New Academy gears up to promote teaching

By David Sonderman

The Academy of Teaching has letterhead on order, but that's the only administrative function it has performed. And according to Doug Wolfe, that's the way academy organizers hope it stays.

"We are teachers — we like to teach," says Wolfe, professor of finance, who is one of seven academy executive committee members. "We do not want to spend our time in administrative details."

The Academy of Teaching is a new body made up of recipients of the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching. Wolfe was honored two times, in 1974 and 1989.

The academy's purpose is to give teaching its proper image on and off campus and to provide a way of marshaling the expertise of people who are recognized as good teachers.

All active recipients of the teaching award will be notified of the academy's formation and invited to join — if all accept, its membership could number 100.

Wolfe explains that while the specifics of what the group will do are still being worked out, the academy's mission probably will include:

• Acting as a resource for the Office of Academic Affairs and for colleges and departments that ask for input on tenure and promotion.
• Preparing graduate students for the teaching profession.
• Mentoring younger faculty.
• Acting as a resource for President Gee on issues related to teaching.
• Speaking out across the state to raise awareness of the teaching mission and the quality of teaching at the University.
• Seeking out external funding to support teaching related activities.

Wolfe says that the body will serve as a resource on campus only when asked. "We do not want to be intrusive."

He says the timing of the academy's formation is not a result of the statewide emphasis being placed on teaching after a round of serious budget cuts. "The timing is good, in that respect, but it was not the impetus."

We are teachers — we like to teach. We do not want to spend our time in administrative details

Doug Wolfe

The academy's formation began last spring after Gee requested that the Office of Academic Affairs see if there was interest in such a group among the faculty. A similar group was active at the University of Colorado when Gee was president there.

Wolfe says that after finding out how many eligible faculty wish to be included, six executive committee members will be elected for staggered terms. There will be three ex-officio members of the committee — one each from the provost's office, the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Alumni Association. An induction ceremony will be held during winter quarter commencement.

The academy will not take over the responsibilities of the Center for Teaching Excellence, which suffered a severe budget cut last summer. But Wolfe says the academy may be willing to work with the center on projects such as its annual orientations for new faculty and graduate students.

Another important function will be to help decide each year's recipients of the Award for Distinguished Teaching. In the past, a panel of past recipients and Alumni Association officials chose the awardees based on nominations and student evaluations. Wolfe says because the academy itself is made up of past winners, a small sub-committee will work with the provost's office and alumni officials to make future award decisions.
Trustees tap 3 as overseers

By DONALD MADER

Three members of the University community have been appointed to terms on the Board of Overseers of the Academy for Contemporary Problems, recently approved by the Board of Trustees.

The appointments of James A. Robinson, provost and vice president for academic affairs; Charles A. Csuri, professor of art; and John P. Hirth, professor of metallurgical engineering, will try to alleviate some of society’s problems.

Robert G. Smith, vice president for University development, said the academy is a “completely unique institution” in that it is a combination of a public institution and a private institution and may be the first in the country.

Smith said the goal of the academy will be the application of present technology in the solution of contemporary social problems such as urban decay and pollution.

Not only will the academy deal with existing problems, Smith said, but it will be “anticipatory in nature, trying to determine what problems will crop up ten years from now and deal with them before they get too serious.”

Hopefully both government and industry will participate in the work of the academy so the academy will not develop any vested interests, Smith said.

Smith said the academy will function independently of both Battelle and the University but this does not rule out the participation of individuals from both institutions.

The first duty of the six-member Board of Overseers will be the selection of an executive director, hopefully to be completed sometime in the fall.

Initial funding for the academy will total $1 million, with Battelle and the University sharing the cost evenly.

Smith said the University is currently in the process of seeking donations for this purpose.

Plans call for the construction of a $2 million facility at a site somewhere between Ohio State and Battelle to be the administrative and research center for the academy. Battelle would provide funds for construction of the center.

Groundbreaking for the facility will take place this winter if all goes according to plan, Smith said.
Joint complex planned to study public problems

By DAN CRAIG, Special Writer

Plans for a new $2 million complex to house the Academy for Contemporary Problems, a joint institute recently formed by Ohio State and Battelle Memorial Institute (BMI), were released Thursday.

The Academy, whose formation was initially announced on April 16, will be a focal point of an effort to encourage advanced study and education in strategies for solving important public problems.

Off-campus location

The complex, consisting of two three-story buildings, will be located on the corner of Ninth and W. Eighth Avenues. Plans were selected by a Jury of Awards approved by the American Institute of Architects from one hundred designs submitted by six selected architectural firms.

