

OCC funding gap: teaching equipment

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Teaching equipment — computers.

That's the area that may literally tax Oakland Community College's resources in the 10 years ahead.

"In the 10 years since 1977, this college has spent \$75 million on building and equipment," Vice-Chancellor Anthony D. Jarson told the OCC board of trustees last week.

"Some source of revenue is going to have to be generated for educational equipment. If you took that out of capital projections to 1993, we would have enough general fund money."

"It's a gap that will have to be filled," the two-year college's chief business officer said.

He placed annual equipment needs of all kinds at \$1.7 million currently to \$2.3 million in 1993, with 70 percent being instructional equipment.

JARSON'S ADVICE came near the end of a meeting devoted to a consultant's recommended long-range facilities master plan.

That plan analyzed Oakland County's population trends, factored in changes in the college-age population and projected space needs through the 1995-6 school year for OCC's four campuses.

It called for more classroom space on the Orchard Ridge Campus, more evening lab space on the Auburn Hills Campus and parking space for the Southeast Campus System, along with replacement of old buildings at the Highland Lakes Campus.

No price tag was put on the work by Gerald V. Sharp, an Oakland County-raised consultant for James D. MacConnell and Associates Inc.,



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consultants to colleges and industry from Palo Alto, Calif.

"YOUR FOUR colleges (campuses) are ideally located. Another one is not needed," said Sharp, a one-time suburban junior high teacher and professor of education at Eastern Michigan University.

That was an answer to trustees who last year had wondered aloud whether they should be thinking of a fifth campus in the northern Oakland townships.

"Would I open a full-blown campus in Pontiac? No," he added, though he encouraged "outreach" efforts.

Gross square footage is adequate, he said, but "major problems have resulted because of changing programs and the need to remodel and update buildings that are one or two decades old."

"This county is going to grow. When I was a kid, we used to hunt

pheasants where now there are glass boxes," he said.

But the growth won't be in traditional college age people — 82 percent of OCC's nearly 24,000 students are in age groups that actually are shrinking, he said.

HERE IS A campus-by-campus breakdown of the MacConnell firm's recommendations:

• Auburn Hills — site of the major vocational and high-tech programs in the city of Auburn Hills. Portable classrooms are an "eyesore" and should be replaced by 17 classrooms; five new labs should be built at Building C. Building F should be remodeled into a lecture-classroom building with auditorium.

• Orchard Ridge — the most nearly traditional campus, with many liberal arts day students, located on I-696 in Farmington Hills;

Remodeling rather than more space is needed; office and study space are short. The parking lot needs "reconfiguration" so students won't have so far to walk to classes.

• Highland Lakes — site of many health care programs, in Waterford Township. "No current need for additional space for educational programs." Needed are an enclosed walkway from the Student Center to the Phys Ed building and parking lot connections for more efficient traffic flow. A little theater should be studied if there appears to be community support.

• SE Campus, Southfield — site of many health care programs. "Li-

brary and bookstore facilities must be provided." Expand parking either through existing lots or by building a parking structure.

THE MacCONNELL study noted OCC gets almost no capital money from state government (although it does get vo-tech equipment matching grants). It assumed that "a millage increase on the property" tax rate will not be proposed or passed.

• SE Campus, Southfield — site of many health care programs. "Li-

'Void' at Orchard Ridge

Faculty hits OCC chiefs on dean rejection

Trustees and administrators at Oakland Community College got public tongue-lashings last week for the board's rejection of Gerald H. Faye as academic dean of the Orchard Ridge Campus.

The position is still vacant. Trustees gave Faye, a political science instructor from Bloomfield Township, only three of seven votes when they rejected his appointment Dec. 18.

Trustee Judith Wiser of Southfield admitted "I did not do the right thing" when she abstained from voting on Faye's nomination due to lack of information. She said her research since then convinced her Faye would have been a good dean.

She criticized college administrators for failing to provide enough information when the appointment came up. Wiser offered a motion to

appoint Faye, but it died for lack of a second.

Sarah Keiden, who teaches political science and business law, blistered trustees for leaving OCC's largest campus without a dean.

"Very frankly when I saw what happened, I was astounded. I'm sure there were hidden agendas," she said. "What you've done is extended a void. It's unprofessional."

"You people have made a mistake," said Albert Grasser, a math professor who served on the faculty committee that recommended Faye. "We came up with the best person available to us. I can't fathom — unless it's personal biases — why you would reject him."

Neither trustees nor administrators had any response to the criticisms. Last month three trustees voted against Faye for a variety of reasons.

Two said they wanted board interviews of top finalists, not just a recommended name from the campus president and chancellor.

GOP Women will elect

The Oakland County Council of Republican Women's Clubs will hold its 27th annual meeting and elect three officers beginning at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27. The event will be in the Birmingham Athletic Club, 4033 W. Maple. Tickets are \$15.

Speaker will be broadcast newsman Tim Skubick, longest serving member of the State Capitol press corps.

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EXHIBITION: Wed. & Thurs. Feb. 4 & 5 — 10 a.m. — 8 P.M., Fri. Feb. 6, 10 a.m. — 2 p.m. & one hour prior to each session. CATALOGUES: \$3.00 at the door. TERMS: Cash, Check, American Express, Visa & MasterCard (10% Buyers premium on all lots). Absentee Bids Accepted. NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS FOR FUTURE AUCTIONS.

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