

The Board authorized planning for a five year capital campaign. Plans and a feasibility study come first, before a capital figure is announced. This is a key step to securing the future of the University as envisioned in the new plan.

The Board very strongly affirmed "OU cannot do the same things in the same ways." The administration will be reorganized to achieve more efficiency in decision making, greater coordination on initiatives across all locations, and releasing the president from operations to concentrate on obtaining capital resources crucial for success of the entire strategic plan.

Specifically this will mean Jim Billick, John Neal and Anne Mills, as Vice Presidents, will assume responsibility for all operations. As Vice President for The College and Academic Affairs, Jim Billick will have Provost Bob Duffett, the University Academic Council, Jan Stone, and the three University-wide program coordinators report to him. John Neal will be Vice President for Adult and Professional Studies. Provost Fred Zook in Phoenix and directors of the other center sites, including the International program, will report to John. John will supervise all University marketing efforts and development of academic technologies. Anne Mills as Vice President of Business Affairs will continue to supervise all financial functions and information technology, with financial aid and human resources responsible to her as well. A search for a new Vice President for University Relations is under way with assistance from Collaborative Strategies of St. Louis. The new Vice President and Jack Patty, returning June 1st as Vice President for Major Gifts, will team with the president to enhance fund raising capacity.

The Board executive committee authorized offering a special one-time retirement arrangement to tenured faculty with thirty or more years of service. A key provision involves health insurance continuation. Those eligible will be contacted individually.

In speaking to the alumni on Saturday, Kevin Eichner noted that Ottawa University has the opportunity now to move "to a new place, a new level." And, he said, "to be able to do so is to be called to do so!" I expect 1998 to mark a significant milestone for our University.



Harold D. Germer
President

TRUSTEES OF OTTAWA UNIVERSITY.

Name

Address

Years of Service

Remarks:

May 20, 1998

Friends:

The Ottawa University Board of Trustees met last Friday, May 15th. It was the culmination of an extensive seven month planning process involving six task force groups, dozens of participants, and facilitated by Board Chair Kevin Eichner. It was an exceptional meeting with important decisions made.

First and foremost, the Board endorsed a new Strategic Plan for the University. One component of the plan will result in dramatic improvements in campus facilities. The Board endorsed borrowing \$5 million to renovate residential and recreation/athletic facilities. Renovation of Martin Hall begins this summer, with a Fall '99 occupancy target date. The Martin Hall renovation will affect parking on that side of campus, so a new parking lot will be added this summer in the Southeast corner near 11th and Mulberry. \$2.5 million will be used to restore Wilson Field House and the Mabee Center to good use condition, and an addition between them will be constructed. Following completion of the Martin Hall project, Centennial Hall will be renovated during 1999-2000.

In addition to these renovation projects, the first steps in replacing Price Hall will begin in the Fall. Two new units will be constructed just South of Price Hall. Once those are completed, Price will be razed. Assuming student acceptance of the new residences, and increased demand for residential space, a second phase will put an addition in the present Price location, with a further option to replace Brown some time in the future.

Visible signs of starting will be apparent by the end of the summer. Final architectural drawings for Martin and a successful offer of general obligation bonds will be completed by mid-summer. For the time being, the Commons will remain available for the Wellness Center, and replacing the present library in that location will await fund raising success.

In other actions the Board endorsed initiatives to raise three academic areas to "distinctive" status -- education, business/management and human services. This will be accomplished by creating advisory councils, engaging professional practitioners in curriculum development and assessment, and increasing emphasis on experiential learning. Each of the three distinctive areas will have a faculty member coordinate curriculum and collaboration in sharing resources across University sites. Spending for technology will focus on enhancing that capacity.