



Thursday, November 8, 2001

## **BOT discusses OC expansion, parking deck**

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

At the Oakland University **Board of Trustees** working session on November 7, board members discussed two possible developments to the OU campus: an expansion of the **Oakland Center** and construction of a new parking structure.

The estimated \$12.8 million that could be appropriated for the two building projects come from unallocated bond proceeds. Projects already funded by the university's 2001 Bond Issue include the new student apartments, the Education and Human Services Building (the university's match portion) and the campus electrical system upgrade.

Mary Beth Snyder, vice president for Student Affairs, and Richard Fekel, director of the Oakland Center, presented detailed possibilities for expansion of the OC. Lynne Schaefer, vice president for Finance and Administration, and Rusty Postlewait, associate vice president for facilities management, presented architectural plans for the proposed parking structure.

### **OC plans presented**

The OC was last expanded in 1968. The building attracts 7,000 to 10,000 people per day and event attendance has increased by 13% over last year. Increased demand and the lack of multipurpose space have created overcrowded conditions, particularly in the Food Court.

An expanded OC would include a \$6.8-million, 32,000-square-foot multi-level addition to the southwest corner of the building. Almost 400 new seats would be added for dining, and new spaces created for study and computer lounges (24-hour computer access), student events and activities, meeting rooms, and new office space for the **Center for Student Activities**. The board asked for more information on project phases and costs, and expects to discuss the proposed project at future meetings.

### **Parking structure designed**

As part of the recent master-planning process, the university retained Walking Parking Consultants in 2000 to perform a comprehensive parking study of the campus. Based on enrollment projections, Walker's analysis projected a parking deficit of approximately 2,300 spaces by 2020. The consultants recommended the university build parking structures, instead of additional surface lots, to meet the demand. Following board approval of the design phase earlier this year, the university selected BEI Associates Inc. of Detroit to propose a design for a structure located south of the Recreation and Athletic Center, across Pioneer Drive from the new Education and Human Services building.

The proposed structure would provide about 550 spaces, supporting the opening of the School of Education and Human Services in the fall of 2002, Athletic Center events, and normal student staff, and faculty activity on the campus.

The \$6-million design is a three-level structure with pre-cast concrete panels and a brick veneer exterior similar in color to other campus buildings. Three stair towers, one elevator and one entrance/exit ramp to Pioneer Drive would provide access.

For the structure to be available by October/November 2002, construction would need to begin as soon as the spring thaw allows for excavation. The board will consider approval of the construction phase at its December meeting.

### **University Relations progress**

In another report to the Board, Susan Davies Goepf, vice president for University Relations, presented the University Relations Division Strategic Plan – Creating the Future. Goepf highlighted 2000-2001 accomplishments, including: plans for a capital campaign, enhancement of the OUAA Board, achievement of 98% of the university's fund-raising goal, the surpassing of the fund-raising goal for Meadow Brook Hall, facilitating the Keeper of the Dream banquet, production of the Five-Year University Report and the launching of numerous Web sites. The university's stated \$10 million fund-raising goal for FY01-02 is being reassessed due to the events of September 11.

### **Budget monitoring process**

Schaefer also presented the Treasurer's Report for November 2001, including announcement of a central budget monitoring

process. This process will monitor general fund budget expenditure progress throughout each fiscal year, entailing the development of frequent budget exception reports, identifying individual accounts that may be overspent and requiring written explanations to address the potential over-expenditure.

### **Other presentations**

Other items before the board included the formal presentation of the report by the Academic Affairs Review Committee by Gary Shepherd, professor of sociology and anthropology and chair of the review committee.

University Student Congress President Derek Dickow highlighted recent accomplishments and goals. Among the accomplishments: OUSC helped support an increase in funding to the **Kresge Library** and worked to boost student morale at OU athletic events. Goals include increased student participation in the development of campus housing and safety, the implementation of online voting, and student support for a parking structure and OC expansion.

Scheduled presentations highlighting possible university building projects for submission to the State of Michigan for capital outlay funding were postponed to allow more time for discussion. The two projects under consideration are a performing arts complex and an automotive transportation facility. The board expects to schedule a special meeting to hear the presentations before the formal December 5 meeting.

### **Upcoming action**

Other items to be voted on at the formal board meeting in December include:

- The university's audited Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2001.
- A proposal to secure a new cable vendor to provide services to the residence halls and university apartments.
- A proposal to grant an easement to the City of Auburn Hills for access to operate and maintain the water service connection at Walton Boulevard.
- Approval of the naming opportunities and amounts for the new School of Education and Human Services building.

#### **SUMMARY**

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