professor of English, who has taught at Oakland University for 13 years and recently completed a five-year term as Chair of the Department of English. Dr. Connery's scholarship focuses on Eighteenth-Century British Literature and especially Jonathan Swift, the author of *Gulliver's Travels*. His recently published collection of essays, *Representations of Swift*, reexamines fundamental questions about Swift's life, writing and reception. Dr. Connery co-edited another collection, *Theorizing Satire: Essays in Literary Criticism*, which opened up new dimensions of satire for critical analysis. Since 1998, he has served as the secretary-treasurer, Webmaster, and newsletter editor for the Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Perceived by his students as an excellent teacher, Dr. Connery's courses are very popular. In 1993 he was the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award, and has twice been asked by the Honors College to teach courses for their students. Dr. Connery was also instrumental in bringing U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins to campus for a reading last fall. This year, he also wrote an insightful article for the OU Magazine on Thomas Lynch, the poet, essayist, and funeral director who was recently honored by Oakland University.

President Russi also updated the Board on the following cuts to balance the fiscal year 2002-03 budget and plans to reduce the fiscal year 2003-04 budget:

- As a reminder, state appropriations were cut 3.5% this fiscal year through two executive orders. The Vice Presidents and Deans solicited suggestions from their faculty and staff and submitted recommendations for their areas to the Budget Office, primarily using one-time funds and funding sources for final approval.
- Many of the decisions were extremely difficult, but they meet the goals of balancing the budget, preserving the core mission of education, and providing student services.

- In total, more than:
  - \$700,000 was trimmed from the supplies and services budgets;
  - \$680,000 from salaries and fringe benefits;
  - \$660,000 from the non-General Fund accounts which include grant, indirect cost recovery, program incentive funds);
  - \$170,000 from equipment purchases;
  - \$45,000 from travel; and,
  - \$4,000 from telephone accounts.
  
- The more than \$2 million in cuts affect virtually all areas of the University, and they have been communicated to the faculty and staff through a variety of vehicles.
  
- The University fiscal year 2003-04 budget includes a 10% or \$5.3 million cut in state appropriations, along with approximately \$7.5 million dollars in necessary non-discretionary cost increases, for a total of \$13 million. As a result, the Vice Presidents and Deans have been directed to seek base funding recommendations for cuts. Consultations within each unit on these base budget cuts have begun and will continue through April 7, 2003, when proposals from departments are due to each Vice President. The Vice Presidents will then pass on their division recommendations to the Budget Office by April 14, 2003. Input was also received from Directors, Department Chairs, University Senate Budget Review Committee, University Senate Planning Review Committee, student leaders, and Student Congress. Those recommendations will assist in developing the University fiscal year 2003-04 budgets, which Vice President Lynne Schaefer plans to present to the Board for discussion at the May 7, 2003 Board Working Session.
  
- The budget proposal will also include an increase in tuition effective Fall 2003, to be determined as part of the planning process. Historically, as the percentage of state support for public universities decreases, tuition rates need to increase to maintain quality. However, the University will work diligently to minimize this increase by responding to the state mandate for cuts and finding ways to contain costs. In addition, the Legislature is currently debating on alternatives to the higher education cut proposed by the Governor, and the Board will be informed of those alternatives.
  
- The overriding goal is to protect the delivery of a top-quality education and services to the students in the classrooms and laboratories. Oakland has a long history of running lean and containing cost. In that spirit, the administration did not want to wait until June to make cuts that make strategic sense during this budget crisis.

- Effective Friday, March 7, a hiring freeze was initiated for all faculty and staff positions, which will remain in place until the budget situation improves sufficiently. On March 14, Interim Vice President Virinder Moudgil announced a major reorganization of the Information Technology resources based on widespread input from the University community. The restructure will significantly strengthen the delivery of services to the campus community and save the University \$140,000 in base funding annually.
- As another cost containment measure, on March 14, an announcement was made to close the Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute on April 25, 2003. The institute has provided outstanding health management and disease prevention services to the campus and surrounding communities since the early 1980's, but it has accumulated a total debt of nearly \$400,000 in recent years, with a projected operating deficit of another \$90,000 this year. The staff worked hard to improve profitability, but competition from more mainstream health care providers made that road extremely difficult.
- An operational change to the Meadow Brook Theatre has been proposed effective for the 2003-04 season. Despite strong numbers at the box office in ticket sales, etc., contributed income from gifts and grants is down. Unfortunately, the Theatre has accumulated a fund balance deficit in the past couple of years of about \$300,000. Beginning this fall, each production must have a sponsor or sponsors before the play can be staged. In the meantime, other management options to the Theatre operations will be shared with the Board as they evolve.

