

Project expected to boost economy

Board approves land lease for science park

By Michael Hosmar
Of the Emerald

The University is one step closer to development of its proposed Riverfront Science Park project.

At the State Board of Higher Education meeting Friday in the EMU, the board approved the University's request to lease 70 acres of land to a non-profit corporation, which would oversee development of the park. The proposed project would be located north of Franklin Boulevard on land owned by the University and the board.

The park will be used primarily by research-related industries that need corporate space at a reasonable price. It is expected to help improve economic development in the Eugene-Springfield area while advancing research at the University.

The research-oriented university "is a major academic and cultural attraction for technology corporations," according to an executive summary of the project. And research at the University would be enhanced if students and faculty interact with corporate employees and scientists in the science park.

Research areas of "special importance" to the project might include physics, chemistry, chemical physics, biomedical/sports medicine, computer

science, artificial intelligence, and brain chemistry, according to the summary.

University President Paul Olum told the board the three purposes for the project are to:

- Develop significant contact between Eugene's economic development and research at the University;
- Enhance the University's research efforts; and
- Obtain enough receipts to pay for the project's development.

Also related to economic development in Oregon, state system Chancellor Bud Davis gave a report to the board about his recent visit to the General Motors Corp. in Detroit. He met with GM officials to persuade them to locate their planned \$3.5 million state-of-the-art "Saturn" automobile production plant in Oregon.

"We spent a third to 50 percent of the time talking about education," Davis said.

GM officials were interested in the number of engineers and computer scientists Oregon schools turn out, Davis said. They wanted to know about the quality of people, he said, not monetary incentives or concessions from the Legislature. "Obviously, they were very interested (in Oregon)," he said.

If the plant is located in Oregon, there will be a need for a highly trained working staff, Davis told the board, and community colleges in the state have ex-

pressed interest in such training. The state's ability to adapt and provide continuing education on all levels for people interested in training for jobs in industry "will be the wave of the 80s," he added.

In other business, the board heard a report on an integrated information system that would be part of a computerized communications network for the entire higher education system.

Bill Lemman, vice chancellor for administration, said the computer system would, among other things, link the state system's financial, payroll and student information together into a more manageable form. The integrated system would provide better access to current information, improve resource sharing throughout the system, and add educational opportunities through two-way video instruction, he said.

Automated library systems also would be part of the information network. The automation system at the University calls for computer terminals on each floor of the main library that would enable students, faculty and administrators to tap into a computerized card catalog.

With the exception of the library automation systems, the entire communications network would require no extra funding from the state.



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