

Trustees Approve Study To Evaluate Facilities For Cultural Program

By JUDY HARKISON

University officials have been authorized by the Board of Trustees to undertake a study to determine whether present campus facilities, notably Recreation Hall and Schwab Auditorium, can be converted or made available for an expanded student cultural program.

The action grew out of a request from All-University

Cabinet that the trustees consider adoption of a student fee to help support an expanded program of concerts and lectures. The trustees approved the idea in principle at their January meeting but asked that action on the fee be withheld until a more complete study is made.

Took Action Nov. 2

Cabinet passed a recommendation Nov. 2 asking a \$2-a-semester increase in student fees to help support expansion of such a program. At that time, Dr. Albert Christ-Janer, director of the School of the Arts, said it would cost \$60,000 to acoustically equip Rec Hall, and \$5000 to do the same for Schwab.

In the study, University officials will endeavor to determine how much of a series would be possible without seriously curtailing the programs of required physical education and athletics now housed in Rec Hall; what alterations and/or equipment would be necessary to prepare either Rec Hall or Schwab for such a program; and the cost of such changes.

Early Report Seen

A report will be made at an early meeting of the Board.

Dr. Christ-Janer told Cabinet in November that if the student fee is raised \$2 per semester, the cultural program could realize approximately \$26,000 a semester, or \$52,000 a year. The community will buy approximately \$8000 worth of tickets, he said, giving the program \$60,000 a year.

The community concert series would be given \$6000 for the spring semester, and the remaining \$20,000 applied as a down payment to the Board of Trustees for the refurbishing of the two buildings, Dr. Christ-Janer said.

Urged 'First Step'

"The Board of Trustees, seeing such action on the part of the students," he continued, "could be nothing but impressed, and I am sure they would consider following through with generosity."

Dr. Christ-Janer urged Cabinet to take the first step in making such a program possible, saying: "You (Cabinet) are in a position to make an historic contribution to this University by putting it on a true university level."

Admissions Booklet

Preceding Cabinet's approval, Dr. Christ-Janer told the group that if fees were raised, students would then be given a booklet. (Continued on page six)

Mine Blast Claims 37 In Virginia

BISHOP, Va., Feb. 4 (AP) —

Thirty-seven miners perished today in a rumbling gas explosion deep in the giant Bishop Coal Mine that burrows under the mountains of the Virginia-West Virginia line.

It was the nation's worst mine disaster since 119 died in a blast at West Frankfort, Ill., Dec. 21, 1951.

There was no immediate official word on what touched off the blast that sent acrid, dust-laden fumes whistling through the mine 337-feet below the surface. A fireboss had reported the area free of hazard prior to the time the midnight shift went to work. Time of the explosion was set at 1:55 a.m. It appeared to many of the rescue workers that the lives of the 37 were snuffed out by the resulting lack of oxygen rather than the force of the blast.

About 180 men were underground at the time but the 37 victims apparently were the only ones in the immediate blast area. First intimation something was wrong down in the cavernous two million-ton-a-year producer of the Pocahontas Fuel Co. came in a phone call to the tippie.

Rufus Trail, a mine motorman who was outside after carrying two hauls of men to the diggings, said a miner below reported things didn't look right—there was a heavy accumulation of dust. This call was believed to have come some distance from the explosion area.

The last word officials of the company received from below came by phone from Raymond Owensby. He said his section was all right if the smoke and fumes would abate. But Owensby was among the trapped men and perished in a spot described as "a five-minute walk" from the foot of the elevator shaft.

Sky to Clear; Cold Remains

The local groundhog, whose cavernous home is not far from the den of the Nittany Lion, defied the intimidations of the weather-weary king of beasts, emerged as usual, sneered at the apprehensively watching Lion, and viewed gleefully his ominous shadow on the ground, thus warning of another six weeks of wintry weather.

And the Lion was never convinced of the soothsaying abilities of the lowly groundhog when he awoke in the middle of the night and glanced at the mercury which stood at the 32 degree mark.

He expected little relief in a slight predicted rise of six degrees today, but is thankful, however, for the prospect of clearing skies.



Trustees Elevate 3 To Vice President

Three administrative staff members have been moved into newly-created vice presidencies by the University's Board of Trustees.

Dr. Michael A. Farrell, associate dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Agricultural Experimental Station has been named vice president for research; C. S. Wyand, executive assistant to the President, has been named vice president for development; and Lawrence E. Dennis, provost, has been designated vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. Farrell becomes the newest appointment to President Eric A. Walker's staff, which, including Wyand and Dennis, is composed of S. K. Hostetter, Wilmer E. Kenworthy, Edward L. Keller, Kenneth R. Erfft, Louis H. Bell, Ossian R. MacKenzie, Robert G. Bernreuter, and Christian K. Arnold.

Dr. Farrell has served on the faculty of the University since 1934 and has directed the agricultural research program since 1951. He began his academic career as a biology teacher at Lehigh University and came to Penn State as an instructor in bacteriology. In 1936, he was named head of the division of bacteriology, which at that time was a part of the department of dairy science, and in 1940 was named head of the new department of bacteriology.

Assistant Director

He was named assistant director of the Agricultural Experiment Station in 1947 and four years later became acting director of the Station. He was named to his present position in 1952.

As director of the Station, Dr. Farrell coordinates a research program that embraces more than 325 studies in all phases of agriculture and that last year operated a \$2½ million budget.