Acting Chairperson Fischer thanked President Russi for his report.

#### **IV. Action Items**

##### **A. Consent Agenda**

Acting Chairperson Fischer moved approval of the following recommendations:

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the Formal Meeting of February 5, 2003**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Special Formal Meeting of March 6, 2003**
- 3. Approval of Recommendation of Final Undergraduate and Graduate School Reports dated December 17, 2002**

#### 4. Approval of University Personnel Actions

##### Administrative Appointments -- Department Chairs

<u>Department</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Term</u>
Human Resource Development	Michael P. Long	May 1, 2003 - August 14, 2006 (1st term)

##### Faculty Promotions

The faculty bargaining agreement requires that certain reviews for possible promotion be completed by April 15. The following recommendations are made by the President and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

##### Optional Promotions – Effective August 15, 2003:

Associate Professors with tenure considered for promotion to full Professor:

Coppin, Addington M.	Economics	Promote
Goodman, Jane	Counseling	Promote
Gu, Randy J.	Mechanical Engineering	Promote
Marcoux, Beth C.	Physical Therapy	Promote
Meehan, Albert J.	Sociology & Anthropology	Promote
Mili, Fatma	Computer Science & Engineering	Promote
Nixon, Jude V.	English	Promote
Papazian, Mary A.	English	Promote
Smith, Michael B.	Linguistics	Retain in Rank
York, Kenneth M.	Management & Marketing	Retain in Rank

##### Change of Status

Hanna, Darrin M., Visiting Instructor in Engineering to Visiting Assistant Professor of Engineering, effective January 6, 2003.

Minor, Billy J., Associate Professor of Education and Chairperson, Department of Human Resource Development to Associate Professor of Education, effective May 1, 2003.

Morrison, Linda J., Instructor in Sociology to Assistant Professor of Sociology, effective April 1, 2003.

Tombouliau, Paul, Professor of Chemistry to Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, effective August 15, 2003. The Faculty Promotion and Review Committee has been consulted in connection with the appointment of Paul Tombouliau, Professor of Chemistry, to the rank of Distinguished Professor of Chemistry (provided as additional information for the appointment of Distinguished Professor of Chemistry that was approved at the February 5, 2003 Board of Trustees Meeting).

#### Corrections

Eberly, Mary B., Associate Professor of Psychology to Associate Professor of Psychology and Acting Chairperson, Department of Psychology, effective January 1, 2003 to April 30, 2003 (previously reported as Assistant Professor of Psychology to Assistant Professor of Psychology and Acting Chairperson, Department of Psychology).

#### **5. Recommendation to Accept Gifts to Oakland University and the Oakland University Foundation for the Period of January 1 through February 28, 2003 and to Accept Grants and Contracts to Oakland University for the Period of January 1 through February 28, 2003**

(A list of the gifts, grants and contracts is on file in the Board of Trustees office.)

#### **6. Approval of Oakland University Board of Trustees Standing Finance, Audit and Investment Committee**

WHEREAS, the Oakland University Board of Trustees possesses all constitutional powers customarily exercised by a board of control of a Michigan institution of higher education established by law having authority to grant baccalaureate degrees, including without limitation the entire control of university affairs and property, the power to control, direct, and manage university funds, and the power to control and direct all expenditures from university funds; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that to assist the Board in monitoring the financial integrity of the University, to assure adequate income and reserves, and to properly oversee University financial management, the Board hereby establishes the Oakland University Board of Trustees Standing Finance, Audit and Investment Committee, in place of the Investment Advisory Committee, with the responsibilities stated in Attachment A.

(Attachment A is on file in the Board of Trustees office.)

**7. Approval of Honorary Degree for Gordon England**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the awarding of an honorary degree of Doctor of Science to Gordon England.

Trustee David J. Doyle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

**B. Approval of Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards and Human Relations Award**

Trustee Dennis K. Pawley stated that the Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards are presented annually to an Oakland University senior man and woman who have contributed as scholars, leaders and responsible citizens to the Oakland University community. First awarded in 1965, these honors were designed by Mrs. Matilda R. Wilson and Durward "Woody" Varner, Oakland's first Chancellor, to recognize those students who not only have achieved academic excellence, but who have also made significant contributions to campus life and demonstrated interest in the social problems of this community and society in general. Trustee Pawley added that the Human Relations Award is presented annually to a graduating senior who has contributed significantly to the improvement of inner group relations on the campus. President Joseph E. Champagne established this annual award on February 1, 1990 in recognition of the need to foster interracial understanding and harmony and in recognition of the institutional priority attached to these goals. Recipients must demonstrate commitment to social justice and multi-cultural understanding.

