

# Campus fieldhouse particulars released

By Doug Tuttle

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Preliminary plans for SUNYA's proposed \$12 million athletic fieldhouse were discussed Thursday, May 3 at an open forum held by the Athletic Policy and Planning Board (APPB).

The fieldhouse, to be built within two years, will include an arena and a 200 meter track. Also, a bubble covering 35,000 square feet will be completed this summer to serve until the present structure is ready.

The addition of the fieldhouse to the University's present athletic facilities will bolster SUNYA's intercollegiate athletics, physical education and recreational programs, said Vice President for University Affairs Lewis Welch, who chairs the APPB.

"The purpose of this facility is to serve the needs of this campus," Welch explained.

According to Assistant Vice President for Facilities Dennis Stevens, planning for the fieldhouse should be completed by the spring of 1986 and the actual construction should be completed by late 1987 or early 1988.

"Nothing in New York State comes quick and the fieldhouse will be no exception," said Stevens.

Stevens said that the facility will feature a large arena area capable of supporting a variety of sports including basketball, volleyball and gym-

nastics and a court area which will be surrounded by a 200-meter track.

Refusing to make a specific commitment about the exact location of the fieldhouse, Stevens would only say that it would be "near the gym."

Stevens did add, however, that while the new building will be close to the gym, no existing outdoor athletic fields will be removed to make room for the fieldhouse.

The arena, which will have eight raquetball courts and weightlifting facilities as well as lockerrooms, a training room, various athletic offices and space for concessions, could also be utilized for speakers or concerts also, Stevens said.

"We're not building a civic center to serve the needs of the Capital District, however," Stevens continued.

Chris Budd of University Concert Board and one of the few students at the forum attended by less than a dozen people, said "it would make it much easier for students to see a larger concert with a larger structure on campus."

"We'd have a better chance of getting more expensive acts," Budd explained.

SUNYA has requested funding for the fieldhouse, which will cost \$1 million dollars to plan and \$11 million dollars to build, every year since 1970, Welch said, but approved for the

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## Fieldhouse

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Planning didn't come from the Legislature and the Governor until this year.

"Our having gotten this in the budget this year represents a very plus to our University," Stevens added.

Stevens also discussed the \$500,000 multi-purpose air structure or "bubble" that will be built just east of the gym to serve as an interim facility until the fieldhouse is built.

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The 35,000-square foot bubble will be constructed this summer and may be ready for next winter.

The bubble will provide more gym space for basketball and tennis courts and may be maintained after the fieldhouse is built if it remains cost effective, Stevens said.

Welch called the forum a success despite the low turnout, saying, "It was helpful to get some sense of the questions people are asking about the fieldhouse." □