

Committee halts design

Finance board bounces courthouse plan

By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

Preliminary design work on the proposed Oakland County courthouse ground to a halt Thursday when a committee declined to authorize additional funds for the design until the scope of the project is better defined.

Looking out the window at a fierce storm that materialized right at the end of a 30-minute debate on the design work, finance committee chairman G. William Caddell said, "God is trying to tell us something."

He then called for a vote and the committee unanimously shipped the issue back to the planning and building committee.

At issue was a request from the architectural firm of Minoru Yamasaki Associates for an additional \$251,150 for redesign ser-

vices. At its July 13 meeting, finance committee members refused even to allow the issue onto the agenda, pending further study.

Further study apparently told the commissioners they do not want to spend additional money on the design until they've ascertained what they want to build, and how they want it built. Yamasaki already has completed the design work specified in a \$218,240 contract the committee previously approved.

MIKE PUDISTS, senior vice president of Yamasaki, told the committee that he projects the county will need a 568,000-square-foot courthouse for about 1,900 employees. His projection was based on a 20-year plan for the courthouse, taking the project through the year 2008. The

proposal includes room for 18 courtrooms to be built, and room for another 10 if necessary.

Commissioners Lawrence Pernick, D-Southfield, John Pappageorge, R-Troy and John Olsen, R-Huntington Woods formed a tag-team of sorts and took to task questioning the project, its goals, funding and necessity. They concluded:

- No one seems sure how much the courthouse will cost. Pappageorge thought it was in the neighborhood of \$40 million; others had costs ranging from \$80 million to \$130 million.

- Two task forces — one made up of elected officials, one of staff members — were recommended by the county executive's office to study space needs and considerations. Per-

nick strenuously objected to the absence of a county commissioner on either task force to address problems before they surfaced in committee meetings.

Yamasaki really hadn't been told, in Olsen's words, "that we have this amount of money, go design a building." Instead, Olsen said he didn't think Yamasaki had been given good direction by the county on how much is available for this project and what the court's actual needs are.

RUSSELL MARTIN, county budget director, argued that Yamasaki needed the additional funds to address these concerns. "We're refining the scope of the work because the original scope exceeded the resources available," Martin said.

Kim Yamasaki, chief executive officer of the architectural firm, was present at the meeting along with Pudists. They answered questions on their design work thus far, but spent much of their appearance listening to the debate.

If anything, the debate highlighted the fact that Yamasaki had done exactly what he had been asked to do, but the county hadn't given him enough information to arrive at the answers the committee wanted.

So on a motion from Olsen, the approval of the additional money was tabled pending further review by the planning and building committee. The building committee was asked to investigate and define funding limits. The commissioners were asked to resolve to live within those limits. And they all asked for representation on the task force that will dictate how the courthouse space will be allocated.

OU puts through

tuition increase

By Bill Kote
staff writer

Oakland University students already are pinched by past tuition hikes, and some will struggle to come up with this fall's 7.2-percent increase, a campus leader says.

The university, pressured by Gov. James Blanchard's threat to ease tuition increases or face cuts in state aid, agreed Wednesday to reduce a proposed 8-percent increase.

The move means full-time freshmen and sophomore students from Michigan will pay \$2,076 a year in tuition and fees to attend classes on the Rochester campus. Juniors and seniors will pay \$2,347, and graduate students will pay \$2,853. Out-of-state students face 8.5-percent increases.

Students taking courses requiring use of a computer will be forced to pay an extra \$50-\$80 a year.

MOST STUDENTS will have to raise just \$175 more for classes this year. But the savings of many have been strained by previous tuition hikes, OU junior Dan Braun of Farmington Hills said Friday.

"I'm sure I'll cause a lot of students hardship," said Braun, a member of the university's student congress. "They haven't received a 7-percent wage hike in their mental summer jobs."

Student leaders plan to lobby state legislators in Lansing to protest the increase, Braun said. "The tuition dollar I started with is now worth 80 cents," he said. "It hits home."

OU's Board of Trustees agreed to ease the original 8-percent in-

crease after Blanchard's recent warning to keep rate increases below that level, spokesman Jim Llewellyn said.

"We wanted to be cooperative," he said. "It's going to leave us with a little bit of a deficit, but we can swing it."

OU trustees said they hope to receive a 5-percent increase in state aid next year instead of the 4-percent increase expected earlier. Nine-percent tuition increases have been approved at other state colleges and universities, including Wayne State University and the University of Michigan.

"If you look around the state, we're certainly going to come in at the bottom of the barrel," Llewellyn said.

ONE UP NOTE, tuition will drop by about \$3 per credit hour for most of the approximately 1,000 students enrolled in area campus extension programs, university spokesman Jay Jackson said.

The reductions will affect students enrolled in classes at Birmingham's Groves High School and at Royal Oak's Kimball, Dondoro and Shrine High Schools, Jackson said.

Also Wednesday, OU trustees approved a 6-percent pay raise for university president Joseph Champagne, who will receive \$110,515 for the 1989-1990 academic year. Champagne's last raise was a 7-percent increase in November 1988.

OU faculty will receive average raises of 6.3 percent this fall under a three-year union contract approved late last year.

Job hunting workshop set

Oakland University's Continuum Center will offer a one-day workshop in job hunting skills.

"Successful Job Hunt Strategies" is designed to offer valuable information on some little known aspects of a job campaign, as well as new data on the standard qualities neces-

sary for attaining desirable employment.

The program, led by career specialists Judith Hoppin and Rosemary Doyle, will explore the often-known maneuvers of self-marketing skills and techniques for targeting

positions and employers. Special attention will be given to methods for writing an outstanding resume and tips for interviewing with polish and style.

The workshop will be held on the campus of Oakland University 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19. The fee of \$45 includes a workbook. For information or to register by phone with MasterCard/VISA, call 370-3033.

The Continuum Center is part of the Oakland University School of Human and Educational Services and specializes in programs of professional development and personal enrichment. It is in Rochester.

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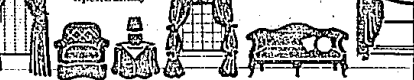
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