

Buildings closed, lights dimmed as University complies with statewide cut in energy usage

by Barbara Janesh

Weekend closing of six YSU buildings was among the action taken by the University to reduce its electric energy use, reported Edmund Salata, dean of administrative affairs, at the YSU Board of Trustees meeting last Saturday morning.

The energy-saving actions are being taken in compliance with a mandate issued by Governor James Rhodes last week, requiring state agencies to reduce electric energy use by 25 percent. The mandate is a result

of the prolonged national coal strike.

Bliss Hall, Lincoln Project, the School of Education Building, Engineering Science Building, Rayen Hall, and Clingan-Waddell Hall will be closed during weekends throughout the rest of winter quarter. Saturday classes held in these buildings will be relocated and notifications of these changes will be posted on exterior entrances and exits to the buildings.

Other electricity-saving actions include the discontinuation of all recreational and intramural

activities in Beeghly Center. The Center will remain open for instructional purposes.

Kilcawley Center operating hours from Monday through Thursday will be reduced, but Friday and Saturday hours will remain the same. The new weekday hours are from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Kilcawley Center is closed on Sunday.

Hall lights will be reduced to night levels, thermostats are to be reset to 66 degrees and ventilating systems are to be interrupted for two hours each day, as additional efforts to re-

duce electrical use, reported Salata.

"The removal of 8,112 40-watt fluorescent tubes and 160 mercury lighting fixtures have resulted in a significant reduction of energy use," said Salata, explaining that the University has complied with Rhodes' 25 percent reduction of electricity use mandate. "But, we expect to have to go to the 50 percent level sometime this week, possibly the 15th or 16th."

"If things do not change," said YSU President John Cof-

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Coal strike affects YSU

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felt, "we may have to close the University." Coffelt added that no plans to close have yet been made.

Other matters discussed at the Board of Trustees meeting concerned recent University emergency closings and construction projects on campus.

Coffelt explained to the Board that "it may be necessary to extend the term (winter) into spring break," if there are any more emergency school closings. YSU closed on January 10, 20, 21, 22, 26, and 27 because of hazardous weather conditions.

YSU might be able to recover money expended on these days from state and federal funds, said Coffelt. He explained that the cost of closing the University is more than the cost of staying open, because

YSU employees required to be at the University when it is closed must be paid 2.5 times their regular salary.

"It cost the University \$64,000 for the last two days (Thursday, Jan. 26 and Friday, Jan. 27) it closed," said Coffelt.

A resolution, recommended by Coffelt, providing for "payment to employees for days not worked due to inclement weather," was passed by the Board.

Poor weather conditions have resulted in the delay of Bliss Hall landscaping, reported Salata saying that the project should be completed three weeks after the weather breaks.

Salata also reported on the states of campus construction projects. The Arts and Sciences building is open and occupancy is near completion.

The Jones Hall remodeling project is five weeks behind schedule because more time than originally anticipated has been needed to vacate the building. Working around the remaining facilities (telephone operators, language labs) has also resulted in time delays. The remodeling is slated for mid-June completion.

The Tod-Hall-Library building, also being remodeled, will be finished by April 1 and total occupancy is expected by September.

Mechanical and electrical drawings for the new parking deck to be constructed between Wick Avenue and Walnut Street, east of Maag Library, have been submitted to the state for approval. The deck is expected to accommodate 1,000 cars by the beginning of fall quarter, and the balance of 1,150 cars by December.

The preliminary and basic drawings of the sports complex, which is to be constructed behind Beeghly Center, have been revised and the revision may set the project back 30 days, said Salata.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Saturday, April 20 at 9:30 a.m. The location will be announced at a later date.