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### Tomanek Hall: Newspaper, Senate approves \$4 million for FHSU building

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# Senate approves \$4 million for FHSU building

By DAVID BAKER

Hays Daily News

Christmas arrived in August for Fort Hays State University.

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., is playing Santa Claus, with help from the U.S. Senate. The gift is \$4 million for a new science building for FHSU. The building is expected to cost \$12 million.

The appropriation is part of an energy and water bill approved this morning by the Senate. The House of Representatives has approved a similar bill, which does not include the \$4 million for the building.

But a representative of Dole's office said the senator did not anticipate the funding would be removed

when the bill goes to conference committee to iron out differences.

FHSU President Edward Hammond explained that the Senate and the House were allowed by prior agreement to approve five projects each for the bill. In the committee, all 10 are expected survive.

Hammond is on vacation in Arkansas with his family, where Dole contacted him this morning with the news.

Hammond said he had been traveling to Washington for about six months working to get the appropriation. The building is "one-of-a-kind," he said.

It will house a computing center as well as the departments of

chemistry, earth sciences and physics. FHSU hopes to connect it via fiber-optic cable with its off-campus centers at community colleges in western Kansas to allow its professors to teach students in other sites through two-way, interactive video.

Hammond said that because the appropriation would reduce the amount needed from the state by one-third, it might speed the start of the building.

Funds might not have been available until 1994, he said, but he was unsure how quickly the building could be started now.

Picken Hall is scheduled to be

renovated after the administrative offices within it are moved to Sheridan Coliseum, which has been undergoing renovation for several years and is expected to be completed in the next few months.

The other projects endorsed by the Senate were at universities in West Virginia, South Carolina, Louisiana and Oregon, Hammond said.

He said he expected federal money for the project to be approved, but didn't want to say anything about it prematurely. He added that having Dole, the Senate minority leader, behind the project was a plus.