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Trustees briefed on MAFBE supplier diversity program
*Board approves initial phase of planned Assembly Hall renovation,
budget increase in Mile Square project*

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The University of Illinois Board of Trustees learned Friday that participation in the University's Minority and Female Business Enterprise (MAFBE) Program has increased, and received recommendations from consultants on how to build on those gains during a meeting on the Springfield campus.

The MAFBE program was created by the state legislature to promote diversity, and sets goals to ensure that businesses owned by minorities, women and people with disabilities are included in the procurement process.

During fiscal year 2011, the University saw payments to MAFBE vendors increase by almost \$11 million, from \$21 million in fiscal 2010, to nearly \$32 million. The number of MAFBE vendors increased 24 percent on the Urbana-Champaign campus, and increased 75 percent in Chicago.

The increases for fiscal 2011 occurred primarily in facilities projects, said Heather Haberaecker, executive assistant vice president for business and finance who oversees the MAFBE program at UIC. Last year, the University set MAFBE goals for construction projects that are higher than the state requires.

Other contributing factors, Haberaecker said, included the Chicago campus' renewed emphasis on increasing MAFBE spending, and an increasing number of companies that have become certified as MAFBE vendors.

The Board also received recommendations to further improve participation from the Bronner Group, a Chicago consulting company that analyzed the program and reviewed supplier diversity programs at 30 peer universities. Bronner recommended the University establish a supplier diversity advocacy campaign.

The report also suggested a new name – "Uillinois Supplier Diversity" – to better represent the University's commitment to diversity. Other recommendations included staff realignment to unify communication under one office – versus each campus acting separately – and the creation of an advisory council to include potential suppliers.

By following these or similar recommendations, the report noted, the University would be on its way to having a nationally recognized supplier diversity program.

“We are trying to imbed a culture of diversity in the University as a whole – in all employees, students and departments,” Haberaecker said. “Diversity is important in everything we do at the University of Illinois and our goal is to continue to increase that in purchasing.”

In an effort to connect with minority businesses the University regularly holds several outreach events, including an annual conference in Chicago. There were 13 outreach events for fiscal 2011, including a business opportunity fair, woman’s entrepreneurial conference, Hispanic-American construction industry expo and leadership conference.

The Board hired Bronner to review the MAFBE program a year ago, after a review showed that MAFBE participation had remained flat for several years. The Board will now review the consulting firm’s recommendations and decide what changes might be implemented.

Capital Projects

The Board approved a \$2.2 million agreement with Chicago engineering firm AECOM to draft a construction plan for renovations of Assembly Hall on the Urbana campus.

The renovations may include lowering the hall’s floor; adding guest suites, new bowl seating and restroom facilities; replacing mechanical systems to include air conditioning, augmenting lighting and the electrical distribution system; addressing Americans with Disabilities Act requirements; and enlarging the concourse for added concession space. A west entry addition featuring new administrative offices and new points of entry may also be included.

The construction plan will include a breakdown of the cost of the total project. A schematic design will be created by the firm, and will be used in fundraising efforts.

The hall, which is home to Fighting Illini basketball as well as other athletic and entertainment events, opened in 1963 and seats 17,200.

The Board also approved an increase of approximately \$18 million to the budget for the construction of a facility for Mile Square Health Center in the Illinois Medical District on the Chicago campus. The increase will bring the total budget to approximately \$30 million.

The two-phase project will give Mile Square the space it needs to provide health care to a higher volume of patients. The first phase will involve a build out clinical operation on the first floor and construction of a shell space on the second floor. The second floor, which will house administrative offices and a place to provide dental care, will be finished by January 2015.

Appointments

Susan M. Kies' appointment to secretary for the Board of Trustees and of the University was approved by the Board. She will begin her appointment on Feb. 1, 2012.

Since 2004, Kies has served as associate dean of academic affairs/curriculum management for the College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign. She has also served in the position of adjunct associate professor of internal medicine, which she will continue to hold.

Kies will replace Michele Thompson, who is retiring after 21 years as secretary, a wide-ranging post that includes planning for Board and Board committee meetings, maintaining the minutes, records and major documents of the Board, responding to requests from the public, providing assistance and advice to other administrators and assisting the trustees in their work for the University.

The Board also approved the appointment of Dimitri T. Azar as dean of the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Azar formerly served as interim dean. Since 2006, he has also served as Billie Alex Field Chair, professor and head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. He will continue to serve as professor. Azar received his medical degree from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon in 1983.

He will begin his position on Dec. 16.

Robert A. Easter's appointment as interim vice chancellor for research was also approved by the Board. Easter will begin his position on Jan. 1, 2012.

Easter, who retired from the University on Oct. 15, formerly served as interim vice president and chancellor of the Urbana campus. He was named dean emeritus of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, and professor emeritus of Animal Sciences at the Sept. 9 Board meeting.

Honorary Degree

Raymond Ozzie, former chief software architect for the Microsoft Corporation, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering during May 13, 2012 commencement exercises, under a resolution approved by the Board.

Ozzie earned his bachelor's degree in Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While he was in school, he worked as a systems programmer with the PLATO computer system and its online user community. He has won several awards for his work on desktop client Lotus Notes. In 1994, he was named one of seven "Windows Pioneers"

by Microsoft, and in 1995 was named “Person of the Year” by *PC Magazine*. Ozzie is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and an American Academy of Arts and Sciences Fellow.

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