

Names Chairman

EAST LANSING — Dr. Jack R. Kinsinger, professor of chemistry at Michigan State University, has been appointed chairman of the chemistry department. He succeeds Dr. Alexander L. Popov, who will devote full time to teaching and research.

College Board Studies Plans For Art Center

The Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees Wednesday received recommendations from the faculty for the new art center, next addition to the rapidly expanding campus.

The recommendations were presented by Wayne Dumlup in a 40-page program statement, outlining the need for a building to house an auditorium, a theatre, and space for art, dance, drama, music and speech.

Dumlup told the Board an architect had been selected to begin preliminary work.

"We should have schematics this week," Dumlup said. "And we plan to have preliminary drawings before November 15, which is the deadline for applying to the state for funds." The college will seek the funds for planning purposes.

THE BOARD withheld comment and said they would study the proposed building. Trustee Sam Hudson said he foresaw some difficulty in selling the idea of an art center to practical minded taxpayers.

Dumlup, who heads the Plymouth Symphony, said there was no doubt about the need for "a cultural center."

"We have no place (in Western Wayne County) where residents might be heard and enjoyed to the fullest advantage. The new building will give us a place to host the finest things the arts have to offer," Dumlup said.

Dumlup also said that no community in the area has complete theatre facilities for a full scale production. The new art center would.

PLANS CALL for about 75,000 square feet of space. A breakdown of each section and the rational behind it is included in the report from the faculty:

AUDITORIUM

The program statement suggests a 1500 seat facility, with "no expense spared on acoustics." The building's planners envision wide usage for an auditorium, with a conservative estimate of 10 different events scheduled yearly - including lectures, college convocations, concerts, and films.

Dressing rooms, orchestra pit, lighting and sound equipment and projection equipment are planned.

THEATRE

A smaller theatre is planned - 500 seats, "steeply raked, partially semi-circle." Acoustics for the spoken word are planned. The program statement explains the need for a small theatre.

"The unskilled or semi-skilled actor and technician cannot be expected to control an audience of more than 500. The greater the amplification the greater the loss of contact between audience and actor. In many great theatre pieces the tender, quiet nuances of words and their meanings are lost... then the only type of play which can reasonably be produced are the types which are typified by Ethel Merman - the stand up and about variety."

ART

A two-story sculpture area is projected, as well as space for painting, drawing, ceramics, basic design, graphic arts, art education, art history. Also requested are one large gallery and two small galleries for displays of both student

work and work from outside the college.

Faculty members currently teach 300 art students, but see that doubling as the college reaches its peak of 10,000.

DANCE

Space requested for dance has for the time being been set aside. The possibility of using drama rehearsal space for dance will be explored, Dumlup said.

DRAMA

Requested space includes two classrooms, sound and recording facilities and a rehearsal hall with necessary equipment to complete scenery, lighting plans, blocking and costumes. The hall would be "enhanced with video-taping and playback devices."

Plans also call for storage space, and dressing rooms.

"Theatre is needed because it is the only genuine way to present one of the important sections of the vast library of man. At Schoolcraft College, an average of four persons in 25 have never seen a play performed on stage," the program statement to the Trustees said.

MUSIC

Seven or eight classrooms and practice room, as well as rehearsal halls and recording studios form the core of the needs of the music department, according to the program statement.

"Installation of cables for closed circuit television, microphone and speaker cables should be considered," the report urged.

Effective sound isolation is listed as a key goal for any room planning.

SPEECH

A speech laboratory, classrooms and a lecture hall are requested. The report also outlines a complete speech curriculum, noting "our task is a difficult one. Less than half the students entering college have had a course in speech."

A few have trained in debate, but the great majority remain untutored, with the result that before even the smallest group they are shy, frightened, often inarticulate.

"Those with minor speech impediments have never been told that with proper practice they can eliminate their difficulties; those with major disorders have rarely received wise counseling. Unfortunately, speech is something to pick up."

The Board accepted the building committee's program statement without debate.

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