Equipment, construction funding for USL proposed

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State Editor

BATON ROUGE — A $9 million allocation for renovating and expanding E.G. Mouton Hall tops the funding list — size-wise — for USL in next year’s state construction plan.

The Board of Regents’ Facilities Committee approved a series of projects for USL and other state colleges and universities at its meeting Wednesday.

The requests are expected to be approved by the full board today and then forwarded to the Legislature for funding in the 1999-2000 capital outlay and appropriations bills.

All of the projects on the Board of Regents lists have been proposed by universities and reviewed by their management boards.

The E.G. Mouton Hall project calls for a major addition of classroom and office space and a “facelift” for the existing business administration building. Most of the money will be spent on the expansion. It ranks 12th among the 17 projects on the Board of Regents’ “continuing projects” list.

Replacement of $1.2 million worth of windows in Madison Hall, the engineering building, ranks 12th on the list of 16 emergency projects the board believes should be completed to avoid further structural or equipment damages.

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Project manager for the board

“The whole building is nothing but windows,” says Rich Griswold, project manager for the board. “It’s deteriorated and window sills are rotting out. Vibration from construction at Dupre Library next door loosened caulk and windows fell out.”

In the past several years, the state has spent $12 million renovating and expanding Dupre Library. Next year’s request is for $585,000 to purchase movable equipment — shelves, desks and chairs — for the library. It’s 7th among 14 equipment purchases.

USL proposes to use $277,200 in self-generated revenues to construct a cover over the Fletcher Hall courtyard.

The architecture building was constructed in 1976 with what was supposed to be an indoor atrium in the center of the building.

Griswold said the hole in the “rectangular donut” was never covered, even though the area has interior finishes, including wooden doors and railings that weren’t waterproofed, a terrazzo floor and wooden ceilings in rooms next to what were supposed to be interior walls. They’re all warped and water-damaged.

The university has been sued when a person slipped and fell on the water-slick floor. The project is 8th among 14 self-generated funds projects.

A new project for USL is the renovation of Burke-Hawthorne Hall, which houses offices and classrooms for communications, communicative disorders and theater.

The regents’ requested $658,124 for planning and design of the project next year and $7.24 million for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

Following that is a request for $350,000 in equipment when the project is finished.

LSU-Eunice also is in the plan for $1.35 million. The money will be used to improve drainage, to remove the main street that runs through the campus so the university can expand the Student Union and to improve parking.

The board is completing master plans for each campus. Next year, $950,000 is requested for University of Louisiana campuses, $250,000 of which is for South Louisiana Community College.