



Friday, May 2, 2003

Proposal to outsource theatre considered

At a special working session May 1, the Oakland University Board of Trustees discussed a proposal to outsource the operation of **Meadow Brook Theatre** to a group headed by nationally known theater operator Joseph Nederlander.

Meadow Brook Theatre has been operating in deficit for many years, and theatre management expect that the deficit will increase this fiscal year and next despite major efforts to trim expenses and attract sponsors for each production.

The Nederlander proposal would provide an opportunity to continue to offer top-quality theatre to the campus and community that may include off-Broadway shows, among other productions. And, the arrangement would offer a cash guarantee to the university each season as well as a percentage of ticket sales.

"The theatre provides support for and has direct connections to the academic mission of the university," Lynne Schaefer, vice president for finance and administration, said in her introduction. "The proposal would continue many of those connections, including internship opportunities, special programming and student discounts for tickets."

Numerous interested parties addressed the board regarding the proposal, including current **Meadow Brook Theatre** employees; faculty from the university's Department of Music, Theater and Dance; and students.

The board is expected to vote on the proposal at its next meeting, a regularly scheduled working session on Wednesday, May 7, at 2 p.m. in Elliott Hall Auditorium.

SUMMARY

At a special working session May 1, the OU Board of Trustees discussed a proposal to outsource the operation of Meadow Brook Theatre to a group headed by nationally known theater operator Joseph Nederlander. The proposal would provide an opportunity to continue to offer top-quality theatre to the campus and community that may include off-Broadway shows, among other productions.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, May 2, 2003
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, May 2, 2003
Article Start Date: Friday, October 17, 2003