

PSU projects need borrowed finances

By Jenna Spinelle

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | jcs5000@psu.edu

With construction booming across campus, Penn State officials say there are still projects to be completed — projects that sometimes require the university to borrow funds.

Deborah Blythe, Office of Physical Plant (OPP) facilities resource manager, said that despite the “sticker shock” associated with building costs, construction is still needed.

“Many of our buildings, including Willard and Hammond, were built very cheaply in the 1960s and ’70s, and are now falling apart,” she said. “Even though everything costs a fortune, the projects are necessary to update our facilities.”

She added that plans are currently in the works to renovate the Moore Building, another building constructed in that time period, which is expected to cost about \$21.8 million.

The money spent on campus construction is not related to the continuing increase in tuition, Penn State spokesman Tysen Kendig said.

Funding for construction projects comes from state money allocated through the capital fund. The capital fund is separate from the university’s general funds budget, which is used for things such as salaries and employee benefits.

Penn State’s 2005-2006 capital budget request was \$71.89 million, which includes \$53.5 million for construction projects and \$18.39 million for purchase

of construction equipment. The request is part of a total \$945 million five-year capital construction plan.

The university’s 2005-2006 general funds budget request was \$344.8 million, but Gov. Ed Rendell’s budget released Feb. 9 contained \$324.2 million.

Kendig said the lower general funds appropriation was in no way related to the amount of capital funding requested and will not affect construction on campus.

“The university’s capital budget and its general funds budget are two separate entities,” he said. “The amount of money requested for one has no effect on the amount received in the other.”

Blythe added that Penn State’s enrollment has grown faster than its building space, and the university currently has the least amount of square inch space per student.

“Our enrollment has increased faster than our facilities have, so it is only natural that we will need more space to accommodate the increased number of students,” she said.

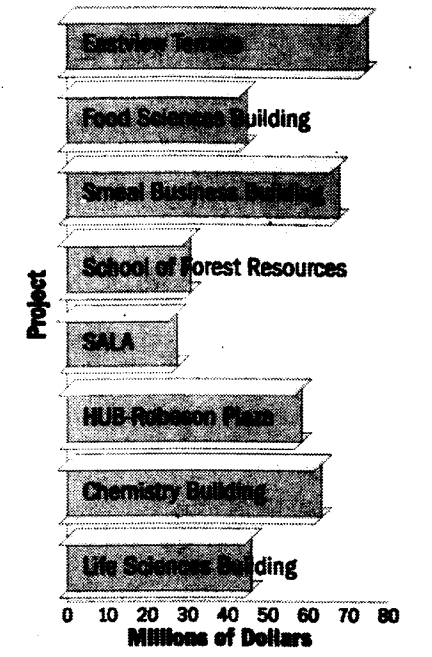
OPP spokesman Paul Ruskin said the three main funding sources for construction projects are state funds, private donations and borrowing.

“People are trying to connect construction funding with tuition,” he said. “The reality is that we do everything we can to try and get state and private sources for our projects.”

Dan Sieminski, assistant vice president for finance and business, said in an e-mail message that tuition is used to pay for debt associated with borrow-

Campus construction

Total costs of Penn State’s major University Park construction projects.



Source: Office of Physical Plant
Yena Han/Colegian

ing funds for construction projects.

“As we prepare our capital funding plans, we consider the amount of state funding available,” he said. “Where those funds run short of needs, we augment those funds with a reasonable amount tuition dollars.”

Ray Marsh, director of development communications, said the majority of donations to the university are not for construction projects.

“Most alumni give money to scholarship funds or to support programs within a specific college,” he said.

“We do raise money for capital construction projects, but it is a small percent of our overall efforts,” Marsh said.

Increasing journal prices poses problem for library

By Christiana Varda and Bethany Fehlinger

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS

cv181@psu.edu, brf5002@psu.edu

Buying about 30,000 journals per year for Penn State students and faculty has become a problem for the Penn State libraries.

The escalating prices of serial journals — all publications that come out more than once a year — was brought to the attention of the University Faculty Senate in an informational report at Tuesday’s meeting.

