

# Campus bookstore plan finalized

BY DANA SUHAS

Staff writer

AUSTIN - A proposal to construct a new campus bookstore that will be built, financed and managed by Follett College Stores Corporation was unanimously approved Thursday by the UT System Board of Regents.

"We are very pleased that the Board of Regents has accepted the design for a new 30,000-square-foot bookstore," said university President Robert Witt.

## Witt pleased with UT System's decision

The \$5 million bi-level building will be located at the corner of Oak and Border Streets. Witt said convenience was key in choosing the site.

"We wanted a site that would be convenient to students and located as close as possible to all on campus," he said, "but that would still provide access to the community because it will be the type of facility that will attract business from off-campus,

which will benefit the university."

Dan Williams, senior vice president for finance and administration, said the contract guarantees \$200,000 a year in commissions for the campus, or 2.5 percent of the store's annual sales, whichever is greater. He said that percentage will increase on a sliding scale as the store's profits increase.

"For example, when total sales go over

\$10 million, it goes up," he said.

The accepted proposal allows Follett to lease the land for 15 years, with two optional additional 5-year terms.

Williams said the new bookstore should be ready for use by December.

Witt said he didn't know when the construction would be scheduled to begin.

The current bookstore will be converted to an academic unit and will be used by the School of Social Work.

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## Bookstore

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Williams said renovation of the current bookstore will be extensive, and that work is not likely to begin before Spring 2000.

"The dean's offices will be there, and the faculty offices will be there," he said. "And there will probably be some conference rooms and seminar rooms, things like that. That would be very good for the graduate program. But most of the teaching will occur in other (buildings') classrooms on campus. And there are plenty of them within walking distance on campus."

He said the current bookstore's renovation may take a year to complete and that an architect has not yet been chosen.

Williams said university officials worked closely with Follett to plan the new bookstore.

"It's going to be a beautiful building," he said. "Our campus master planning architect in San Antonio concurred that it would fit in very nicely with the campus."

"I think that the students, and the faculty and the staff will be very pleased with it, as well as the people of Arlington, because we really need a nice facility like that in central Arlington. I think that's going to attract a lot of people."