Trustee Pawley moved approval of the following recommendations:

**A Resolution of Commendation to Mr. Dennis O'Connor**

WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis O'Connor entered Oakland University as a freshman from Brandon High School to pursue a major in Biology; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Connor demonstrated academic achievement as an Undergraduate Researcher at the Eye Research Institute; served as corresponding secretary of the Golden Key International Honor Society; and received the 2002 Alumni Award Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Connor demonstrated leadership capabilities as a member of the Pre-Medical Society; served as a volunteer firefighter; served as a Pontiac School District fourth grade tutor; served as a basketball and football coach in the Synergy Works After School Program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. O'Connor has been selected as the 2003 recipient of the Alfred G. Wilson Award given annually to a graduating senior who has maintained high academic standards, who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership capabilities and involvement in the Oakland University community, and who has expressed social concern; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Mr. Dennis O'Connor for his commitment to campus life at Oakland University; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Mr. Dennis O'Conner for the quality of his leadership and extends to him its best wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

**A Resolution of Commendation to Ms. Ashley Nancy McGhee**

WHEREAS, Ms. Ashley McGee entered Oakland University as a freshman from Lester B. Pierson High School in Burlington Ontario, Canada, to pursue a major in Sociology and a minor in Women's studies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McGee demonstrated academic excellence as recipient of the Distinguished Undergraduate Award; receiving the Department of Sociology/Anthropology Don Warren Outstanding Academic Achievement Award; received the Provost's University Student Research Scholar Award and the Athletic Department's Hollie Lee Lepley Female Student-2002 Athlete of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McGee demonstrated leadership capabilities as President of Oakland University's Student-Athlete Advisory Council; served as Vice President of the Women's Issues Forum; served as Editorial Assistant of the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships; served as Research Assistant in the Department of Sociology and Mid-Continent Conference Student-Athlete National Representative; and

WHEREAS, Ms. McGee has been selected as the 2003 recipient of the Matilda R. Wilson Award given annually to a graduating senior who has maintained high academic standards, who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership capabilities and involvement in the Oakland University community, and who has expressed social concern; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Ms. Ashley Nancy McGee to commitment to campus life at Oakland University; and, be it further



RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recommends Ms. Ashley Nancy McGee for the quality of her leadership and extends to her its best wishes for continued success in her future endeavors.

**A Resolution of Commendation to Ms. Ashli Camille Bobo**

WHEREAS, Ms. Ashli Camille Bobo entered Oakland University as a freshman from Wayne High School from Huber Heights, Ohio to pursue a major in journalism; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bobo distinguished herself as a conscientious student leader, committed to increasing unity and understanding among diverse groups of students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bobo demonstrated leadership capabilities and devotion to the University and the community through her untiring participation to improve race relations and multi-cultural understanding as President of the Association of Black Students; served as a member of the University Student Congress legislature; served as Office of Equity Peer Mentor and Orientation Group Leader; served as Student Life Lecture Board member; received the Trustee Academic Scholarship; and volunteered at Focus Hope and Pontiac Rescue Mission; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Bobo has been selected as the 2003 recipient of the Human Relations Award given annually to a graduating senior who has made an outstanding contribution to intergroup understanding and conflict resolution in the Oakland University community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its appreciation to Ms. Ashli Camille Bobo for her commitment to campus life at Oakland University; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees commends Ms. Ashli Camille Bobo for the quality of her leadership and extends to her its best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

Trustee Ann V. Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

**C. Approval of Use for Property Subject to Deed Restriction**

Acting Chairperson Fischer stated that in 1978, the University sold approximately 3.5 acres of property located on the northwest corner of Walton Boulevard and Adams Road.

He noted that at that time, the Board was concerned about future development and imposed a deed restriction to bring any proposed development back to the Board. The Warranty Deed provides that the developer originally would construct a Bill Knapps, and the current proposal is to build a CVS Pharmacy and a Comerica Bank branch on that property.

Acting Chairperson Fischer moved approval of the following recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed uses for the real property sold to J-P Properties, located on the northwest corner of Walton Boulevard and Adams Road, for a CVS Pharmacy (to be relocated from the existing University Square shopping center to a freestanding building on the Property) and for a Comerica Bank branch adjacent thereto.

