OU asks cut of 'research excellence' fund

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Oakland University, smarting at being written off as a mere "regional" college, wants a share of the new \$25 million "research excellence fund" in Gov. Blanchard's 1986 budget.
"Research is a fundamental ingredient of the Oakland mission," President Joseph Champagne told a state Senate appropriations subcommittee hearing. The panet heard testimony Monday afternoon from OU and Wayne State University in OU's Meadowbrock Hall in Rochester Hills.
So far the research fund, part of Blanchard's economic revitalization plan, has been earmarked for the top four research universities — Michigan, Michigan State, Wayne State and Michigan Tech.
Champagne thinks OU shouldn't be overlooked.
"I SUPPORT the approportation of

"I SUPPORT the appropriation of the majority of these funds to the four institutions which have been designated by the Commission on the Future of Higher Education," Champagne told Sen. William Sederburg, R-East Lans-ing

ing.

But the OU chief asked that either a small portlon of that \$25 million, or else a \$3 million supplement, ought to go to other schools. He and presidents of the 11 other universities think OU go to other schools. He and prospection of the 11 other universities think OU should get 40 percent of that supple-

Whatever formula is worked out, Oakland would be at the top," he sald. Wayne State President David

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Adamany, who followed Champagne, said funds for the other 11, including OU, should come from a supplemental appropriation rather than from the \$25 million earmarked for the top four.

"The research universities are underfunded 15 percent already," Adamany said.
Sederburg, who has a doctorate from Michigan State in political science, noted a House of Representatives committee earmarked \$500,000 from the \$25 million research pol for OU, "All of this is very open," Sederburg said.

CHAMPAGNE SAID that while OU doesn't match the top four in volume of research, it is strong in "quality, importance and respectability of our research."

portance and respectability of our research."

These are measured by "faculty publications, the nature and source of
grant resources, and general external
recognition."

"We have focused our research on a
smaller number of areas, but the depth
of our research is extremely intense.
For example, in the area of eye cataract research alone, the top three institutions in the country for federal funding are Columbia, first, Oakland, second; and Harvard, third.

"We have just recently been awarded
by the National Eye Institute a basic
cure grant in vision recearch which has
allowed us to purchase two new electron microscopes supplemented by sev-

eral hundred thousand dollars of addi-tional support.
"This grant, coupled with another re-cent federal grant to build additional facilities for our vision research cen-ter... is a strong witness to the depth of our basic research program, which cuts across many disciplines."

ADAMANY SAID that Wayne State, though more than a century old, is "very young as an urban research university" but still ranks in the top 100

versity" but still ranks in the top 100 nationally WSU's best departments, measured by research grants, are life sciences (20th), chemistry (39th), biology (87th and slipping), medicine (74th), physics (83rd) and computers (83rd) slipping noted the higher education commission recommended WSU get 20 percent of the §25 million research excellence fund, 45 percent to U-M, 30 percent to Michigan Tech.

"The new people being brought

"The new people being brought aboard are very research-oriented," Adamany said.

BLANCHARD'S HIGHER: education budget proposes that OU be boosted 7.8. percent, from \$24.9 million to \$26.8 million, in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. Current budget is \$44 million. Euroliment is 12,000 and rising. WSII would be boosted 7.6 percent.

rollment has slipped from the mid-30 thousands to about 29,000.

The research excellence money would be on top of those operating funds

funds.

The House panel boosted Blanchard's overail \$378 million for higher education by \$10 million. Adamany added, "I am pleased the Senate will set a higher target than the House, \$14 million more than the governor recommends."

A MAJOR goal at OU, Champagne

A MAJOR goal at OU, Champagne said, is reducing the student-faculty ratio from 224-1 to 18.8-1. "OU has the highest student-teacher ratio in the state," he said.

For Adamany, a top problem is major maintenance on the central Detroit campus. "Forty percent of our sections are scheduled after 4 p.m. Your physical plant takes a tremendous beating if your programments was mive-allies on you're operating two universities on one campus," he said.





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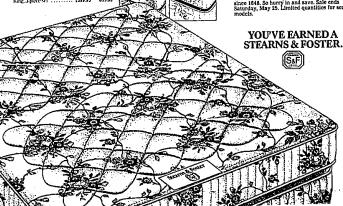
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