



**NEH TOPEKA RETREAT** — Trustees, alumni, students and faculty probe O.U.'s Christian mission.

President Armacost opened the fall session of Ottawa University with the announcement of a \$300,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The funds are designated for use during the next two years for program enrichment, which will include summer faculty retraining sessions, faculty/staff retreats during the academic years and the presence on

campus of visiting scholars. Dr. Armacost noted that, "Specifically, we'll be preparing the faculty to teach effectively in an interdisciplinary situation and using a variety of teaching strategies. The workshops add breadth to the preparation of our faculty and help insure the success of dramatic departures from the typical college classroom approach." The NEH grant is the largest received to date by the University.

Following a three week summer workshop in which 90% of the OU faculty participated, the first of the faculty renewal activities was conducted in Kansas City in October. That occasion gave administrators and faculty the opportunity to re-assess their planning and teaching activities in the context of institutional and educational objectives. A second off-campus workshop was held November 19 and 20 in Topeka and focused on the role of the liberal arts college as a church related center of learning. Visiting scholar-humanist, Dr. Bernard Meland served as a resource for the workshop. Two additional retreats have been scheduled for the spring — one in February and one in April.

Under its new plan of education, a goal of the University is to approach the problems of contemporary higher education through the cooperative effort of various communities that comprise a modern college: staff, faculty, students, alumni, trustees and others. The National Endowment for the Humanities grant is tangible evidence that the Ottawa program continues to emphasize humanities and humane values in the modern world.

Dr. Armacost labeled the NEH support of Ottawa's program "immensely encouraging, particularly in these, the important beginning stages."