Chair Fischer called on Ms. Sandra Jouhet, General Counsel for The Velmeir Companies, the real estate development company representing both CVS and Comerica in this potential venture. Ms. Jouhet stated that the relocation of CVS Pharmacy from the shopping center along with the new Comerica Branch to this corner will offer convenience and additional services to Oakland University and the surrounding Rochester community. She noted that, in part of being a good corporate neighbor, CVS and Velmeir would like to show their support to the University by contributing to a scholarship fund or student organization that deals with health science or retail business management. Ms. Jouhet added that they have been working with Vice President Mary Beth Snyder on the details of this proposal.

Acting Chairperson Fischer thanked Ms. Jouhet and Velmeir for the generous nature and spirit of the gift.

Trustee Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

#### **D. Approval of Satellite Agreement between Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Oakland University**

Trustee Doyle stated that the Thomas M. Cooley Law School enrolls about 2,000 students from all over the country. Their main campus is in Lansing, but a significant number of their students are from the Oakland and Macomb County Area. He noted that Oakland and Cooley have been exploring ways to make law school accessible in those areas, along with joint degree programs in the fields of taxation law, intellectual property, and technology law leading to masters of law degree programs. Trustee Doyle reported that, in July of 2002, Oakland and Cooley entered into a one-year cohort agreement whereby Cooley offers a program for first-year Cooley students to attend classes, study, and receive Cooley student support services. The next step in developing this relationship is

to expand the programs offered by Cooley from the first-year to the first and second-years through a Cooley Satellite on Oakland's campus.

Trustee Doyle noted that ABA requirements for a satellite program are more extensive than for a first-year cohort, which means that Cooley will be using Oakland's facilities to a greater extent for classroom, office and library space located in O'Dowd Hall. He added that Cooley has agreed to pay \$219,000, or approximately half of the cost to renovate the O'Dowd Hall classroom space. Trustee Doyle stated that, as part of the Satellite Agreement, Oakland will receive 8% of gross tuition revenues each semester with a guaranteed minimum payment of \$25,000 per semester. In 2003, the total annual payment is projected to be between \$100,000 and \$200,000, depending on actual enrollment and retention. Trustee Doyle noted that, when all three cohorts are in place for the full two-year program in 2005, the annual payment to Oakland is estimated to be between \$475,000 and \$800,000.

Trustee Doyle moved approval of the following recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approve the attached Satellite Agreement between Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Oakland University.

(A copy of the Satellite Agreement is on file in the Board of Trustees office.)

Trustee Nicholson seconded the motion.

Acting Chairperson Fischer called on Interim Vice President Moudgil to present additional information on this venture. Dr. Moudgil announced that Dr. Russi and the President of Cooley Law School have reached an agreement wherein Cooley will offer 50% tuition discounts for eligible Oakland University employees and their dependents. He noted that, under the proposal, all fees and costs will be charged at standard rates.

At this time, Acting Chairperson Fischer called on Mr. James Robb, Dean of Cooley Law School, to comment. Mr. Robb stated that Cooley is looking forward to a long, strong, and mutually beneficial venture with Oakland University. He thanked the Board for considering this proposal, and he commended Vice Presidents Moudgil and Schaefer and General Counsel Zambardi and their staffs for welcoming them to the campus community and assisting them in drafting this proposal.

Acting Chairperson Fischer thanked Dean Robb for his comments. He stated that he believes Oakland University is pleased with this relationship and looks forward to a mutually prosperous relationship.

The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

**E. Approval to Proceed with Classroom Improvement with Reconfiguration/Construction in 202 O'Dowd Hall**

Trustee Nicholson stated that a fact sheet on the proposed classroom improvement item has been distributed for the Board's information. She noted that the Satellite Agreement with Cooley Law School contains a commitment by Oakland University to provide a 90-seat tiered classroom for use by Cooley beginning with the Fall 2003 semester, and an additional 90-seat tiered classroom beginning with the Fall 2004 semester. She noted that very few of these classrooms are available on campus and that they are in high demand. Trustee Nicholson stated that the proposed approach to meet this requirement of two 90-seat tiered classrooms is to reconfigure Room 202 in O'Dowd Hall from an oversized, underused lecture hall into three large tiered classrooms. She noted that the Satellite Agreement provides that an estimated 8% of Cooley's gross tuition and fee revenues will be paid to Oakland University, which would take 1 ½ to 2 years for the University to recover the funds used to reconfigure Room 202 of O'Dowd Hall. Trustee Nicholson added that, from a budgetary standpoint, the estimated cost to reconfigure these rooms is \$690,000. The source of funding would be from existing University funds and \$200,000 from Cooley.