The two structures designed by Norkom Bain, Brady and Johansen, a Seattle-based firm, will include space for research and administrative activities, meeting rooms and public areas for conferences. They will also provide offices and studies for visiting scholars and leaders.

Living accommodations for visitors will be available in one of the buildings.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for early 1972, with completion expected late in the year.

Social emphasis

According to Roger L. Merrill, director of the BMI Columbus Laboratories and one of the six Academy overseers, the Academy's emphasis "will be more directed towards models of solving social change and experimentation with social problem-solving processes," rather than particular problems.

Other overseers of the Academy are Charles A. Gurri, professor of art; James A. Robinson, provost and vice president of academic affairs; John P. Hirth, professor of metallurgical engineering; Thomas H. Langevin, president of Capital University, and Ronald S. Paul, director of BMI Pacific Northwest Laboratories.

According to Merrill, the overseers will appoint a director for the Academy "as soon as we find one." Battelle will provide office space for the Academy until the new buildings are ready.

"We won't be focusing on the front page issues of today but on problems that are 15 or 20 years in the future," he said. The new director will be primarily responsible for whatever direction the Academy takes.

The Academy will be jointly supported by Ohio State and BMI for a minimum of $1 million annually.
Academy set up to help resolve social problems

In an attempt to use the resources of the academic community to solve contemporary social problems, Ohio State and Battelle Memorial Institute joined forces to set up the Academy for Contemporary Problems.

The academy, which should be in full operation by mid-1973, will be the first of its kind in the Midwest.

Its threefold purpose is to promote advanced study on contemporary problems, to provide a communication link between the community and members of the academy on these problems, and to apply the knowledge and findings of the academy to solving public problems.

The idea for the academy originated two years ago in the University’s Council on Research, according to Alfred Garrett, former chairman of the council.

“We felt Ohio deserved a center for advanced study,” he said.

A study was made at Ohio State and then plans for the academy were discussed with Sherwood Fawcett, president of Battelle. The plans were approved at both institutes.

The academy, is scheduled to be in full operation by mid-1973 and will be housed near Neil and West Eighth Avenue. Two three-story buildings will be constructed, furnished and maintained by Battelle, at a cost of $2 million.

One building will contain areas for research, administrative offices, meeting rooms and public areas for conferences. The other building will provide living accommodations for visitors to the academy.

According to Robert G. Smith, vice-president for University Development, the academy will undergo a ten year testing period.

No ‘think tank’

“This is not a think tank or haven for intellectuals,” Smith said. “The academy will be very selective in terms of problems. It will work on problems where the academy can make a difference. It will attract the best people you can attract.”

The academy, which will be independent of both Ohio State and Battelle, will be run by a board of seven overseers. They are: Ralph R. Widner, newly appointed director of the academy; Charles A. Csuri, professor of art; John P. Hirth, professor of metallurgical engineering; Albert Kuhn, acting vice president for academic affairs and provost; Thomas H. Langevin, president of Capital University; Roger L. Merrill, director of Battelle, Columbus Division, and Ronald S. Paul, director of Battelle, Pacific Northwest Laboratories.

Widner’s appointment was approved by Board of Trustees Oct. 1. Battelle’s board of trustees also approved the appointment.

Exciting guy found

Prior to his assignment as director of the academy, Widner was chief administrator of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington, D.C. There he was responsible for a $2 billion regional improvement program involving transportation, health, education, environmental reclamation, housing, community development, child and youth development and government modernization.

Before serving as administrator of the commission, Widner was chief legislative assistant to Senator Joseph S. Clark, D-Penn.

The overseers of the academy conducted the search for the new director. “They were looking for the exciting guy in the country,” said Smith. “Ralph R. Widner was their choice.”
Battelle to develop
$2 million academy

By Charles Durfee
2-27-72

Battelle Memorial Institute expects to begin construction of the Academy for Contemporary Problems before May 1.

Robert R. Adams, an urban planner in charge of the project, said bids for the academy will be taken early in March and construction will begin sometime in April.

The academy will provide a place for advanced study and development of concrete strategies and plans for solving urban and rural "people problems," Adams said.

It will not be an "ivory tower" or "think tank" or a place for "eggheads."

Battelle is building the academy at an estimated cost of $2 million. The project is expected to take about a year to complete and will be in operation before the summer of 1973.

The Academy for Contemporary Problems will include a research building, housing facility and parking lot to be constructed on at least 14 Battelle-owned lots southwest of Neil and West Eighth Avenues.

Eight multi-family houses presently stand on the project site. Arrangements have been made with all occupants to vacate before April 1, Adams said. The other six lots have been cleared of houses and are now vacant.

