

# OU falls short of full status, president says

By MARK CLAUSEN

Oakland University is on the verge of becoming a "full-fledged" university. But time and a number of changes are necessary before it reaches that point, predicts interim president George Matthews.

"The university has been here 20 years, and it has come to the threshold of being a full-fledged university," said Matthews, a 62-year-old resident of Avon Township. "I don't think it has made it."

The decision of whether to cross that threshold will be made within five years, he said. But finding a replacement for former president Donald D. O'Dowd is the university's current top priority.

O'Dowd will leave OU at the end of this month to prepare for his new job as vice chancellor of the State University of New York.

The Board of Trustees will search for the new president. The process is expected to take from six months to two years. Student, faculty, and administrative committees will advise the board.

The unknown length of service as interim president makes his position more difficult, Matthews said.

"The interim president never knows how long he will be in office," he said.

"You don't want to establish something which you're not going to be responsible to run."

*'From a public point of view, there is something about a medical school that gives a university a higher status. The medical business has a lot of pizzazz.'*

— George Matthews

MATTHEWS SEES his job as keeping the university running smoothly, and maintaining momentum for what he calls "important initiatives."

He says the most important of these is university approval of a medical school. A feasibility study, on a center for health sciences, recommended a medical school for OU. But the idea awaits University Senate and Board of Trustees approval. Matthews said he favors a medical school.

"The med school is one of the ways Oakland can cross the threshold to a full-fledged university," he said. "There may be other ways, but it is particularly attractive at this point."

"From a public point of view, there is something about a medical school that gives a university a higher status. The medical business has a lot of pizzazz," he said.

He cautioned, however, that there are a number of problems to be solved before the university would be ready

for a medical school.

There is some concern in the university community about what a medical school would mean to OU, he said.

"A lot of faculty and administrative people are concerned that because medical schools are extraordinarily expensive, that they will be a drain out of other areas. This has happened in other places," he said.

THERE ARE numerous changes that must be made before OU could accommodate a medical school even if it wants one, Matthews said.

A new science building, and additional library and laboratory space are desperately needed now and would all be necessary to support a medical school as well, he said.

These improvements would push the cost of the medical school — estimated by the study at \$24 million — up to approximately \$50 million.

"We need all these (improvements)

just to catch up," said Matthews. "It would be foolish to put in a med school when we don't have a solid foundation."

That raises the question of state financial support.

"The need for a medical school in this area is something that will have to be decided at the state level," he said. Matthews sees another of his responsibilities as lobbying for funding from Lansing. "That's a big part of the job," he said.

"You have to do an awful lot of socializing, and making yourself known. It takes a lot of time."

But he will be at a disadvantage. "It's awkward. An interim president cannot commit the university like a regular president can."

Working toward development of the married housing project at OU, a new sports and recreation building and establishment of new general education requirements are other tasks Matthews has assigned himself.

He expects to be settled in his new job by Christmas.

"It's kind of hard now, trotting between two offices. It's kind of nutty," he said.

He does not have any personal goals for his tenure as president.

"I'm not unhappy to be here, but I will not be unsatisfied to give it up."

"It sounds corny, but I just want to do what's right for the institution," he said.



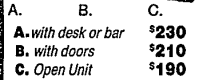
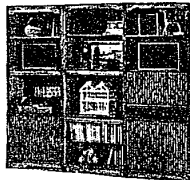
GEORGE MATTHEWS: Interim OU President

## BASSETT WALL UNITS

### THREE SHELVING UNITS

Your choice of four styles; complete. Regularly \$630<sup>00</sup>

SALE PRICED \$580<sup>00</sup>



A. with desk or bar \$230  
B. with doors \$210  
C. Open Unit \$190

Above prices apply when units bought separately.

Displays at the Rochester location only.

Farmington  
Call 478-6748  
2254 Crooks Road  
Crooks Corners Plaza  
Rochester, Michigan  
Phone: 852-4822

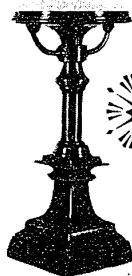
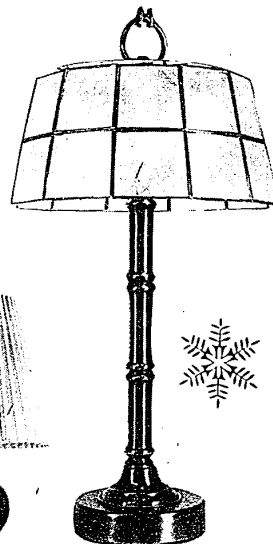
Shutter Center  
Shelf SQ Quarters

46520 Van Dyke  
Dixie  
254-9005

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE HOME

Miniature Lamps are Big on Giving...

Holidays are fun, exciting, a time to enjoy the company of good friends. Highlight the occasion with a quality miniature lamp that keeps on giving all year long. We show only a few from a super collection of unusual styles, shapes and finishes to brighten up any decor. Great gifts come in small packages... priced from \$35.00!



Michigan Chandelier Co.  
you'll see us in a better light

BIRMINGHAM... 6580 TELEGRAPH AT MAPLE... BLOOMFIELD PLAZA  
ROCHESTER... 435 MAIN STREET AT UNIVERSITY  
ANN ARBOR... 2177 WEST STADIUM BLVD.



## Strike it rich with 14K gold savings 20% to 50% off

20% off our entire collection of neckchains

sale \$40 to \$320

Reg. \$50 to \$400. All that glitters in 14K gold and hangs around your neck, is on sale. Chains for men and women, both. In lengths 15" to 36", and many, many links.

Trunk Shows of the complete collection, all at savings. From 11 to 8 p.m., in Fine Jewelry on: Thursday-Pontiac, Oakland, Twelve Oaks, Westland Friday-Flint, Lansing Saturday-Saginaw

40% off a special collection of 14K gold charms and holders

sale 6.99 to 99.99

Reg. 11.50 to \$165. Enjoy the charm of gold script initials, hearts, animals, joggers, jugs, and many more. In a \$500,000 collection brought in for this sale only. Every charm tells a story, tell yours with 40% savings. Selections will vary by store.

50% off a special group of chains sale \$22 to \$64

Reg. \$44 to \$128. Our 3 best selling links: serpentine, cobra and herringbone, in 15", 18", and 24" lengths. Limited quantities, so save while they last.

Save now through Dec. 8, in Hudson's Fine Jewelry.

hudson's