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Fort Hays State University NEWS

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

• 600 Park St. • Hays, KS 67601-4099 • (913) 628-4206
• Bob Lowen, Director • Jeanne Lambert, Director, News Bureau •

PLANS FOR NEW FHSU
SCIENCE BLDG. REVEALED
6/12/92 LOCAL+A+B bl

HAYS, KS-----A scale model replica, artist's renditions and plans for a new science building to be constructed at Fort Hays State University were revealed at a press conference today at the University.

According to FHSU President Edward H. Hammond, "The \$11,976,800 project will be bid in January of 1993 and ground breaking is set for Feb. 1. Construction is expected to begin about the first of May, 1993 and we anticipate a completion date of August, 1994. "

The design of the 85,000 square-foot facility is a joint venture between Stecklein and Brungardt Architects of Hays, and Horst, Terrill and Karst Architects, Topeka. Mechanical and electrical engineering for the project will be done by Hoss and Brown Engineers, Topeka, and structural design will be done by Finney and Turnipseed of Topeka.

Hammond said that a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy provided \$3,976,800 of the cost of the structure and the State of Kansas will provide the remaining \$8 million.

"The credit for our receiving the federal money must really go to Sen. Bob Dole," Hammond said. "His efforts to help us were special and I want him to know that we at the University appreciate his dedication to educational excellence in western Kansas."

"The \$8 million came from a one-time windfall of \$185 million from the federal government to the state of Kansas," Hammond said. "The money comes in the form of disproportionate share funds and is Kansas' share of Medicaid money for costs associated with care of indigent individuals in state mental hospitals. We are appreciative of the fact that Gov. Finney and the legislature chose to use some of that money to fund special building projects at several of the Regents Institutions."

Hammond added, "Today, I also want to publicly want to thank Sen. Jerry Moran and Rep. Delbert Gross for their hard work to fund all of those projects and especially to bring our building to fruition."

The three-story science building will be located where the University tennis courts are and will house the departments of chemistry, geoscience, and physics, and the office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. It will also offer a full complement of classrooms and computer labs.

"State-of-the-art technology will be utilized throughout the building," Hammond said. "Examples include two-way interactive video classrooms, computers integrated into wet labs, and the latest in computerized teaching technology."

The academic computing center will also be relocated from Martin Allen Hall to a one-story wing of the science building.

"The tennis courts will be moved by Jan. 1 to the south side of Cunningham Hall," Hammond said. "Architects are working on the plans and the project will be bid soon. We plan six or more courts on the new site."

Hammond said that the new science building is being constructed on the grounds of the tennis courts because of its proximity to the Akers Energy Center and to Forsyth Library. "That closeness to the power plant will eliminate the need for lengthy service networks and systems," he added.

Hammond said, "The design of our building reflects not only the high tech aspects of the facility but responds to the pedestrian and traffic flow around the site. The pedestrian plaza will be included in the design while maintaining minimal loss of parking. "

Hammond said, "The construction phase of our new science building will be great for the local economy. We're excited about the future for our students, the state of Kansas and for the teaching of the physical sciences at FHSU."