10-year capital plan OK’d by trustees with array of big projects

The Board of Trustees on April 11 approved the University’s $2.64 billion 10-year capital improvement plan, which includes improvements to the Recreational Sports Center and renovation of life sciences facilities on the West Lafayette campus.

The trustees also approved construction of the Madsen Arena complex renovation and addition, and a new Wilde Utility Plant boiler. They also approved construction contracts to build Discovery Learning Center and renovate Duane Hall, phase two of the ongoing Windsor Halls renovation project.

In addition, the trustees approved planning for additional student housing at the Fort Wayne campus and increased funding for renovations to McCutcheon Hall on the West Lafayette campus.

The 10-year capital plan includes all new projects planned beginning in July 2009. The plan is broken into five biennial periods. The 2009-2011 biennium includes plans to spend $90 million in improvements to the Recreational Sports Center, $90 million for construction and renovation of life sciences facilities, and an $11 million, first-phase replacement for mechanical engineering’s Ray W. Herrick Laboratories.

Purdue University-Fort Wayne plans include a $35 million expansion to the existing academic complexes, a new $16.8 million parking garage and $8 million in renovations to the Heslin Library and the Classroom Medical Building.

Purdue North Central plans a $33.7 million Student Services and Activities Complex.

The trustees in this plan were developed through a process that involved the evaluation of programmatic needs and priorities, said Joseph Mikesell, interim vice president for physical facilities. “It’s when these projects begin and how long they take to construct are subject to several factors including available funding.”

The capital plan will be submitted to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education later this month and become part of the 2009-2011 biennium capital improvement budget request. The trustees also approved renovations and additions to Madsen Arena with a total budget of $95.5 million. Athletics Director Morgan Burke said the 27,000-square-foot complex will eliminate the need to construct three new buildings that would have cost almost $300 million.

“This project will bring Madsen Arena into the 21st century in terms of program space, functionality and aesthetics,” Burke said. “The addition to this 1967 landmark will remedy deficiencies in sports medicine, rehabilitation, strength and conditioning facilities, as well as locker rooms.”

The Intercollegiate Athletics Department, which is self-supporting and receives no tax dollars, will pay for the project completely with gifts, increased concession and premium seating revenue, and income generated from the Big Ten Network and other conference television monies. The complex will include additional meeting, office and study space, and also relocate football practice fields and parking areas.

The trustees also approved the use of the design/build process to purchase and install a new boiler in an addition being built at the Wilde Utility Plant. The authorization will allow Purdue to hire a single firm both to design and build the $55 million project, thus speeding the process and containing expenses, and Erick Van Meter, interim senior director of utilities and construction.

Funding will come from bonds approved in 2007. The contract should be awarded by January, and the three-year construction period is to begin in March 2009.

“This project is part of a $200 million plan to include the safety and comfort of our students and the campus,” Van Meter said. “We are committed to providing the very best facilities.”

The project, which is funded by Purdue’s capital campaign, will bring the campus into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will also include upgrades to the heating and cooling systems. The project is scheduled to begin in May and be complete by June 2009.