Facilities planned for the three-story, two-gable research building will include:

- A small reading room which will be supplemented by volumes from Ohio State and Battelle libraries;
- Office space for four staff members and four consultants;
- Five conference and eating rooms with a total capacity for 115 persons;
- An audio-visual center;
- Twenty-five offices for full-time fellows and research associates.

The academy's housing facility will be a two-story building with 15 rooms, a kitchen, lounge and recreational area.

The research complex will be located on five lots from 1487 to 1501 Neil Ave. The property is bordered by West Eighth Avenue on the north, Neil Avenue on the east, Xi Psi Phi fraternity house on the south, and an alley on the west.

Located on five lots across the alley from the research building will be the Academy's residence building. The lots are between 1454 and 1478 Pennsylvania Ave. and are bordered by a house at 1492 Pennsylvania Avenue on the north, the alley on the east, another alley on the south and Pennsylvania Avenue on the west.

Adams said Battelle plans to landscape between the research and residence buildings by constructing walkways with subterranean heating and terraces.

In addition, Battelle has entered into negotiations with the City of Columbus to repave the alley and with Ohio Bell and Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Co. to place overhead wires underground, Adams said.

If negotiations are successful, Battelle will bear the full cost of the improvements.

Explaining why Battelle is willing to undertake the extra expense, Adams said, "It is in everyone's interest to preserve the area, and we want to do our part."

Architects for the project are Naromere, Bain, Brady and Johanson of Seattle, who won a Battelle-sponsored design contest last summer.

A major pre-development hurdle for the academy for Contemporary Problems was overcome last week when the Columbus Board of Zoning Adjustment unanimously granted Battelle 10 zoning variances.

Eight of the variances will permit Battelle to locate the research and residence buildings about the same distances from local streets and alleys as neighboring houses. Usually institutions are required to provide larger yards than residential dwellings.

The other two variances will allow the academy to reduce its parking from 78 to 65 for the research building and from 60 to 30 for the residence facilities. Without the variances at least one parking space would be required.

Parking for the academy will be located south of residence facility and on four lots across the street between 1457 and 1473 Pennsylvania Ave. If additional land is needed for the 95 parking spaces, the lot at 1477 Pennsylvania Ave. will also be used.

Battelle has a request before Columbus City Council to rezone the academy's research building from residential to institutional and to zone the parking lots. Adams expected that the requests will be considered sometime in February.

Jean Hansford, campus planner for the University, said the academy will be a "high-quality facility consistent with the Ohio State master plan."

In a letter to the Development Commission Hansford wrote that the site development "goes far beyond those traditionally seen in institutional developments."

Once construction of the academy is completed, Battelle and Ohio State will divide the cost of the annual operational budget, estimated at $1 million. The agreement between the institutions runs 10 years.

Ohio State's share of the academy's budget will not come from tax money but from gifts, grants and endowments. Battelle's share of the operational cost and the building funds will come from the corporation's profits.

The academy will be an independent organization governed by a seven-man Board of Overseers.

Ohio State's members of the board are Albert Kuhn, acting vice president for academic affairs; Charles A. Csuri, professor of art, and John P. Hirth, professor of metallurgy.

Public members are Roger L. Marvili, director of Battelle in Columbus; Thomas H. Langevin, president of Capital University, and Ronald S. Paul, director of Battelle in Seattle.

The Board of Overseers named Ralph R. Widner as the director of the academy and seventh member of the board last October. Widner served as the Chief Administrator of the Appalachian Regional Commission in Washington, D.C.

Although the building will not be operational until the spring or summer of 1973, Charles A. Csuri said the board hopes to begin part of the academy's examination of problems sometime this fall.
Academy forms plans to research social ills

Ralph R. Widner, Director of the Academy for Contemporary Problems, told 60 persons at the annual initiation banquet of Phi Chi, the pharmacy honorary, Wednesday night about his institution's creation, development and its hopes to help solve basic social problems.

Widner, a renowned environmental planning and research expert from Washington, D.C., said "The Academy is designed to provide methods, techniques and approaches to these problems but it will offer no specific solutions."

These problems include present and future growth policies on the city, state and national levels.

Widner, executive director of the Federal Appalachian Commission, a $2 billion regional improvement program covering 13 states, was also a news assistant for The New York Times. He is active in the United Nations Association and the Legal Defense Fund for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Socially concerned

The Academy for Contemporary Problems was conceived a year and a half ago as a place for socially concerned people to bring their problems. Battelle Memorial Institute and Ohio State University each pledged $5 million and ten years' support of the Academy, to be located at Eighth and Neil Avenues.

"Construction is scheduled to begin in April and be completed within a year," according to Widner.

"There is no other similar institution that plans for as much citizen participation, as problem-focused and can combine such resources as those of Ohio State and Battelle," he said.

