



Monday, October 7, 2002

BOT approves SON and OC improvements

At the Oct. 2 Board of Trustees meeting, the board approved improvements that will be made in the **School of Nursing** labs and the **Oakland Center**.

In the School of Nursing, program and faculty growth have resulted in full-time faculty sharing offices and a large number of part-time faculty sharing a single office. The school's multi-media lab is inadequate in terms of workstations and infrastructure for current enrollment, and structural modifications are needed to enhance the operation of the multi-media lab and integrate its operation with the adjacent practice lab.

The project will perform needed repairs on most of the fourth floor of O'Dowd Hall, which will allow consolidation of the **School of Nursing** offices from the third floor, provide an office for each full-time faculty member and provide an office for each five part-time faculty members. The project also will repair and upgrade the multi-media lab on the second floor to expand the capacity, improve the environment and better integrate the nursing lab operations.

The Board also approved an increase in the total budget for the **Oakland Center** expansion, which begins Oct. 11.

In the process of visualizing the completed addition and the desire for the Oakland Center to be the "gateway" to campus, it was felt that the extensive canopy and vestibule structures extending between North and South Foundation Halls would hamper the achievement of that goal.

The increase in funds will allow for the demolition of the canopy/vestibule and restoration of the area as part of the Oakland Center expansion project. The buildings will be restored where the canopy joined them; an updated, less invasive vestibule will be constructed at South Foundation Hall; and the area between the two buildings will be improved to provide the inviting "gateway" to the new Oakland Center addition.

Other items brought before the board

- Trustee David Fischer read a resolution honoring Trustee Ann Nicholson in which the Board of Trustees, President Gary Russi and the entire university community publicly expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to Nicholson for the dedicated service she rendered as chair of the Board of Trustees.
- Vice Chair Penny Crissman read a resolution honoring Louis Grech-Cumbo in which the Board of Trustees designated Grech-Cumbo as trustee emeritus and expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude to him for his time serving on the board.
- The board approved a proposal that the Oakland University Board of Trustees supports the passage of Proposal K, which will appear on the Michigan state ballot next month. If approved by voters, Proposal K will support nonprofit regional history, science and arts institutions that will be paid for by a half mill property tax. The passage of Proposal K would allow Meadow Brook Hall and Meadow Brook Theatre to maintain and expand their educational, outreach and core programs.
- The board approved the budget for Meadow Brook Hall for the year ending June 30, 2003, and conditionally approved the budgets for fiscal years ending June 30, 2002, and June 30, 2005.
- The board approved submission of the State Capital Outlay Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2004 and the five-year plan to the State of Michigan, Department of Management and Budget, which listed the university's top priority as a new Engineering Design Center and renovation of the space in Hannah Hall of Science.

President's Report

President Gary Russi announced that the Performing Arts Complex will be a top priority in the university's upcoming Capital Campaign.

"Through discussions with capital campaign leadership, we have identified the performing arts facility as one of our top priorities

for the campaign,” Russi said at the meeting. “We have much interest among university friends in support of this project. And, we feel confident that this building will become a reality as the campaign unfolds.”

Russi also recognized staff and faculty for outstanding work. Among those recognized were:

Employees of the Month

- Frank Moss, University Housing, June 2002
- Carolyn M. Stevens, Rhetoric, Communications and Journalism, July 2002
- Lisa Lam Hung Shuk, Campus Cleaning, August 2002

Faculty Recognition

- Dr. Gilbert Wedekind, School of Engineering and Computer Science, September 2002
- Shravan Chintala, Eye Research Institute, September 2002

Russi also recognized Trustee David Doyle, for recently being awarded the Oakland University Alumni Association’s **Distinguished Alumni Award**.

At the conclusion of his report, Russi announced the **fall 2002 enrollment** has reached its highest number ever, topping out at 16,059 students.

Before the meeting began, new Board Chair Henry Baskin addressed the audience with a personal statement in opposition to Proposal 4 (“Healthy Michigan” ballot proposal), which will be on the State of Michigan ballot in November. He stated that voting “no” on Proposal 4 would be in the best interests of higher education and Oakland University.

Baskin quoted a resolution passed by the Michigan State University Board of Trustees:

“WHEREAS, the “Healthy Michigan” ballot proposal would eliminate permanently the Legislature’s ability to shift these state funds among ever-changing critical state needs, including education and health, over time; and

“WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University believes the “Healthy Michigan” ballot proposal is unhealthy public policy for the State of Michigan and accordingly would not be healthy for higher education, health or any other major responsibility of state government;

“THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University urges the people of Michigan to defeat the “Healthy Michigan” ballot proposal.”

SUMMARY

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