Trustee Nicholson moved approval of the following recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration be authorized to execute contract(s) with the lowest responsible bidder(s) for the reconfiguration of Room 202 ODH into three large classrooms; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the contract(s) shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel prior to execution and shall be in compliance with the law and university policies and regulations and shall conform to the legal standards and policies of the Board of Trustees; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the construction for Room 202 ODH reconfiguration shall not exceed \$690,000, including payments of \$200,000 from CLS.

Trustee Doyle seconded the motion.

Student Liaison Rhonda Hanna expressed student concern about the need to upgrade technology in South Foundation Hall where many of the classes are held. She noted that she is glad to see that the existing University funds that will be used for the Room 202 O'Dowd Hall classroom project will be replenished. Ms. Hanna urged the Board to consider the technology needs in South Foundation Hall once those funds are replenished.

Acting Chairperson Fischer thanked Ms. Hanna for her comments and stated that the Board will keep them in mind.

The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

**F. Approval of Authorization to Execute Amendment to SCT Banner 2000 Technical Currency Agreement**

Trustee Dennis C. Muchmore stated that in 1997, the University engaged in a process identifying means by which the University could more effectively provide students with access to admissions, financial, registration, advising, and academic records. He noted that the University solicited proposals from 39 vendors, received proposals from 11 vendors, and selected System Computer Technology (SCT), upon Board approval, to execute a technical currency agreement with an initial five-year term and automatic year-to-year extensions. Trustee Muchmore stated that the original technical currency agreement, as amended, runs through July 31, 2003. SCT has offered to reduce the cost to the University in exchange for extending their contract on a commitment through July 31, 2009, at a total cost of \$822,793, for a savings of \$121,000. Trustee Muchmore noted that the amendment to the technical currency agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Office of General Counsel and is in compliance with the law and the university policies and regulations and conforms to the legal standards and policies of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Muchmore moved approval of the following recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration be authorized to execute the Amendment to the Technical Currency Agreement for a contract period from August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004, with an annual renewal, and a commitment to renew for a period of five years through July 31, 2009.

Trustee Pawley seconded the motion.

Acting Chairperson Fischer called on Ms. Terrie Rowe, Director of Information Systems, who distributed an updated Amendment to Technical Currency Agreement and reported that she and Mr. Robert Johnson, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management, and Mr. Steve Roberts, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, have been working with SCT in reviewing these licenses. She noted that during the course of those discussions, they determined that the voice response systems license should be discontinued, which would lower the cost another \$2,000, or \$10,000 over the five-year period.

The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

**G. Approval to Proceed with Surface Repair of Parking Lot 36**

Trustee Doyle stated that Parking Lot 36, located between the Science and Engineering Building and Elliott Hall, is deteriorating and in dire need of repairs.

Trustee Doyle moved approval of the following recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration be authorized to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the surface repair of Parking Lot 36; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the contract shall be reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel prior to execution and shall be in compliance with the law and University policies and regulations and shall conform to the legal standards and policies of the Board of Trustees; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the project budget shall not exceed \$300,000.

Trustee Muchmore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.

**V. Discussion of the June 4, 2003 Board of Trustees Formal Meeting Agenda.**

Acting Chairperson Fischer stated that if any Board members have additional changes or questions regarding the June 4, 2003 Board agenda, please contact the Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

**VI. Other Items that May Come Before the Board**

Acting Chairperson Fischer called on Dr. Shannon McNair, Professor of Education, and Dr. Darrell Schmidt, Professor of Mathematical Sciences, who requested to address the Board.

Dr. McNair stated that she and Dr. Schmidt represent the University Senate and that they would like to reintroduce a resolution that was brought to the Board a couple of years ago regarding faculty liaisons to the Board of Trustees. Dr. McNair made the following statement:

A couple of years ago, the resolution came before you, and the idea from the Senate was that we could really create better communication between faculty and the Board of Trustees as a result of having two faculty liaisons, a very similar role to the Student Liaisons that you have. At that time, it wasn't favorably received, but we thought we would try again. Something that has happened in the meantime is that the Senate asked Darrell and I for the last year and a half to informally be representatives of the Senate here at Board meetings, and I will

have to say personally that it has been a really good experience for me and very informative. It has convinced me that our purposes would really be well met as a result. Darrell and I have talked and have similar views about this.

