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**PRESENTATIONS TO OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS  
FOCUS ON HUGE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE ISSUES**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** – Representatives from two Ohio universities shared with the members of the Ohio Board of Regents today the challenges that higher education officials face with an aging infrastructure and flat or declining state capital support.

Joseph Nolan, vice president for administration and executive assistant to the president at Cleveland State University, noted that of the 40 buildings on CSU's campus, 36 of them are between 25 and 76 years old. He singled out Rhodes Tower, a 32-year-old, 20-story building that houses the library, faculty offices and data center among other units, as typical of the older buildings on campus. Citing the \$20 million needed to waterproof and seal Rhodes Tower, the \$10 million needed to replace four outdated elevators and the \$40 million needed to fix the building's asbestos, Mr. Nolan said it would be "more expensive to renovate than build new."

Dr. Gary North, vice president for administration and finance at Ohio University, said that 40 percent of OU's 190 buildings are at least 30 years old and 13 of them are more than 100 years old. He said that even with \$27 million allocated for OU in the biennial capital budget and \$5 ½ million in basic renovation needs, OU still has roughly \$60 million in deferred maintenance costs to address. He called deferred maintenance "a ticking time bomb that's not unique to this state."

The regents are scheduled to make capital recommendations for the FY 2005-06 capital biennium in January 2004. Campus representatives were asked to make presentations to the board to help the members better understand the scope, complexity and consequences of campus deferred maintenance problems.

The OBR staff estimates that, collectively, Ohio's public higher education community is confronted with a deferred maintenance problem of about \$2 billion. This estimate only pertains to instructional and general facilities – which are primarily funded by the state – and does not include deferred maintenance costs for auxiliary facilities (such as dormitories and dining halls) – which are primarily funded by user fees.

More than 50 percent of higher education space used for instructional and related purposes was built more than 30 years ago, according to the OBR staff. This was long

before the advent of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology changed the way business is done in the state and around the world.

The presentations were made at the monthly meeting of the Ohio Board of Regents in Columbus. The board is the coordinating body for higher education in the state. Created in 1963 by the General Assembly, the 11-member public board has a direct, non-governing relationship with all of Ohio's colleges and universities.

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