Re-define work

"The United States is going through a profound social transformation — we're moving into a culture where most people will provide services and advanced technology will force us to re-define work," Widner said.

"Specialists trained to see the world one way cannot cope successfully in the (contemporary) social arena," he noted.

The specialist who wishes to expand his "sight" of the world beyond his own frame of reference must be provided with the opportunities, Widner noted.

"Before any basic social problems can be considered, the Academy feels it must help its own people overcome two very basic contemporary problems: fragmentation and communication."

"Fragmentation involves the fragmenting of manpower into specialized occupations with specialized dialogue and their own way of seeing the world," he said.

Widner stressed the idea that the next decade or so will be "highly creative" and "will begin with experiments like this (the Academy)."
Construction of academy under way

By Renee Kaputkin

Ground breaking ceremonies were held Thursday for the Academy for Contemporary Problems, an institution designed to mobilize minds and talents from all walks of national life to search for better answers to pressing social and environmental questions.

The institution was jointly established in 1971 by Battelle Memorial Institute and Ohio State. Sherwood Pawsell, president of Battelle, President Dewey and Mayor Moody joined Ralph Widner, the academy director, in the ceremony.

Two buildings will house the new $2 million academy.

Anticipated completion of the buildings is the summer of 1973, Widner said.

The two buildings will be located at Eighth and Neil Avenues between the Ohio State campus and Battelle's Columbus laboratories.

The two structures, designed by William Bain Jr., of Seattle, will cover about 45,000 square feet. One building of three stories will include space for research and administrative activities, meeting rooms, public areas, offices and studies for visiting scholars and leaders in public life.

The other building, a two-story structure, will provide living accommodations for a limited number of visitors. There will be a landscaped courtyard between the two buildings.

Widner, appointed in December 1971 after almost seven years as executive director of the Appalachian Regional Commission, said, "The academy will begin its operations during June and expects to be operating at half of its ultimate capacity by December 1972. By the time the buildings are completed we should be functioning at full capacity."

"We will invite 13 leaders from all walks of regional and national life to serve for fixed terms as members of the academy. They will advise the present Board of Overseers and director of the academy on issues the academy addresses," Widner said.

"The staff of the academy will consist of approximately 30 Fellows who will be selected without regard for academic qualifications to work on issues identified for academy attention. And finally, there will be a network of citizens throughout the state, nation and world, who will work with the academy," he added.

The Academy for Contemporary Problems has been created by Ohio State in cooperation with Battelle.

2 appointed to academy

The Academy for Contemporary Problems, recently established by Ohio State and Battelle Memorial Institute, announced Wednesday the appointment of two administrative staff members.

Herb Cook Jr., former Columbus newsman, was named coordinator of Public Services and Communications. William A. Harrison Jr., a political science instructor at Ohio State since 1958, was named a staff fellow. He will assist for a year in organizing the academy.

Cook's duties will include coordination of requests for assistance from states and localities, editorial supervision of academy reports and distribution to the public of information about academy activities.

Harrison will serve as an administrative and research aide to academy Director Ralph R. Widner.

Cook, a Yale University graduate, was a reporter for the Columbus Dispatch until 1971. He received a masters degree in journalism from the University of Pennsylvania.

Harrison received undergraduate degrees from the University of Texas and an M.A. from the University of California (Berkeley), where he is a candidate for a Ph.D. in political science.

The role of the academy will be to develop effective approaches to the problems of Western society and help communities with urgent problems, Widner said.
Battelle and University unite for answers to society's ills

By Sharon Spolter

Criminal justice, education, urban affairs and pollution are just a few of the issues to be dealt with by the Academy of Contemporary Problems, according to Ralph Widner, director of the academy.

The programs are currently in the planning stages and, Widner said, research will not be in full swing until the middle of next year.

The academy, a joint development of the University and Battelle Memorial Institute, is not academic in the traditional sense. Widner said that the University will bring experts and people concerned about a problem together, while Battelle provides the computers and resources.

Research teams

Experts from all fields of experience and from many parts of the world will be conducting much of the research, but a college degree is not essential to be a member of the research team.

A welfare recipient with only an elementary school education could impart valuable information from practical experience and could be an asset, providing he or she can speak intelligently, Widner said.

Fundamental reasons as to why a particular event is happening and what effect it plays in the community are a major part of the program, but the research teams will also devise solutions to socio-economic problems that will be tested in Columbus.

Results to be put to use

Widner said too many research teams have written ways to improve a situation but never see their work in action. The academy will put their research to work and revise any problems that arise.

Problems are expected. The academy will be working openly on controversial issues and some members of the community might disagree with the proposed reforms.

