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Governor Casey presents Behrend \$7.7 million for new library complex

by Mark Owens
Collegian News Editor

Governor Robert P. Casey presented Behrend with a 7.7 million dollar check last Thursday for a new library/academic complex, scheduled to be under construction later this year.

On hand for the ceremony were Erie mayor Joyce Savocchio and state representatives Tom Scrimenti and Ben Dombrowski, who is retiring from the state assembly at the end of this year.

Dombrowski has been credited by many government officials for spearheading the 14-year old project over its final hurdle.

Casey, in his remarks to the

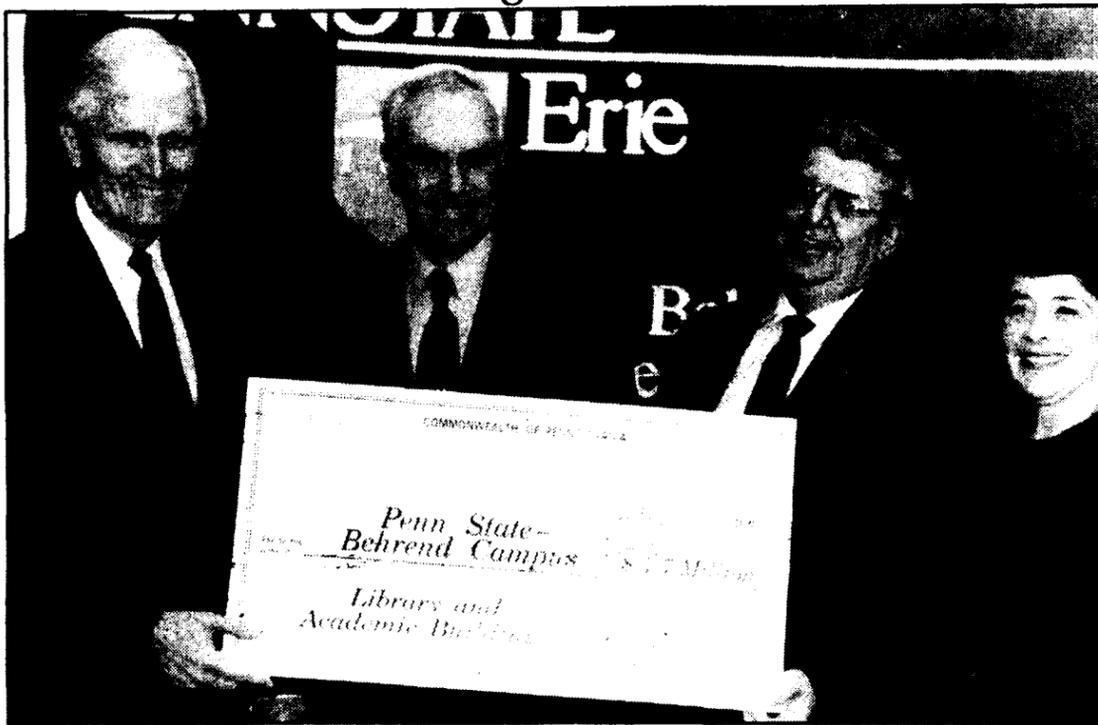
audience, said Pennsylvania is committed to higher education. "We're providing over \$1 billion a year in the state operating budget for our colleges and universities. At the same time, I've also placed an increased emphasis on providing capital funding for our state-owned and state-related universities."

The governor added along with more money set aside for capital improvements, Pennsylvania is working with colleges and universities in the state to hold down tuition costs so more students could go to college to realize their potential.

"Higher education," Casey explained, "should not depend on

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Passing the bucks



Big money: Dean and Provost Lilley, Governor Casey, State Representative Dombrowski and Erie Mayor Savocchio display the \$7.7 million check

Chief administrative officer of NAACP to speak at Behrend

by Christie Luden
Collegian Staff Writer

Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks will speak this Thursday at 8 pm in the Reed Lecture Hall on "A Civil Rights Agenda for the 1990's."

Hooks is the chief administrative officer for the NAACP, the oldest civil rights organization in the world. He has a diverse background spanning politics, law, business and religion.

Hooks received his law degree from DePaul University and is co-founder and Vice President of Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1972 he became the first Black in the history of the United States to serve on the Federal Communications Commission. Later in Memphis, Tennessee, Hooks was the first Black to serve in the Shelby County

Criminal Court.

Dr. Hooks is also associated with political causes. In 1979 he led the Prayer Vigil in



Benjamin Hooks

Washington D.C. against the anti-busing amendment and was a key figure in helping to gather votes on the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill.

Tentative start-up date for new library scheduled for June

Construction is expected to take two years

by Jennifer Flanagan
Collegian Staff Writer

"Right now, I'd say the best case scenario is probably four months," said Associate Provost Jack Burke on beginning construction for the library and academic complex.

The June start-up is tentative and based on factors such as the architects preparatory planning, bidding processes, preparation contracts and the arrival of the construction company.

"It is hard to tell - we just don't have any experience with this," said Burke.

Governor Robert Casey presented Behrend with the necessary funding last Thursday. However, there has been some confusion as to the difference in the amount expected and the \$7.7 million presented by Casey.

Burke explained, "This has always been a bid project..." in which the money is given out in segments as needed. "The check issued last Thursday by the

governor was for the construction portion of the project," stated Burke.

The total approved budget is approximately \$9.7 million. The \$2 million not issued will cover "architectural and engineering fees, surveys and soil samples,

**The new library will
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inspection fees, administrative costs incurred by the State Department of General Services and construction contingencies," said Burke.

The aforementioned contingency is nearly \$1 million which the school hopes to use as part of a construction budget as well.

Additional funding for furniture and related equipment is

also expected.

Jack Burke cited two years as a rough estimate for the length of construction.

The new library will be approximately six times larger and hold twice as many books. Currently, the library is 11,014 square feet and holds between sixty and seventy thousand volumes.

The new library/academic building complex will be approximately 60,000 square feet and is designed to hold about 150,000 volumes.

"There's the library and then there's the academic building which has classrooms, faculty offices and so forth. In the library itself there will be two computer labs and a language lab and various special features," Explained Bob Rose, head librarian.

Rose also added that the "LIAS [system] will definitely be there and we hope that we will have a significantly larger number of terminals."