$14.1M for UIS facility OK'd

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

As expected, the University of Illinois Board of Trustees on Thursday approved the expenditure of $14.1 million for construction of a recreation and fitness facility at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

UIS officials announced details of the 60,000-square-foot center Wednesday.

The Hoogland Family Foundation, started by Family Video owners Charles and Kathleen Hoogland, donated $1 million to the project. The other $13.1 million will be paid through student fees.

The center will be built next to Kiwanis Stadium on the campus' south side. Completion is expected in summer 2007.

Meeting in Chicago, the trustees also approved a $15 million, 120-room hotel and 245-seat restaurant to be built at the Urbana-Champaign campus' research park just south of the Assembly Hall in Champaign. The land will be leased to a Champaign developer who will build the complex and hire a company to run it.

The project, along with a proposed 37,000-square-foot conference center, will enhance the research park and improve accommodations around the campus, said UIUC Chancellor Richard Herman.

"I think it's kicking things up a notch," he said.

Construction of the hotel and restaurant could begin as soon as September, but trustees won't consider the plan to build the $9 million conference center until further design and financing issues are resolved, Herman said. The Cham-

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