

SUNYA civic center plan delayed

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State University at Albany officials have received an extension for submitting their civic center report.

The Boston consulting firm preparing the university's report failed to present it Friday, so now it's expected sometime next week. A hearing by the county's bipartisan civic center review commission is scheduled on the SUNYA plan Thursday morning.

The detailed SUNYA proposal originally was scheduled to be presented to the commission this past Monday.

"The report is in its final stages now," said

Sheila Mahan, the Albany campus spokeswoman. "It's expected to be presented to the commission next week."

Commission Chairman Thomas J. Cairns, who was out of town Friday, said earlier in the week the SUNYA report would be kept confidential until the Thursday hearing.

The university proposal is one of three specific civic center plans under discussion; other less formal proposals have also been made. Besides SUNYA, the two being most seriously considered are a site in Latham adjacent to the Colonie Coliseum and in downtown Albany on the southeast side of the Empire State Plaza.

Developer-promoter Joseph N. Futia Sr. started the civic center debate in October when he proposed the Latham site to Albany County Executive James J. Coyne. But rival proposals have since been advanced, and Futia recently said that after March 1 he would take his plan to Rensselaer County, which has also expressed interest in hosting a civic center.

Friday, Rensselaer County Executive William Murphy and Legislature Majority Leader Thomas Cholakis said they had asked Gov. Mario Cuomo to appoint a special commission to study civic center proposals both in Albany and Rensselaer counties.

Continued on Page 5-A

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1984