Bonnie MacEwan, assistant dean for collections and scholarly communication, said if the library continues purchasing serial journals, it would run out of money to buy any material at all by 2015.

In the past 17 years, a 260 percent increase in serial journal costs has been recorded.

Faculty Senate Chair Kim Steiner said there is an abundance of scholarly publications and requiring the libraries to keep them up-to-date is an expensive expenditure.

“The Senate can figure out the right thing to do,” he said. “We need to provide some credible guidelines for properly credited [publications] and resort to electronic publishing.”

Science and medical journals are marked with the highest prices, said Bob Alan, head of serials and acquisition services.

“The price increase for many science journals exceeds the normal inflation rates,” he said.

In an effort to combat the high cost

of the journals, the libraries have taken a series of steps to maintain lower spending. They have cut 6 percent of serial journals, eliminated duplicate copies across print and electronic formats, and signed deals with big publishers to ensure more electronic access.

The University Press and the libraries have also joined forces in an additional attempt to resolve this problem.

The Penn State Office of Digital Scholarly Publishing was created in October for increased cost-efficient publishing and a greater focus on electronic publishing. “What this means is that a book would never go out of print,” MacEwan said. “It will always be available to you.”

The office wants to provide non-commercial publications and scholarly information that professors can use in their research.

It is a response to the high prices determined by commercial publishers, said Peter Potter, University Press editor in chief and associate director.

“We are exploring new outlooks in the electronic realm,” he said. Some faculty members do not realize the cost of the journals when they request some journals from the library, MacEwan said.

“There is an expectation for scholars to prepare scholarly research, but this can be done online,” she said.

MacEwan added online research would certainly reduce the costs the library is currently facing.

Steiner said the Senate could do something about the problem.

Nittany Housing
Apartment - Complexes - Free Roommate Search
NittanyHousing.com

BODYWORKS
health and fitness center
www.bodyworkshealthandfitness.com
VOTED BEST HEALTH CLUB
Fitness Special \$69*
*Call for details *Limited time offer
*Limited time offer. Call Body Works for details. Not valid with any other offers.
127 Sowers St. 238-4617

NEW Caramel Moolatte
FROZEN BLENDED COFFEE
Now available in MEGA Moo size!
Only \$3.79
24 oz.
Boller's Dairy Queen
2009 N. Atherton St.
State College, PA
SOMETHING DIFFERENT
dairyqueen.com

PARKWAY PLAZA Apartments
WHERE ONE CHECK PAYS IT ALL
All Utilities are Included!
IT'S THE BEST DEAL IN TOWN!
Studios, One, Two & Three Bedroom Apartments
Available Furnished or Unfurnished
• Free high-speed Internet access
• New luxury furniture package
• Outdoor pool & gas grills
• Fitness center
• Free cable w/ HBO
• Private shuttle
• Free guest parking
• On-site laundry facilities
Sign a lease for Fall 05, get New Carpet & Furniture
Rents start at only \$500.00 a month
it's your money...KEE IT!
Visit our new leasing information center downtown
at 436 E. College Ave. beside McDonald's
Parkway Plaza 1000 Plaza Drive
State College, PA 16803
814.238.3432 www.parkwayplaza.com

Free Easter Dinner

for PSU Students @
ISABELLE'S BEAD SHOPPE!
Sunday, March 27th Time: 12pm-6pm
109 S. Pugh Street 234-1060
Thanks To: Spats, Weis, Autoport, Rider Olds, G-MAN, Panera, The Churches of State College, Wal-Mart, Giant, and Starbuck's!

THE NATION'S LARGEST WIRELESS FOOTPRINT
THE IMMIX FOOTPRINT OFFERS THE BEST AVAILABLE COAST-TO-COAST NATIONWIDE COVERAGE WITH NO ROAMING CHARGES
PLANS START AT JUST **\$39.99/MO**
• FREE LONG DISTANCE
• FREE EVENINGS AND WEEKENDS
• FREE MOBILE-TO-MOBILE
FREE MOTOROLA V100 PHONE
with Color Display, Speakers/Phone and Changeable Outer Shell
www.immix.com
888.249.8030