Other problems could evolve from mixing human values and modes with science, according to Widner.

Diversified views

The academy is not setting out to be an ideological center, or with any special ideology, but will be attacking problems with an open mind, and will accept ideas from interested people, Widner said.

The Columbus location was chosen because of its diversified types of inhabitants coming from large cities, Appalachia and the Midwest. It provides a wide range of social, environmental and industrial problems already present in large cities throughout the world, according to Widner.

Since the downtown Columbus area has not splintered into urban areas, the population is still under one million and industry is coming in, the academy felt research and testing could be conducted successfully while possibly keeping the city from deteriorating.

Columbus will gain

Widner said this way both the city and the academy will profit from the research being done here.

"In a sense, the neighborhood of which we now become a part provides a symbolic starting point for the academy," Widner said.

At one end of Neil Avenue there is central Columbus and the Scioto River and at the other end there is the Ohio State Penitentiary. Associated with them are some of the urban and environmental problems with which communities throughout America are concerned, he said.

Neighborhood concerns

"Many of our neighbors are home-owning families worried about the future of their homes and neighborhood, rising taxes, and needed public services. Those are deep concerns shared by urban residents throughout the country," he said.

Widner said, "Many families in the area are from Appalachia. These people show the problems of rural America in providing adequate employment and living standards for the millions who would prefer life in a smaller community."

He also said the expansion pattern shown by Columbus could be used to help solve problems in other cities. The pattern would help explain how a city becomes decentralized and congested as it expands.

Research aids all

Results can be reapplied to other problem areas, and help find out the dynamics of modern cities, he said.

The academy is presently located in the Battelle building on King Avenue while construction is being started on the two new buildings at the corner of Neil and Eighth.Announced that $2 million project is expected to be completed by the middle of July, 1973, and the academy will move in by the beginning of August.

New building

The complex, designed by a Seattle firm in 1971 competition, was picked because it blended with the character of the neighborhood.

Widner said, "It is the best piece of architecture in Columbus."

The main building will consist of offices, research areas, meeting rooms and a library, all centering around a large open courtyard.

Resident hall

The second building will have 14 apartments for the fellows, members and associates of the academy that will be in Columbus for short periods of time.
Academy screens candidates in search for 13 members

November 10, 1972

By Charles A. Nixon

The Academy for Contemporary Problems is looking for 13 candidates to appoint as members of the Academy.

Herb Cook Jr., coordinator of public services and communications for the academy, said the academy wants men and women "who have demonstrated the ability to show constructive insight into some social problem."

The members will be appointed by the seven-member Board of Overseers. Cook said three or four members will probably be from Ohio.

The academy was initiated in 1971 by Ohio State and the Battelle Memorial Institute. Its purpose is "to help explore and develop improved strategies and institutional arrangements for resolving contemporary problems and anticipating future human needs," Cook said.

Cook said the academy wants to represent "as wide a range of backgrounds as possible: Black, white, old, young, radical or conservative."

He stressed the importance of finding people who will be able to work together. "It would be very easy to create a group which will cripple itself," he said.

The members and the Board of Overseers will be the administrative staff of the Academy. They will advise the academy's director on selection and evaluation of programs and on appointment of Fellows.

The academy now has three full-time Fellows. They were chosen by the Overseers and are researching the academy's involvement in certain areas. Ultimately, there will be 20 to 30 Fellows.

The Fellows will do the actual research on programs selected by the members and overseers when the academy begins full operations in 1973.

They will be assisted by the Associates of the academy, who work part-time. They can be called on to work on a special project from one day to 90 days, according to Cook.

The first six members of the Board of Overseers were chosen by the University and Battelle. These six then chose the director of the academy, Ralph R. Widner, who became the seventh member of the board.

Two buildings which will house the academy are currently under construction at the corner of Eighth and Neil Avenues. Battelle is financing the buildings, which will cost about $2 million.

At present, the academy is still in what Cook calls a proposal writing stage.

But Cook hopes the academy will be at half strength by next spring and in full operation by September, in time for the completion of the new building.

"The first substantial output on academy programs will begin next spring."

The article ends here.

---

Note: The text above is a natural representation of the document, excluding any images or non-textual content.
Modern problems examined

Academy launches studies

1-15-73
By Lynn Yoheimer

The Academy for Contemporary Problems will launch its first year of full operation Tuesday and Wednesday at the initial meeting of its newly appointed members, including four persons from central Ohio.

The members will comprise the principal advisory board which will help to direct the work of the academy dedicated to uniting talents from all walks of life in a search for more effective approaches to critical public concerns.

Board meets

The 20 members, including an academy director and six overseers appointed earlier by Battelle Memorial Institute and Ohio State, will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Drake Union Gray Suite.

