



Thursday, December 6, 2001

BOT approves parking structure design

By *Jeff Samoray, OU Web Writer*

Oakland University has moved toward completing a parking structure by next fall.

At the OU **Board of Trustees** meeting Wednesday, Dec. 5, the Board approved the schematic design of the proposed structure, authorized proceeding to the completion of the final design and authorized the solicitation of competitive bids from contractors.

The proposed design is a three-level structure with a glass-enclosed stairway at three corners and an elevator. The structure will have a brick veneer exterior similar in color to other campus buildings. It will provide about 550 spaces and will be located at the lower playing fields across from the new School of Education and Human Services building. Construction is expected to begin in spring of 2002 and be completed sometime during the fall semester.

OU Student Body President Derek Dickow asked the university to consider the adequacy of safety and accessibility for the disabled in the design. He also suggested there be a means of notifying drivers of parking availability. Vice President for Finance and Administration Lynne Schaefer said steps will be taken to ensure that those concerns are addressed.

Other items presented before the Board:

- Schaefer reported that a draft version of the Capital Outlay Budget Request for the fiscal year 2003 had been sent to the State of Michigan to meet the state's mid-November deadline. The state has asked universities to request a maximum of one project for funding in fiscal year 2003. Schaefer said the request had been updated from last year to reflect current data, with the caveat that OU's submission was tentative, pending further Board action.

- Two informational presentations were made on projects that could be submitted for state capital outlay funding.

Pieter Frick, dean of the School of Engineering and Computer Science, presented a proposal for an Automotive Transportation Facility. This facility would support interdisciplinary, broad-based student education in engineering and computer science, and support faculty development, automotive research and community outreach.

David Downing, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, presented a proposal for a Performing Arts Complex. This complex would support student education in the arts, support creative and research endeavors, provide a creative hub for the intellectual and academic life of the university and promote community outreach.

The Board will consider the projects within the context of the university's strategic direction.

- A resolution was approved honoring Trustee Robert N. Cooper, who resigned from the Board when he moved to Florida in September. Cooper was recognized for his leadership, services and generous gifts to Oakland University, and was designated a Trustee Emeritus.
- The audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001, as prepared by the accounting firm of Andrews Hooper and Pavlik, P.L.C., were accepted. The auditor's opinion is unqualified and no material weaknesses were reported.

The next **Board of Trustees** meeting will be a working session on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 2 p.m. in the Elliott Hall Auditorium.

SUMMARY

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