

Business school adds computers

The Oakland University School of Business Administration has completed a program to provide more than \$1 million in state-of-the-art computer resources to its faculty and students, said Dean Ronald M. Horwitz.

The four-phase program is being completed with the acquisition of 50 workstations from Unisys Corp. and 40 VAXmate workstations from Digital Equipment Corp.

The new workstations are being installed this month, and the total computer network will be operating in January 1988.

The three phases announced earlier included a 36 workstation student lab, a 12 workstation advanced UNIX C lab, and the acquisition of the VAX minicomputer and related network.

These personal computers will

provide OU's business school with additional computer lab access to all of the basic workstation functions.

The Unisys workstations will be networked to each other, to laser printers, and to common hard disk storage over a local area network in the business school's new, second student PC lab.

The new VAXmates will provide all business school faculty with local word processing, spreadsheet, graph and chart generation, database management, and printing capabilities.

The DEC workstations will be connected to a DEC network within the business school and the business faculty will have easy access to programs and data via the school's VAX 350 minicomputer.

This minicomputer will also be used for computer conferencing, information retrieval, and the transfer of data to other workstations.

FACULTY CAN use their VAXmates to access OU's academic mainframe computer, to access the Merit network of Michigan universities, to access other university networks, and to dial other information services and databases.

Kuthy: Let banks compete

Backs state deregulation of branch sites

AP — If Michigan lifted its restrictions on where banks locate, consumers across the state would find cheaper loans and improved service, according to a leading state official pushing for bank deregulation.

"It is time to permit our banks to be fully competitive with other financial service providers," Eugene Kuthy, commissioner of the state's Financial Institutions Bureau, told the House Corporations and Finance Committee.

"Our anticompetitive geographic branching restrictions have no place in today's financial world," said Kuthy of West Bloomfield.

KUTHY SAID banks need more freedom to compete against credit unions and savings and loan institutions. The latter institutions may lo-

cate wherever they want.

In addition, banks face new challenges from corporations like Sears, Roebuck and Co. and General Motors Corp., which have entered the financial business.

Kuthy said his bureau supports a bill, sponsored by Rep. Michael Griffin, D-Jackson, that would virtually eliminate the state's rules about where banks can open branch offices.

Committee chairman John Bennett, D-Redford, said the panel would postpone a vote on the bill until late January to give banking groups a chance to take a stand on the legislation.

UNDER MICHIGAN law, a bank cannot open a branch more than 25 miles from its headquarters. Banks

also are prohibited from opening a branch in a city or town where another bank has its headquarters or a branch.

The law does not apply to credit unions, savings and loans institutions or banks chartered in other states or countries.

"It seems ironic that a bank holding company from Chicago or Columbus or a bank from Tokyo can establish a presence anywhere in the state. Yet an East Lansing bank cannot serve its customers by establishing a branch in downtown Lansing," Kuthy said.

With automatic tellers springing up around the state, it no longer makes sense to prevent banks from opening branches wherever they believe they can best serve their customers, Kuthy said.

"In one-bank towns, it means a lot more competition," Kuthy said.

GRIFFIN SAID he believes consumers will be the beneficiaries of further bank deregulation.

The branch banking bill has the support of Michigan's big bank companies, including Michigan National Corp. of Farmington Hills and National Bank of Detroit.

But it is also being eyed with apprehension by community bankers, who are afraid the larger banking companies will push them out of business.

Smaller banks generally disagree with the concept of full statewide banking, according to Jerry Towns, chairman of the Michigan Association of Community Banks, a trade association of about 110 small banks.

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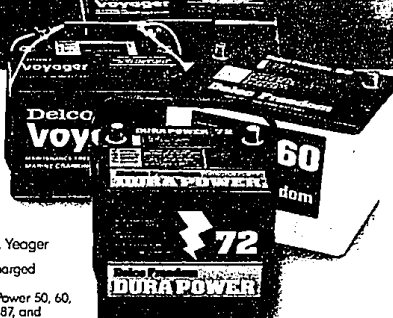
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