Fine Arts task force proposes 30,000 sq. ft. theater facility

The Fine Arts Theater Task Force has drafted a study calling for a 30,000 square foot facility, according to Dean Richard Passon of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The proposal, developed by the 16-member task force, would be the “ideal” solution to the Department of Fine Arts’ present lack of adequate performing facilities, Passon said.

Lack of funding is the primary factor delaying construction of such a facility, Passon said.

CURRENTLY, sites are being considered around campus, such as the old gym. Although some sites would provide only a temporary solution, “they would be a definite improvement over the current facilities,” Passon said.

After selection of a site, whether for long or short range purposes, the proposal will be studied by Passon and the Rev. Donald MacLean, S.J., vice president for academic affairs.

Upon their approval, the proposal will be presented to the university vice presidents and the Campus Planning Board.

FINAL APPROVAL for the facility would come from the Board of Directors. Then bids for the structure would be sought.

Eight years ago, Passon said, Leo A. Daly Co. did a study for a proposed campus communication arts center which included a theater. The plan was never pursued because of lack of funds at the time, Passon said.

The current policy, Passon said, is to procure funds for facilities which can be funded, then remodel old facilities to suit the purpose of projects which are unable to obtain funding.

Health care funds are more available than general construction funds because of Federal priority and loan guarantees, Passon said.

FATHER MacLEAN, while citing the need for theater facilities, said informal discussions are underway but no formal study has been launched.

The current Creighton building program, he said, has made no appropriations for theater facilities, which means the theater facilities, are at least five years away.

Passon said final decision on the tentative, temporary use of a campus site is still “some months away.”