

Science center receives green light

The largest construction project in the history of Hope College has been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Construction of a new science center received the go-ahead during the January meeting of the trustees, which concluded Friday, Jan. 25.

The project, a major component of the *Legacies: A Vision of Hope* fund-raising campaign, includes construction of a new building that will be connected to the west side of the Peale Science Center, and the renovation of the current building. The new construction and renovation are expected to total \$36 million.

"It's a very, very exciting project for Hope—there's no question about it," said President James E. Bultman '63. "This project has been in the planning stages for the past five years, and I believe represents a state-of-the-art science facility that will only enhance Hope's lofty national reputation in the sciences. Dean Jim Gentile, Director of Operations Greg Maybury and the entire science faculty have done a superb job of creative planning."

Work will begin at the site soon, likely in the coming few weeks. The college anticipates holding a formal groundbreaking ceremony in the spring.

The science center will double the size of the current building, and will include classrooms, laboratories, and office and storage space. Peale Science Center, which opened in 1973, will be updated to better meet contemporary teaching and research needs.

President Bultman noted that the project is not only desirable, but essential, given changes in both science and teaching since Peale was built and given the current building's age. "We build buildings so that students and faculty have the necessary facilities to perform at the very highest levels," he said.

"The Peale Science Center has served Hope very well for the past 30 years, but when you look at the changes that have taken place during that time, technologically and pedagogically, one realizes that a more state-of-the-art

facility is needed," President Bultman said. "The current facility also has some infrastructure challenges—plumbing, electrical, space and air exchange—that must be addressed in the short- rather than long-term."

It is because the need is so great, he said, that Hope is proceeding even as fund-raising continues.

"And so there are risks involved in moving ahead—but there are also risks involved in not moving ahead," he said. "The former are financial, and the latter are programmatic, and we've chosen to move ahead trusting that the Hope constituency, which has always been generous and faithful, will catch a glimpse of the vision we have for this facility and will lend their support to it at this time."

The expanded building will continue to house the departments of biology, chemistry, biochemistry, the geological and environmental sciences, and psychology, with the department of nursing moving in from its cottage headquarters on 14th Street.

For more on the science center, please see the story on page five.

According to Dr. Gentile, who is dean for the natural sciences, the design will complement the college's on-going emphasis on collaborative student-faculty research as a teaching model, with the addition of interdisciplinary classroom space reflecting the way that the boundaries between disciplines continue to blur.

The approach, he noted, will also help make it easier to fit the building to future needs as well. "We'll have a lot of flexibility to be able to adapt to the evolution of science as things move forward over the next several decades," Dr. Gentile said.

The new construction is expected to take about 18 months. When the new building is complete, it will be occupied and Peale vacated so that the renovation can begin. The college anticipates that the renovation of Peale should be finished 12 months later.

Architects for the project are Ballinger of Philadelphia, Pa., and Jickling Lyman Powell Associates Inc. of Troy, Mich. The construction manager is Granger Construction Company, based in Lansing, Mich.

The science center project is one of the three major ini-



The airy commons area in the new science center. The Board of Trustees has authorized the start of construction.

tatives of the on-going *Legacies: A Vision of Hope* capital campaign, which is also focusing on increasing the college's endowment, and addressing a variety of other short-term and long-term facility and space needs. The campaign was launched in October of 2000. ↵

James Boelkins named provost

A nationwide search for a new chief academic officer at Hope has led to a choice close to home: Dr. James Boelkins '66 has been named provost effective July 1.

The appointment was made by the Board of Trustees on Thursday, Jan. 24. He succeeds Dr. Jacob Nyenhuis, who retired as provost on June 30, 2001.

Dr. Boelkins is currently vice provost of Grand Valley State University's Pew Campus in Grand Rapids, Mich. His career has been spent in higher education, including more than 16 years in senior positions in academic administration.

"I'm very excited about this appointment," said Dr. James E. Bultman '63, president of Hope. "Jim Boelkins brings a wealth of experience at both private and public institutions. His commitment to the



Dr. James Boelkins '66

faith is compatible with Hope's mission, and his leadership and vision for excellence in the academic program have been evident

everywhere he's been."

"Our search committee believes that he will very ably fulfill the Trustees' goal for Hope to be a leading Christian liberal arts institution," President Bultman said.

Dr. Boelkins noted that he has high regard for Hope not only as his undergraduate alma mater, but also for the excellence he has seen demonstrated in the years since his student days.

"Hope College has established itself as one of the best liberal arts institutions in the nation as demonstrated by quality programs, extensive scholarship, and outstanding faculty and students," he said. "I am both honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve the Hope community and to help implement Hope's mission and vision."

Dr. Boelkins has been with Grand Valley since July of 2000. He was previously with Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa., for 15 years, first as vice president for academic affairs and then, starting in 1992, as provost.

From 1972 to 1975, and from 1977 to

1985, he was a member of the faculty of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, Grand Forks, where he chaired and developed a new department of pharmacology. He received a variety of awards at the university, including recognition in both 1978 and 1983 as the Outstanding Basic Science Teacher.

From 1975 to 1977, Dr. Boelkins was a member of the pharmacology faculty at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He was also a postdoctoral fellow at The Pennsylvania State University during 1971-72.

He was an elected member of several national scientific organizations and published research during his tenure in the medical schools.

He majored in biology at Hope. He completed a master of science degree at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks in 1968, and a doctorate in pharmacology at the University of Missouri at Columbia in 1971.

He and his wife, Barbara Boyink '68 Boelkins, have three children. ↵