Phase II Funds Please Officials

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Phase II funds please officials

Administrators expected law school addition's approval

By Mark Schutte

IU administrators are more than happy with a General Assembly decision last week that will allow the University to complete the second phase of the law building addition.

"We were pleased that the Legislature gave us the bonding authority to complete the addition," said Terry Clapacs, director of University Physical Facilities.

The approval will now give officials the opportunity to begin planning for the $7.2 million project. Phase II will complete the top three floors of the addition and renovate parts of the existing building.

Work should begin by early summer, with completion coming about 18 months after work has begun, Clapacs said.

"We are already into planning the completion of the addition," he said.

Funding for the first phase of the addition was approved in 1981; work on that phase should be completed in July. The first phase consisted of the basic six-floor shell and completion of the first three floors.

"All of us were tremendously gratified that the approval went through," said Maurice Holland, associate dean of the law school.

"We face a year of considerable disruption. It will be worth the trouble however, because of the tremendous value of the final project."

—Maurice Holland, associate dean of law school

Arthur Lotz, assistant dean for budgetary administration and bar relations, said, "With the approval, the addition should be able to be completed by the expected December of 1985 completion date."

Students and employees of the Law Library, one of the areas most affected by construction work, also expressed satisfaction with the Legislature's decision.

"It would have been rather ridiculous if it wasn't passed. The building was only half completed," said Jon Safram, night circulation supervisor for the library.

Law school administrators now will spend the next two to three weeks making contingency plans because of the additional construction work, Lotz said.

"We face a year of considerable disruption," Holland said. "It will be worth the trouble, however, because of the tremendous value of the final project."

Holland said when the addition is completed, the library will rank among the nation's best libraries of its size.

Administrators said they had been fairly optimistic that the funding would be approved, even though the bill had been tossed around and debated furiously in the Legislature.

The decision to complete the addition may be the final chapter in the controversial history of the project.

There had been questions when the funding for the project was split into two phases. But in January 1982 another controversy erupted over plans to place the addition in the Old Crescent Woods behind the building.

Save the Woods, a group of faculty, students and city residents, formed to prevent the addition from being built behind the building.

Plans approved by the IU Board of Trustees in December 1981 would have required the removal of about 22 trees from the woods, including many in an area listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The astronomy department also became a vocal opponent of the project. Faculty there said they had not been told the addition would be located next to the Kirkwood Observatory, the department's training observatory.

The astronomy department claimed the addition would generate so much heat and light that Kirkwood Observatory would become useless.

In April 1982 the IU Board of Trustees approved modified plans for the addition, which pulled it from the woods in the National Register area and included safeguards to prevent excessive light and heat pollution.

At that time, Robert Welz, one of the project's architects from New York City, said safeguards might include putting in automatic blinders on windows to cut down on light and white marble chips on the roof to cut down heat loss.