The members will consider possible academy work on metropolitan problems, crime, justice, worker alienation and occupational education, according to Herb Cook Jr., Battelle coordinator of public services and communications.

"With any luck these individuals will give us a hard time," Cook said. "Usually an organization doesn't want that, but we are different—we want people to tell us when we're all messed up so we can get something done about it."

New members

The four newly appointed members from central Ohio are: John C. Elam, partner in Columbus' largest law firm, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease and president of the Upper Arlington Board of Education, Charles G. Hammond, public affairs director for Columbus and Southern Ohio Electric Co.; Charles Y. Lazarus, chairman of the P & R Lazarus & Co. and vice president of Federated Department Stores, Inc.; and Dorothy Reynolds, president of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus.

Established jointly by Battelle and Ohio State in 1971, the academy is intended to be a "new kind of institution in which citizens and experts can work together to solve important social and environmental problems," Cook said.

Its headquarters will be in the $2 million building presently under construction at Neil and Eighth avenues and scheduled to be completed by October 1973. The location was chosen because of its diversified types of individuals in that area, Cook said.

"If we can't learn to live with our neighbors there, we won't be able to live with other neighbors anywhere," he explained.

The building, designed by a Seattle firm, is intended to "blend with the residential architecture," Cook said.

The academy is financed by Battelle and Ohio State, each providing $500,000 annually for the next 10 years. The University's share comes from nonappropriated funds.

Battelle and Ohio State were chosen to join forces because "by concerted, long term cooperation the public welfare can be served in special ways either one would find difficult, if not impossible, to achieve alone," according to Ronald S. Paul and Richard C. Snyder, co-drafters of the "academy concept" memorandum in October 1970.

The collaborative venture is designed to "ultimately create a Battelle-Ohio State University problem solving complex for the benefit of mankind," according to Paul and Snyder.

Other newly appointed members are: Marie Cirillo, a former nun now working in a community self development project in Appalachian Tennessee; Charles R. Halpern, attorney and cofounder of the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington D.C.; M. Carl Holman, president of the National Urban Coalition; Harold D. Lasswell, noted professor and theoretician in political science, law and communications; John C. Little, community organizer from Seattle; Claire Nader, associate director of the National Science Foundation Environmental Program at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Harold R. Sims, vice president for corporate affairs of Johnson & Johnson, Inc.; Ralph G.H. Siv, scientist, philosopher and consultant on planning, management and strategy; and Gus Tyler, assistant president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union.

Academy overseers

The members are appointed to three year terms by the academy's Board of Overseers, who also serve as ex officio members. Present overseers are: Charles Csuri, Ohio State professor of art; John P. Hirth, Ohio State professor of metallurgical engineering; Albert J. Kuhn, vice president for academic affairs; Thomas H. Langevin, president of Capital University; Roger L. Merrill, Battelle corporate director for National Security, Aerospace and Transportation Research; and Ronald S. Paul, Battelle vice president for operations.

Csuri, Hirth and Kuhn were appointed by former Ohio State President Novice G. Fawcett and reappointed last autumn by President Harold L. Enarson. Langevin, Merrill and Paul were appointed by Battelle President Sherwood L. Fawcett.

Ralph R. Widner, executive director of the Journal of Systems Engineering, is the academy director and serves as the seventh member.
New academy pursues contemporary problems
1-15-'73
By Lynn Yoxtheimer

The Academy for Contemporary Problems will be "sort of a firehouse, listening and responding to cries for help," according to Director Ralph R. Widner.

"We'll bring people with problems together with the problem solvers," Widner explained, to the academy's 20 members at their initial meeting Tuesday in the Drake Union.

Established in 1971

The academy, established jointly by Battelle Memorial Institute and Ohio State in 1971, is a new kind of institution dedicated to uniting talents from all walks of life in a search for more effective approaches to critical public concerns.

Members discuss plans

The seven members of the Board of Overseers and the 13 newly appointed academy members, including four persons from central Ohio, met to discuss their respective roles and the proposed programs for their first full year of operation.

Widner explained the academy was created because of the "inability to move knowledge from those who have it to those who need it."

"We want to create a new kind of coupling agent — not a basic researcher, but a synthesizer and an integrator," he said.

Academy listens to public

"We listen to the community, bring signals into the academy, and translate them to be sent to those who can use them," Widner said.

Overseer Albert Kuhn, vice president for academic affairs, described the members of the coupling agent as "most useful to the academy if they have complete freedom to be individually involved in the academy's activities."

"Members are important in keeping the Board of Overseers from being parochial," he said.

Widner noted that members "should not hesitate to 'pull punches' and the director should be subject to cross-examination."