Some of the things are of little interest to the faculty but some of the things that have come up are things that I might be critical of. Having a reason to be at the meetings has given me additional information and a different perspective on things that have made me understand a fuller picture. I will have to say that the past year and a half I have felt very positively and much more positively about being a part of the Oakland University team.

I really feel like, as an institute of higher learning, it is important for us to also be a learning organization that involves a real level of collaboration, cooperation and community among all constituent groups. We do have all constituent groups represented except for the faculty group. We are just asking that there be two faculty liaisons on the Board.

Dr. Schmidt also added the following comments:

I just have a couple of small words to add and that is that in my 14 months in coming to the Board meetings, I couldn't help noticing that the Student Liaisons have actually represented their constituencies quite well. They have added to the meetings and their contributions have been very good, and I think that you really would benefit from having the faculty liaisons in the same fashion.

Acting Chairperson Fischer thanked Dr. McNair and Dr. Schmidt for their comments, and called on Ms. Francis King who requested to address the Board. Ms. King distributed a packet of documents to the Board, and made the following statement:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak with you regarding Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute. I should note that I am not an official spokesperson for the members of the Institute or for the "Fit for Life" program, which I have attended for 12 years. I am however, a strong advocate for its goals as part of the University academic program.

"Fit for Life" combines the original 60+ program with the cardiac rehab and the diabetes program. Members ranged in age from 60 to 90 and participated in wellness activities that included exercise three times per week along with lectures and demonstrations. Exercise physiology graduate students led components of the exercise such as stretches and aerobics, monitor blood pressure, and oversee the health status of participants along with one part-time staff member. At the Institute, medical staff were on-duty while we were present.

As you might expect a strong component of the program was the informal social structure that developed over many years and sustained members as they dealt with the vicissitudes of aging. It has been a remarkable experience for all of us. All of us are saddened that it was necessary to close the Institute.

We are, at this point, hopeful that the University will honor the goals of the Institute by moving our "Fit for Life" program to the Rec Center and academically integrating it so that the participants and the students on campus benefit from interaction and research. When I joined the Institute, I anticipated this is what would happen, but student research was a missing component. We had wonderful interactions with the graduate students who worked with us however. Interestingly, it was not until late last summer that I discovered that we came under the aegis of the School of Health Sciences. I began a letter writing effort to question the lack of student research. This effort was short circuited by the letter in the Oakland Post that indicated that the Board of Trustees was considering closing the Institute. My efforts thereafter were directed towards salvaging the "Fit for Life" program by moving it to the Rec Center and then pushing mightily for academic integration with a focus on student research. You will find in your packet of information a compilation of that effort, which includes a presentation that we gave to Virinder Moudgil.

By the way, I am not alone in this effort. Many of our members have written to support the Institute and "Fit for Life" particularly. At this point, salvaging the program seems to have been accomplished. We met on March 28 with Dean Olson, Greg Jordan and his staff. There will be, however, many devils in working out the details, and parking is a big detail in our membership whose average age is in their mid-seventies. It appears that we are being welcomed by the Rec Center with good will and good intentions. It is not enough to simply move "Fit for Life" to the Rec Center.

At this point, it is my hope that the Board of Trustees will provide positive direction supporting academic integration and student research into wellness and health enhancement with an older population that will now be readily accessible to the student body. I envision that student research will not just be in the School of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing, but also in cooperation with the Social Sciences, Psychology, and Sociology.

I would like to be assured of such positive direction from the Board of Trustees.

Acting Chairperson Fischer thanked Ms. King for her comments. He then called on Dr. Joel Russell, President of the AAUP. Dr. Russell stated that an Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy has been called to active duty in the armed services, and that the AAUP requests that the Board review the policies on benefits to faculty and staff members who have been called to active duty during times of war. He noted that several Michigan municipalities have announced that, in addition to maintenance and benefits for employees called to active duty, they are continuing to pay these employees



the difference between their normal salary and their military salary. Dr. Russell urged the Board to adopt such a policy for Oakland University, stating that, even in these difficult fiscal times, they hope that budgetary priorities can be adjusted to show how the contributions and sacrifices of faculty and staff called to serve in the war are valued.

Acting Chairperson Fischer thanked Dr. Russell for his comments.

**VI. Adjournment**

Acting Chairperson Fischer adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Submitted,

Approved,

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Victor A. Zambardi  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

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David T. Fischer  
Acting Chairperson for the  
Meeting of the Board of Trustees