Joined Faculty in '31

Wyand, who received his bachelor of arts degree in arts and letters from the University in 1929 and his MA degree in economics in 1934, joined the faculty in 1931 as an instructor in economics. In 1946, Wyand, then professor of economics, was appointed administrative assistant to the President, then the late Dr. Ralph Dorn Hetzel, to aid in planning for the postwar expansion program of the University. He has served on the staff of the President of the University since that time.

Wyand also studied at Columbia University and prior to his appointment to the University faculty, served with Far Eastern Division of the National City Bank of New York and later as assistant to the president of the McGraw Hill Book Co. He is a native of Waynesboro.

U.S. Ed Official

Dennis, prior to his appointment as administrative assistant to the President in 1954, served as special assistant to the U.S. Commissioner of Education in Washington, D.C.; on the faculties of Kansas State College, the State University of Iowa, and Drake University Community College; and as an editorial writer for the Des Moines, Iowa, Register and Tribune.

Born in Virginia, Minn., Dennis received his B.A. degree from (Continued on page six)

Spring Enrollment Reaches New High

Enrollment at the University for the spring semester totals 14,379 students, according to unofficial figures released yesterday by Dr. C. O. Williams, dean of admissions. A total of 12,003 of these students are on campus.

The unofficial figures, which were obtained at the close of registration Saturday noon, show an enrollment gain over a year ago. Late registrations will increase the number.

Meanwhile, the University continued to be the 10th largest university in the United States in full-time enrollment, according to Dr. Raymond Walters, president emeritus of the University of Cincinnati, in his 37th annual survey of student enrollments published in School and Society Magazine.

Largest Number of Colleges

Dr. Walters' survey also reveals that Pennsylvania, with 67 colleges, has more institutions of higher learning than any other state and, with 105,578 students enrolled, ranks second only to New York. His figures are based on fall semester enrollments.

The University enrollment totals thus far are more than 500 students higher than the total of 13,808 reported at the close of registration a year ago, although slightly under the final figure of 14,433 for the same semester.

A final enrollment count will be made on Feb. 16 with the summary of enrollment for the spring semester to be made later.

New Matric Cards

Students may secure their permanent identification and activity card in the ballroom of the Hetzel Union Building according to a mimeographed schedule issued during registration. Students who registered Wednesday received their cards yesterday.

The balance of the schedule, with registration day listed first and card pickup day second, is as follows: Thursday morning, this morning; Thursday afternoon, this afternoon; Friday morning, tomorrow morning; Friday afternoon, tomorrow afternoon; and Saturday morning, Thursday morning.

Students unable to pick up their (Continued on page six)

Council Elects Insurance Man New Burgess

Claude H. Decker, operator of a local insurance agency, was elected burgess of State College last night at a meeting of Borough Council.

Decker, who was chosen from a list of eight nominations for the post, will serve until Jan. 1, 1958, filling out the unexpired term of David R. Mackey, former assistant professor of speech, now at Boston University. Mackey served three years in the office.

Was Tax Assessor

The new burgess, a native of State College, served as borough tax assessor for three years during the 1940's, and for the past six years has been a member of the State College police civil service commission. He lives at 500 W. Nittany Avenue.

Decker will be officially sworn in as burgess at a later council meeting. He was not available for comment last night.

Other Nominees Listed

Other nominees for the post were Guy C. Mills, justice of the peace; William S. Hoffman, former burgess; Leonard A. Doggett, retired faculty member; P. A. Frost, local realtor; Edward Steidle, retired dean of Mineral Industry; John Doty, local realtor; and Ross Edmiston, local businessman.

Who's Who Available

Students whose names appear in "Who's Who in the News at Penn State" may obtain copies of the publication at the Hetzel Union desk. Each student will receive two copies.

University Awaits Budget Message

The public will learn how good a salesman the University has been in Harrisburg when Gov. George M. Leader submits his \$2 billion-plus budget request to the General Assembly this afternoon.

Especially interested in Leader's budget message will be the University faculty members, since the size of the appropriation for the University will determine how large a salary raise they will receive.

The University is believed to have asked Leader for more than \$30 million for the next biennium, beginning in July. The University has been operating the last two years on a \$25 million-plus appropriation. Dr. Walker, in a major speech

to the faculty last semester, said he believed the University has a strong talking point for why it needs an increased appropriation. This, he said, was the need of higher salaries for faculty members, especially at the full-professorship level.

Dr. Walker and his staff members late last semester went to Harrisburg to request the increased appropriation. They were armed with many figures, especially those on faculty salaries.

Figure Not Released

The University has never released the figure it requested to Leader and it will probably not be known whether Leader and his staff cut the request before including it in the budget message.

An informed Old Main source has said that he believes the request is for more than \$30 million.

To raise the teaching staff's salaries 1 per cent, Dr. Walker told the faculty, it would take an additional appropriation of one-third of a million dollars.

Other Personnel Raises

Dr. Walker said the University cannot stop with raising teachers' salaries, but also must raise those of secretaries and service personnel, for they too need raises.

"If we raise salaries, we almost have to raise dormitory and food service costs too," since a raise in salaries reflects in the cost of running food service and dormitories, he said.

Dormitories and food service, Dr. Walker said, "must pay their own way."

More money will also be needed for additional faculty members, he said.

The only specific request released by the University was for (Continued on page six)

Collegian Calls For Candidates

Students interested in becoming candidates for The Daily Collegian news or sports staffs may attend a meeting at 7 p.m. tomorrow in 9 Carnegie.

Students need not be journalism majors nor have previous newspaper experience to become candidates.

The operations of Collegian and what will be expected of candidates will be explained at the first meeting. At other meetings, to be held weekly, the candidates will be taught different phases of newspaper reporting and editing.