

# Academic excellence probed

A commission on university excellence is being set up to examine Oakland University's academic life.

OU President Joseph E. Champagne announced that the commission will conduct an internal analysis of a broad range of programs and procedures that affect students' growth, enrichment and development.

Areas for study in the critical self-examination will be academic advising, grading, admission standards, graduation requirements, faculty development and promotion standards.

"DURING THE past several months, national reports have been issued which called into question the quality of American education," said Champagne.

"While some agree with these reports and others question them, they do offer us the opportunity and occasion to assess issues of quality as they affect Oakland University."

In 1984, OU celebrates the 25th anniversary of its first class. In June, the North Central accrediting association granted the university mature status which enables it to provide doctoral programs without specific review.

The president said OU's academic achievements are well-known and "the teaching, scholarship and research of our faculty are superb. However, I think that there could be no greater tribute to this institution in its 25th year anniversary period

than for it to reassess voluntarily the quality of its efforts," he added.

CHAMPAGNE'S REMARKS came at a recent meeting of the OU Senate, the internal body of faculty, student and staff members that advises the president on academic matters. The senate Academic Planning and Policy Committee will form the heart of the new commission.

The complete charge and membership of the Commission on Academic Excellence is to be announced soon. A report is expected back to the president by May 1, 1984, and the process of review will begin.

It is hoped that by the end of the 1985 academic year, the university will have put into place what may be needed or set in motion further activities or studies which require more deliberation.

The president said two previous commissions examined the role and mission of the university. The present one will focus on a deliberate program audit of how well the university is doing what it says it is doing.

"I HAVE absolute confidence that most of what we do, we do well, and, indeed, our reputation as a high quality institution bears witness to this fact. But, organizationally, we can never become complacent or apathetic," Champagne said.

"We must constantly strive for higher quality, greater excellence, with a determination to be the best that circumstances and resources permit."

## Energy topic of OCC talks

With the recent increase in energy costs, more and more people are becoming frustrated as larger portions of their income go to utilities.

In response, an energy conference is planned by the American Association of Women in Community and Junior College, the League of Women Voters and the city of Farmington Hills.

"The Energy Cost Crisis: Solutions and Opportunities" will be composed of afternoon and evening workshops Tuesday, Oct. 11. They are open to the public.

The free conference will be from 2-9:30 p.m. on OCC's Orchard Ridge campus, Orchard Lake Road at I-696, Farmington Hills. For registration information, call 474-6115.

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