"Keep the windows open for fresh air," he advised. "Be hospitably inclined toward criticism, especially self-criticism."

The 13 members were appointed to three-year terms last year by the presidents of Battelle and Ohio State. The overseers who act as ex-officio members, will serve two-year terms.

The three proposed programs which the members discussed during Tuesday's meeting included: "Problems of Metropolitanization," "Problems of Crime and Justice," and "The Future of Work and Related Education Issues."

Widner described the proposed programs as "substantial, but not really 'biting off more than we can chew'."

Program jointly financed

The academy operates on a $1 million a year budget financed by Battelle and Ohio State. Both institutions have agreed to fund $500,000 annually for the next 10 years.

Should the academy need more funds they can raise them, according to Widner.

"The present budget won't finance the level and caliber of programs we're talking about," Widner said.

"However, we can't feasibly handle a budget above $2 million annually," he said.

Included in the $1 million budget are the salaries of the professional staff of "fellows," who will be appointed to work on an issue for a specific period of time.

Building under construction

Eventually, 25 fellows will be appointed to work in the academy's $2 million building presently under construction at Neil and Eighth Avenues. To date only two fellows have been appointed, but 13 will be chosen this year, according to Widner.

Widner said he sees the selection of the fellows as the academy's biggest hurdle, because the appointees will make or break it.

"The academy is going to be an uncomfortable place to work," he said. "You'll be constantly subject to criticism and harassment."

Widner emphasized the fellows will not be chosen on the basis of academic credentials. The board will, however, shortly release a list of qualifications they are seeking in the fellows.

Responsibilities shared

Widner said he hopes 50 percent of the appointments will be from the Battelle and University communities and 50 percent from outside areas.

The basic constraint on academy members, according to Widner, is the fact that it will not be permissible for them to "engage in political advocacy."

"We can, however, make recommendations, volunteer evidence to the public and provide information for political decisions," he said.
Center to Help Solve Issues

By MARY McGAREY
Of The Dispatch Staff

The Academy for Contemporary Problems, a unique kind of organization with an unrevealing sort of name, has settled comfortably into its new $2.2 million home at 1501 Neil Ave.

By the architect's design, the sharply-angled reddish-brown walls of the two academy buildings blend compatibly with the massive old homes which surround them.

Rather symbolically, the lofty, three-story glass wall of the main lobby looks out over the shabby gentility of its own neighborhood, buildings of its two sponsors—Ohio State University and Battelle Memorial Institute—and the expanding horizon of Columbus.

HELPING COLUMBUS and other communities meet and anticipate problems of change and growth is just one of the academy's reasons for being.

Inside the sleekly contemporary structure, the day after an opening celebration, some typical things were going on.

In a small conference room equipped with sophisticated audio-visual facilities, a staff team put together a slide presentation on the changing face of High St. from the southern limits of the city north through Worthington.

Strange characters performing in another room—a lonely housewife with romantic inclinations, a man with a grudge against doorbell ringers—were role players putting staff personnel through intensive training for an opinion sampling of Columbus residents.

AROUND A BIG table stacked with papers and empty coffee cups, a coast-to-coast assembly of ex-offenders added their informed input to a study of the country's corrections systems.

Ralph R. Widner, director of the academy, explained that the academy—"an experiment in itself," represents the only such collaboration between a major university and major research institution.

"It takes awhile to give shape to a bank of fog," he said, attempting a broad sketch of the academy's directions after one organizational year and one of full operation.

He described its "firehouse" role—to help the community and community groups define and solve problems.

THE "BENCHMARK" program "to pull together all the scattered information and intelligence a community has about itself," is a new approach with national application, he said.

Distinctive features are a quarterly social report, based on residents' assessments of objectives and progress, and the Columbus Community Conference of representative citizens to assess and guide the program.

As a "design center for community communications," Widner said, the academy will focus on the "critical role of the media" in community problem solving.

"Farther out," he said, is a plan to develop techniques lay people can use to spot approaching problems and "farthest out," a way to give community options, in line with their own objectives, for meeting future problems.

PART OF all the academy programs, as well as the relatively small resident staff, are each fellow's contacts with his own field, the far-flung informational networks of OSU and Battelle, experts who will occupy 15 snug apartments in the nearly completed residential building for short stays, and the scores of citizens who will come in for group workshops and conferences.

Meeting rooms, the spacious lobby, and comfortable conversation corners around it will accommodate groups from 10 to 100 or more, and the courtyard between the buildings will be given a "sidewalk cafe" treatment for all fresco gatherings.

"It's the only thing of its kind," said Widner, "and I think we have a center of national excitement."
individuals have used the facilities since February, 1974, and more than 600 groups.

