



Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Budgets discussed at March board meeting

At the March 5 **Board of Trustees** working session, President Gary Russi reported on the **state budget situation**.

The board heard reports on the budget performance for **Meadow Brook Hall** and **Meadow Brook Theatre** as well as an auxiliary unit budget progress summary and an update on the **Oakland Center expansion project**, which is on budget and on schedule for completion in August.

Items discussed by the board for action at the next meeting include:

- The Alfred G. and Matilda R. Wilson Awards and Human Relations Award recipients.
- Honorary degree to be awarded to Gordon England at the December 2003 commencement.
- **Satellite agreement** between Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Oakland University, which will increase the number of Cooley classes held on OU's campus to the first two years of the three-year curriculum. Upon approval, Cooley will provide 8 percent of its tuition income to Oakland and establish a law library at Oakland that will be open to all OU students.
- Authorization to proceed with classroom improvement/reconfiguration in 202 O'Dowd Hall. This space would be converted into three separate 80- to 90-seat classrooms, each of which would be technologically advanced.
- Amendment to the SCT Banner 2000 technical currency agreement, which would reduce annual technical currency fees in exchange for a university commitment for five years. The current 10 percent cap would be reduced to 6 percent for the life of the agreement for a total savings over the five-year extension (ending July 31, 2009) of \$121,668.
- Authorization to proceed with surface repair on Parking Lot 36, which would take place during the summer and cost an estimated \$300,000. The repairs would be paid for out of the parking fee fund.

In a formal vote, the board approved the purchase of an FEI Morgagni 268 electron microscope, which will assist faculty scientists in their research.

During the public comment session, Oakland Post Editor-in-Chief Ann Zaniewski and Managing Editor Gayle Issa presented a petition signed by more than 1,000 students, faculty and staff members requesting all board meetings be open, according to the Open Meetings Act.

Two members of the Student Congress as well as faculty members Shea Howell, professor of communications and chair of the Rhetoric, Communication and Journalism Department; Darrell Schmidt, professor of mathematic sciences; and Joel Russell, professor of chemistry, also addressed the board and requested all board meetings be open.

Board Chair Henry Baskin closed the discussion by appealing to the entire OU community to work together on the serious funding challenges facing the university.

The next **Board of Trustees** meeting is Wednesday, April 2, at 2 p.m. in the Elliott Hall Auditorium.

SUMMARY

At the March 5 Board of Trustees working session, President Gary Russi reported on the state budget situation. The board heard reports on the budget performance for Meadow Brook Hall and Meadow Brook Theatre and an update on the Oakland Center expansion project.

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