

# Law School News and Events

## Hopes for Full Funding for Law Building are Still Alive as Planning Continues on Schedule

Funding for the new law building is currently held hostage by a faltering state economy. The law building was one of four construction projects approved last spring by the Iowa General Assembly and for which funding was authorized through the issuance of special bonds. The amount of new construction bonding authority granted (\$28 million), however, was sufficient to complete only half of the projects approved, and the actual issuance of any bonds for new construction was postponed until July 1, 1982, presumably to allow the Legislature a second look at the State's fiscal situation during the spring.

During the summer of 1981, the Board of Regents announced that if only \$28 million in bonds were initially authorized, the law building would not be among the first projects to be started. This decision, which reaffirmed priorities established in 1980, was not unexpected in light of the fact that the estimated cost of the law project is \$23.2

million—if the law project was constructed first, no other project could be started.

Recognizing the urgent space problems of the Law College, however, at its October meeting this fall the Board of Regents agreed to seek an additional \$32.7 million in bonding authority during the upcoming 1982 session of the Iowa Legislature. The law building is expressly included among the projects to which this additional funding would be applied. The Regents' decision to request additional bonding authority was reached shortly after an Education Visitation Committee of the Iowa Legislature visited the Iowa City campus for a briefing and a first hand look at the University's critical capital needs.

In actions paralleling the decision to pursue additional bonding authority for the law building, the Board of Regents approved planning expenditures intended to keep the law project on schedule. First ap-

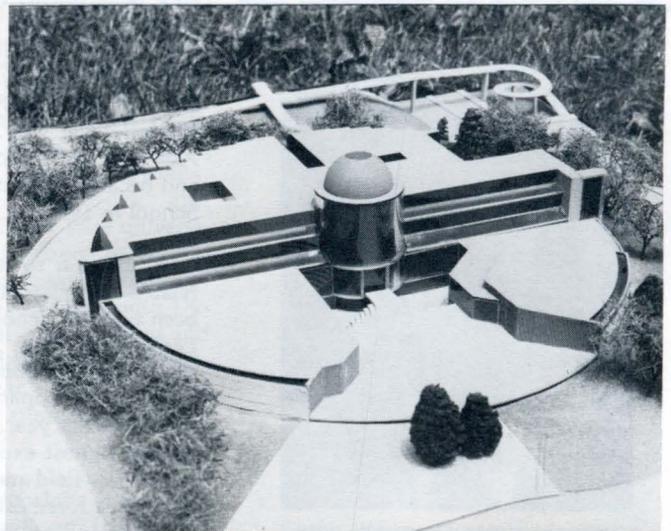
proved was a \$250,000 extension of the contract with project architect Gunnar Birkerts, which allows completion of the schematic design phase of the planning process. This planning effort will carry the project to the point where bidding specifications could be prepared rapidly. In a related action, the Board approved the expenditure of \$100,000 in the spring of 1982 to clear the 3½ acre "Varsity Heights" site to prepare it for construction. The net effect of these steps is to assure that by the time funding might first become available in July 1982, planning for the project will be far enough along that ground could be broken within six months. Thus, if the economic picture brightens by next spring and the key government leaders remain convinced of the primacy of the Law College's space need, construction of a new law building could well be underway in 1983.

*Dean N. William Hines*



Dean Hines guides Legislative Visitation Committee on tour of the Law Library.

**News Update:** In his Condition of the State Message delivered January 12, 1982, Governor Robert D. Ray, recommended that the 1982 Iowa Legislature authorize bonds to fund construction of a new law building at the University of Iowa.



Architect's model of the Law Building.