



Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Board approves budget, MBT proposal

At the June 4 formal session of the **Oakland University Board of Trustees**, the board approved the university's general fund budget for fiscal year 2003-04, which increases tuition and fees by 9.9 percent, or about \$250 per semester for a full-time undergraduate.

President Gary Russi reported to the board what the university has done to balance budget shortfalls caused by expected state appropriations cuts and increases in non-discretionary costs, while preserving the core academic mission. The revised plan includes:

- Cutting expenses by \$5.5 million;
- Cut or reduced hours in some 60 positions, including 21 full-time faculty positions. This represents the equivalent of 44 full-time positions across the university;
- The hiring freeze announced in March will remain in place;
- Executive and upper-level academic administrators' salaries have been frozen;
- Two academic programs have been eliminated – one in nursing and one in health sciences;
- Operating budgets have been cut;
- Cost-containment measures continue to be implemented;
- Program review will be accelerated;
- Incentive programs will be restructured;
- Base funding level for workers' and unemployment compensation will be reduced.

Meadow Brook Theatre proposal

The board also approved a proposal submitted by the Committee to Save Meadow Brook Theatre to operate the theatre through an independent 501c3 corporation. A lease of the theatre premises and equipment by "The Theatre Ensemble" includes rental payments to the university. OU general fund support of Meadow Brook Theatre will cease. The new company will more actively involve OU students and faculty from the Music, Theatre and Dance Department in theatre operations.

Other items that the board voted on included:

Resolution to Honor Board of Trustees Student Liaison

The board approved a resolution honoring David Jewell, a management information systems major and student liaison to the Oakland University Board of Trustees for the 2002-03 academic year. The board commended him for his outstanding academic achievements and diverse involvement in extracurricular activities at Oakland.

OU Trustee Academic Success Fund Proposal

The board approved the Oakland University Trustee Academic Success (OUTAS) Fund proposal for the 2003-04 academic year. The OUTAS program is instrumental in the recruitment and retention of a diverse student body consistent with Federal Department of Education guidelines and to expand the cultural horizons of all students to prepare them for employment in an increasingly multicultural world upon graduation. The board approved \$257,600 for the OUTAS program for scholarships and other multicultural initiatives.

Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art

The board approved a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art degree through the College of Arts and Sciences. As with all new programs, annual evaluations for continuation of the program will occur.

Consent Agenda

The board approved the consent agenda, which included:

- Approval of the minutes of the formal meeting of April 2, 2003
- Approval of the minutes of the special formal meeting of May 7, 2003
- Approval of university personnel actions
- Approval of appointment of the dean for the School of Nursing, Linda Thompson, who will officially begin her role as dean on Aug. 1.

- Recommendation to accept gifts to Oakland University and the Oakland University Foundation for the period of March 1 through April 30, 2003, and to accept grants and contracts to Oakland University for the period of March 1 through April 30, 2003.
- Approval of the Meadow Brook subdivision financing guarantees
- Approval of board members for public school academies
- Approval of academic calendar for 2004-05
- Approval of resolution approving conveyance of property and release of easement and party wall agreement and authorization to execute the release of easement and party wall agreement and quitclaim deed for the Kresge Library addition.
- Approval of the 2003-04 Oakland University Board of Trustees meeting dates.

President Russi acknowledged the May employee of the month, Bonnie Koch, office assistant II for the International Students and Scholars Department. And, the June employee of the month, Eric Nelson, desktop publisher for the University Services Department, also was formally recognized.

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil recognized two faculty members for their outstanding work: Dr. Peter Bertocci, professor of anthropology in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Balaji Rajagopalan, assistant professor of management information systems in the School of Business Administration.

SUMMARY

At the June 4 formal session of the Oakland University Board of Trustees, the board approved the university's general fund budget for fiscal year 2003-04, which increases tuition and fees by 9.9 percent, or about \$250 per semester for a full-time undergraduate.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, June 4, 2003
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Wednesday, June 4, 2003
Article Start Date: Thursday, October 9, 2003