

Capital Budget gets nod from UT Board

Approval includes new residence facility

BY DANA SUHAS

Staff writer

AUSTIN — A proposal to amend the university's 1998-99 capital budget to include plans for a residence hall complex was approved Thursday at a UT System Board of Regents meeting.

"We were very pleased that the Regents recommended UTA's CIP (1998-1999 Capital Improvement Program) to include a new residence hall facility that will provide housing for approximately 600 students in a state-of-the art residence facility," university President Robert Witt said.

Three 200-bed units will be built

east of the University Center in parking lots 42 and F-12. The complex will include single and double occupancy rooms and a commons facility to contain computer labs, food services, study lounges, conference facilities, an exercise room and a general store.

The complex's projected cost is about \$20 million, and it will be funded through Revenue Financing System Bond proceeds. Because the project is being funded through the UT System, the university will save about \$5 million to \$6 million.

Administrators named five companies

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Thursday that have been selected from eight finalists to submit design proposals. The companies are Thomas S. Byrne, Centex Construction Group, Clark Contractors/Haldeman Powell and Partners, American Campus Communities and Turner Construction.

The contractor, which will be chosen in March, will also construct the complex.

"Preliminary review indicates that they (the companies) were all respon-

sive," Witt said.

Dan Williams, senior vice president for finance and administration, said a campus planning committee will advise administrators about the complex.

"We have a committee that is going to be reviewing the proposals that we get from the companies," he said.

He said that committee consists of about 20 students, staff and faculty.

Currently, the university's residence halls consist of 808 beds. Freshmen enrollment is in excess of 2,000 and officials said waiting lists for residence halls are made every semester.