



Thursday, April 3, 2003

## Budget, law school highlight BOT meeting

An update on Oakland University's budget-cutting process, the approval of a satellite agreement with Cooley Law School, and the approval of an honorary degree for the deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security highlighted the April 2 **Board of Trustees** formal meeting.

### OU Budget

President Gary Russi's report included a discussion of the budget-cutting process at Oakland, and what it means in the long- and short-term. He said the more than \$2 million in cuts that have been made so far "were extremely difficult, but we feel they meet our goals of balancing the budget and preserving our core mission of educating and serving students."

Russi added that as the Legislature debates the amount of the 2003-2004 budget, vice presidents, deans and department heads are consulting with each university unit on base budget cut recommendations, which are due to each vice president April 7. The vice presidents then will give their division recommendations to the Budget Office by April 14.

"We will use recommendations from the units and divisions to help develop the university's fiscal year 2003-2004 budget, which Vice President Lynne Schaefer expects to present to the board for discussion at (the) May 7 meeting," Russi said. Find out more by reading the complete text of **Russi's comments to the board**.

### Cooley Law School Satellite

Oakland University's partnership with **Cooley Law School** will expand with the board's approval of a Cooley satellite on Oakland's campus.

Key benefits of the satellite campus include offering the first two years of Cooley's standard part-time, 36-month curriculum at OU. A night section of these courses will begin in May, a morning section will begin in September, and an afternoon section will begin in January 2004. All 60 course credits may be taken during the section most convenient to the student.

All classes at OU will be taught by full-time tenured or tenure-track Cooley faculty, and Cooley will provide OU with a complete core collection law library that will be open to OU students and faculty along with full-time professional law librarians and staff.

In addition, Cooley will contribute funding toward the reconfiguration and construction of Room 202 in O'Dowd Hall. This reconfiguration will create three new classrooms with 80 to 90 tiered seats in each.

Another feature of Oakland's partnership with Cooley is the 50-percent discount off tuition offered by **Cooley Law School** to OU employees and their dependents interested in pursuing a law degree, beginning immediately. Through this discount, OU faculty and staff and their dependents can take classes at Michigan's largest law school, including the first two years of classes on OU's campus. Full tuition at Cooley will be reduced to one-half the standard tuition for eligible OU employees. All fees and costs will be charged at standard rates.

### Honorary Degree

The board approved a resolution to award an honorary degree of Doctor of Science to Secretary of the Navy Gordon England. England recently was nominated by President Bush to be deputy secretary of the new Department of Homeland Security and previously was president of the General Dynamics Land Systems Division and executive vice president of General Dynamics Corporation, responsible for information systems and international affairs.

England served on the Board of Advisers to Oakland University's School of Engineering and Computer Science and was instrumental in securing grants that expanded the school's research capacity.

### Other measures passed by the board:

- Approval of the Alfred G. and Matilda R. Awards and Human Relations Award winners to three graduating seniors.
- Approval to proceed with the surface repair of parking lot 36.

The February employee of the month was Sheryl Klemanski, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs in the office of the vice president for Academic Affairs and provost. The March employee of the month is Michelle Southward, admissions adviser

in the Office of Admissions.

Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil recognized two faculty members for their outstanding work: Ronald Swartz, professor of education and philosophy in the School of Education and Human Services, and Brian Connery, professor of English in the Department of English.

The next working session of the Board of Trustees is Wednesday, May 7, at 2 p.m. in the Elliott Hall Auditorium. For more information on the board or to see the meeting agenda, visit the **Board of Trustees** Web site.

**SUMMARY**

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Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, April 3, 2003  
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, April 3, 2003  
Article Start Date: Monday, October 27, 2003