

Alumni to 'Rescue' on Vital Project

NEW LIFE HAS BEEN BREATHED into the much-discussed multipurpose auditorium for the Columbia campus by action of the University Alumni Association. At the recent spring meeting of the national Board of Directors, the Association voted \$20,000 for site preparation and planning of the project, which has top priority on the University of Missouri building list.

Chancellor John W. Schwada, who had called for assistance in keeping the auditorium project alive, was notified of the alumni gift by Marvin McQueen, national president of the Alumni Association.

The appeal and response followed recent legislative developments. A sum of \$400,000 for site preparation and planning had been recommended to the legislature by the State Budget Office, but was cut from the final appropriation for University of Missouri capital improvements.

According to Chancellor Schwada, the \$20,000 provided by the Alumni Association will enable the University to undertake only a small portion of the preliminary work; however, it will cut one year off the completion of the auditorium when the General Assembly appropriates the required funds. The Chancellor said that requests for funds for the auditorium have been submit-

ted to the Missouri Legislature during each session since 1955.

In its action, the Alumni Board expressed wholehearted agreement with University officials that the auditorium is much needed, and that any further delays in the project should be avoided. As now envisioned, the multipurpose auditorium would provide an indoor facility with a seating capacity of from 15,000 to 20,000 persons. It would serve as a gathering place for educational, cultural, and athletic events. These could be staged on a state, regional, and even national scale.

No campus facility at this time can hold a majority of the rapidly growing student population on the Columbia campus, where the enrollment is around 17,000. Jesse Auditorium seats 1,900 persons. It has turned away overflow crowds on several occasions. When chairs are placed on the gymnasium floor, Brewer Field House can seat around 5,000 persons, somewhat uncomfortably.

A site for the multipurpose auditorium in the general area immediately to the southeast of Memorial Stadium was approved in December by the Board of Curators. □

South campus area in dotted circle has been selected as site for the University's multipurpose auditorium.

