Details for plans for campus development at Montana State University

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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Details of a long range plan that will enable Montana State University to grow in expectation of its student population 10 years hence were revealed yesterday (Wednesday) by President Robert Johns in the first two of a series of meetings designed to explain the plan.

While some major changes are indicated, the basic campus grid will be preserved, Johns noted. He also said that there will be no need to expand the campus beyond its nominal limits as defined by the Clark Fork River, Arthur Avenue, Beckwith Avenue and Mount Sentinel. The basic design of the proposed campus was prepared by Sasaki, Walker, Lackey Associates, campus planning consultants of San Francisco, and reflects detailed studies of MSU and its problems conducted over the past several months.

The most noticeable proposed change would involve the removal of Dornblaser field to a site which the University owns at Fort Missoula. In the general area now occupied by the field, plans call for construction of a new library, an administration building and a student union building. Missing from the drawings are old Science Hall, now occupied by the Geology Department, and the present Math-Physics building, originally a dormitory for women. Both structures date from the earliest days of the campus and have been declared unsuitable for their present use.

The growth of scientific research activities would be accommodated in new buildings to be erected in the general vicinity of the present Health-Science Building and the School of Forestry. Establishment of a new food service and dormitory complex to the east and north of where Dornblaser Field now stands, expansion of the Field House, designs for new parking and play field areas and an overall landscaping plan were other inclusions of the report.

(more)
If fully carried out in the future, the plan would also include expansion in areas around the University golf course. In addition to proposed married student housing, sites would be assigned for University-oriented research and development activities, reserve areas for future development and possible locations for fraternity and sorority houses. In the new plan, the area has been given the name of South Campus.

According to President Johns, two-thirds or more of the proposed campus plan would be supported by self-liquidating facilities. He said he regards it as a "minimum plan," covering only the practical necessities of a campus that will have to fit an estimated enrollment of 9,000 students by 1975.

In meetings scheduled for today (Thursday) Dr. Johns will reveal plan details to the City Council, Chamber of Commerce, City-County Planning Board, County Commissioners, labor representatives, clergy, and officials of local service and fraternal and professional organizations, including the American Association of University Women, Soroptomists, and the P-TA.