

OU trustees to form PAC and hire a lobbyist

By PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

If money is indeed the mother's milk of politics, Oakland University is preparing to gather a barrel or two.

The OU Board of Trustees Thursday approved the formation of a Political Action Committee empowered to collect money to be spent on helping the university pursue its goals.

The measure approved Thursday also stipulates OU would not object to any effort by friends and supporters of the university forming another PAC.

A second PAC could solicit contributions from alumni and friends of the university whereas OU's could only solicit from its officers, directors, administrators, professional employees and their spouses.

Neither PAC could solicit corporate contributions. Further-

more each must function and operate independently of OU itself.

"Forming a PAC (or PACs) will bring OU into the 21st century," said OU board chairman James A. Sharp Jr. "Other universities have had PACs for years."

Six of the 13 state universities in Michigan currently have PACs under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act. Those PACs gather money to be used for lobbying efforts or to make campaign contributions to favorite candidates.

PACs are believed to be somewhat helpful, for example, in helping universities get larger budgets from the state Legislature. PACs can also make contributions to favored legislators who are believed to be more understanding or sympathetic of the university's goals.

Once formed, OU's PAC must restrict solicitations to officers and directors of the university, or to administrative and professional employees and their spouses.

It could not solicit corporate contributions.

Trustee Andrea L. Fischer of Birmingham said there is no particular reason OU is forming a PAC at this time. "But there's nothing unusual about it. My law firm, for example, also has a PAC. It helps us support the causes or candidates that we think are important."

While there is no stated purpose for which OU endorses the formation of a PAC, the universi-

ty is currently advertising for a director for governmental and public relations to, among other things, serve as the university's "chief lobbyist and liaison" with both state Legislature and Congress.

County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, a former OU trustee, has frequently stated that a strong and growing OU — particularly as an engineering and technology center — is crucial to economic development in the county.

County puts road limits in places

The Road Commission for Oakland County Thursday imposed weight restrictions on Class A and B roads throughout Oakland County.

All-weather roads are exempt from weight restrictions. All-weather roads are those such as Woodward, Telegraph, Grange Hall, 12 Mile and Wixom roads. Class 'A' roads are those such as Rochester, 10 Mile, White Lake, Pontiac Trail and Pontiac Road.

All-weather roads have no restrictions. Class A and B roads must have a 25-percent reduction in maximum allowable axle load. This restriction applies to multi-axle trucks. Delivery, pick-up and general duty trucks are not involved. The weight restrictions will continue until the Oakland County Board of Road Commissioners changes them.

Truckers may obtain a "Trucker's Map" showing all routes from the Department of Permits and Environmental Concerns, 2420 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford.

High school art works on display

Art works by Oakland County High School students will be on display at the Southfield Prudential Town Center Atrium through March 11.

The exhibit, titled "Art in the '90s," will feature two and three dimensional pieces. All entries will be judged and prizes totaling \$1,400 will be awarded. Judges are Michael Panhorst, Saginaw Valley State University and Patricia Young of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The exhibit is sponsored by Oakland Community College, the Business Consortium for the Arts, Oakland Schools and Region Seven Michigan Art Educators Association.

The show is open to the public during business hours. Admission is free.

OU hosts barcode seminar

Nationally known barcoding expert Edward S. Coe will conduct a seminar for manufacturers on procedures for obtaining return-on-investment, March 16, at Oakland University.

"Real-Time Material Management (Visualizing Benefits and Eliminating Risk)" will be offered by the OU Division of Continuing Education, co-sponsored by the American Production and Inventory Control Society, Greater Detroit Chapter, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at OU's Meadow Brook Hall.

Coe, president of Bar Code Planning Services Inc. of Bloomfield Hills, will speak on industry trends, including how electronic data interchange and bar coding work together, making profits while meeting customer requirements; artificial intelligence technologies; the power of the serial number concept and how it works; empowering people for the "paperless" environment; eliminating risk and simplifying startup; potential savings versus cost; and analyzing your environment.

Coe was the first chairman of the Federation of Automated Coding Technologies, a national organization of bar code standards associations.

Tuition is \$205; \$175 for APICS members. For registration information, call the Continuing Education Office, (810) 370-3120.

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