USL Construction Requests Approved

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BATON ROUGE — USL's requests for state funds for constructing some new buildings and renovating some old ones have gained approval of the Board of Regents.

Included in the list is the renovation of Hamilton Hall, the former lab school, which is to be used as classrooms and office space for agriculture and home economics departments.

It is estimated that renovation of the 44-year-old building will cost $3.66 million. The Regents approved $3.4 million of that, as requested by USL, and the rest will be requested when needed to complete the work next year.

Also approved was $7.15 million for construction of an industrial arts building to replace the World War II surplus buildings now being used.

Ranked 6th

The Hamilton renovation work was ranked 6th and the industrial arts building 9th in a list of 12 continuing projects. The statewide total for continuing projects is $33 million.

The Regents also approved 80

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new projects, which include a new maintenance building for USL at $334,000 and renovations of Agriculture Buildings B and C at Blackham Coliseum at $278,000.

The maintenance building was ranked 46th on the priority list and the agriculture buildings were ranked 76th.

Statewide, $51.8 million will be sought for new projects.

The Regents also will ask the Legislature to reauthorize bonds for constructing a new health and physical education complex and acquisition and development of a Local Area Network to link computers on the campus.

Request $3 Million

More than $3 million in bonds will be requested for the H&PE complex under Priority 2 (sale within the first six months of the year) and another $4 million under Priority 5 (for use next year.)

The Local Area Network funds are included in Priority 3 (for use within the first nine months.)

The statewide total for bond projects is $114.9 million for state colleges and universities.

Legislators also will be asked to approve more than $1.4 million for air conditioning and heating improvements at several USL dormitories. More than $993,000 was approved in 1983 and another $50,000 was approved last year but the funds were never delivered because of funding shortages.

In all, the Board of Regents is asking the state for $106 million in construction funding. Universities will raise another $22.7 million in self-generated funds to complement that.