

ARENA

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Vice President of Administration Dan Williams said. Williams, incidentally, has no relation to the bakery.

"Williams' Bakery has a lot of characteristics that are attractive from our point of view," Williams said. "At some point, it looked like it might be possible, yet we came to the conclusion based upon conversations that they weren't interested."

Acquisition of the land is among the challenges, Williams said, adding that "The price tag was pretty big." The report states it would cost \$500,000 just to demolish the site, and that doesn't include underground utilities and environmental remediation.

And although Autzen Stadium and Howe Field are on University land, they possess their own difficulties. Autzen Stadium has a large, underground water main of shallow depth that would have to be relocated, along with utilities that require upgrades.

If the Howe Field site is chosen, it would require relocation of the softball field, and traffic congestion

would be a challenge as it is with the current McArthur Court.

"Now that we know what's preferable among the several sites, what really is possible?" Williams said. "For example, with Howe Field, do we really have a place for softball? What's preferred and what's possible are two different things. Sites that are in tier two or tier three aren't entirely out of the picture."

Among the other sites, the new federal courthouse site in downtown and the East Glenwood site fell into the second tier, whereas the north campus location and Glenwood West were placed in tier three.

"The closer to campus, the better it is, yet the University and architects know the logistics better" said Bev Smith, Oregon women's basketball head coach. "We have been involved and had some say, and now (we're) leaving it up to them."

The reason that the courthouse site is in tier two its distance from campus and because the University would need to buy land from 10 to 12 businesses, Williams said, although the site is still under consideration.

"We'll do some more follow-up

work on the federal courthouse site," he said. "There's considerable interest among some of the elected leadership and business community in us using that site."

Williams, among others, feels that if the site is chosen it would bridge the gap between the community and the University. Yet others feel the new arena should focus on student needs.

"That's important because the University and Athletic Department are tied to the business community," Smith said. "But at the same time, University athletics is about students and the accessibility to students."

The University still has plenty of "homework" to do, Williams said, before a decision will be made. Nonetheless, Williams is confident that the University can make a decision soon.

"My hope is that it will happen in a few weeks," he said. "It depends on how quickly we can get answers to our questions. Once we have the answers, I'm sure the President is prepared to make a decision right away."

Contact the sports reporter at jessethomas@dailyemerald.com.

CLASSIFIED

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which in the University's case includes properties on the coast, in central Oregon and in the Portland area. OUS lost on its proposal to restrict bumping to within administrative units only, which would have greatly reduced the practice.

Also, if the University wants to hire contractors, it must accept bids from both outside contractors and the union, Saunders said. If a contractor's bid is lower, the University will take 80 percent of the amount the union proposes and consider that bid, effectively giving the union an advantage over outside contractors.

OUS didn't give cost-of-living increases, but instead agreed to disperse a \$350 lump payment for all eligible employees in November 2004, according to a press release.

As far as employment perks, both sides agreed to take it on a case-by-case basis, entering into negotiations as modifications or eliminations are proposed. There are a few stipulations attached, however. First, bus passes for classified employees must be maintained, and secondly, the University must give classified employees the same treatment as faculty in respect to perks, Saunders said.

Anderes said an agreement was reached this year earlier than it has been settled in the past.

"This was due, in part, to the governor's settlements," he said. "But also because both sides wanted to move on."

Holmberg also said that she was generally satisfied a contract had been reached.

"I think it's as good as we can get in hard economic times," she said. "You might say better late than never. It's a change in attitude that could have happened a lot earlier, of course. Every bargaining cycle since (1995), we've been pushed to the wire. This time it's still earlier that a tentative agreement has been reached than any of the other bargaining cycles."

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