DESIGNED to blend with the old, brick homes in its neighborhood, the academy was built by Battelle at a cost of $2.2 million and completed in January, 1974. The original agreement called for both Battelle and OSU to contribute $500,000 each year for 10 years to operate the academy.

Battelle, however, upped its contribution to $1 million a year when inflation escalated. OSU has managed its contributions without using any state funds—drawing instead on development funds from private gifts and endowment income.

But a court settlement recently agreed to by Battelle will change the complexion of financing for the academy.

UNDER the settlement, made to fulfill the terms of the Gordon Battelle will, BMI has agreed to divest itself of the academy transferring it to an eligible charity.

OSU has been offered the facility, but has not yet agreed to the proposal. No matter what the outcome of the negotiations now going on with Ohio State, the structure of the academy will have to be altered.

"WE WILL be going through a change in character as a result of the Battelle settlement," Widner said. "Up until now we were not allowed to accept any money except the endowment."

Because it has not had to depend on contract research for funds, the academy has enjoyed a freedom unknown to other "think tanks."

But now, "in some instances," Widner said, "when a group asks for help and can afford it, we may ask them to cover our costs. Locally, we would continue in public service."

BESIDES the uncertainty regarding funding, there are other internal problems at the academy.

"A major failing I feel has been finding the best way to internally manage such an organization," Widner said.

To date, more concentration has been given to producing initial products and building a constituency than to internal management and development.

ANOTHER problem has been over-commitment by Widner and some of the academy fellows. "We have to learn to deal with over-commitment without saying no to anybody," he said.

An evaluation of the 1974 operation, according to criteria set by its board, shows "the greatest weakness is insufficient coherence, inter-action and integration of internal operations."

The evaluation said these defects "grow out of an inability to fully utilize the talents of all members, primarily because of budgetary problems."

Other internal problems cited were:

- Uncertainties and frictions resulting from the inevitable frustrations associated with any new institution for which ground rules do not exist.
- Legal and financial problems of the two parent organizations, and
- Unclear direction fellows regarding fiscal management.

Widner said he intends to make 1975 a year for perfecting the operation internally.

When he joined the organization, Widner said, he gave it a 50-50 chance of succeeding in its goals, "but now I'd say chances are about 80-20 if we have another couple of years to pull it off," he said. "On the whole, I'm very optimistic."

On the plus side during 1974, the academy piled up a long list of achievements.

Accomplishments in two of its three main areas, growth policy and social justice, included:

- A major mini-summit on inflation and employment was held at the Academy in response to Congressional requests, Members of Cong-
The academy was asked to assist in preparing material for the President's National Growth Report.

The Council of State Governments is publishing a series of articles by the academy on urban renewal development.

The academy was asked to serve as host for the U.N. Working Group on Minimum Standards for the Treatment of Prisoners and a Fellow of the academy conducted a six-week training program for the U.N.

The first two academy reports on corrections were "best sellers" and have been reprinted in several collections of writing.

Ten states have joined in the latest of the National Corrections and they are in the early stages of implementing some of the principles enunciated in its Declaration.

A series of academy conferences have led to informal organization of the Criminal Justice Writers Association.

Benchmark, the program to improve civic competence, is being watched as a unique and pioneering effort in social reporting and community directed research by many groups throughout the U.S. It has been the topic for several reports by the National Science Foundation.

With the program, a new program has proven it is possible to put such an organization together, but we still have a way to go.

He said emphasis the first year was on the technical side, but citizen input would be the most important from now on.

"If, in another four to five months its full usefulness hasn't been demonstrated, then it should be terminated," he said. In any event, Widner sees a time when Benchmark will be out on its own - separate from the academy.

Plans in 1975 call for the academy to become established as an important national training center in community problem solving.

The first year of the Columbus Area Leadership Program will be completed, and a National Urban Leadership Program will be launched. Twenty cities with active programs will train 100 cities that have none.

THE NATIONAL Urban Forum will complete its initial work in defining the appropriate elements for U.S. urban policy.

Recommendations will be made on the diversion of juvenile offenders and on improving operations of municipal courts.

The academy will publish in cooperation with the Kettering Foundation a "white paper" series on growth policy. It will also complete a book on the possible futures of America's regions for release during the 1976 Bicentennial.

A special review of the problems of the Midwest will be released, and a study of interstate environmental problems in New England will be completed.
Survey reports good, bad and ugly aspect of streets

By Nick Madved

A new Benchmark survey of neighborhood facilities found that, overall, two of every three Columbus area residents are satisfied with the condition of their streets, while 56 per cent of the residents in the city's central area feel their roads are generally rough.

The Benchmark report, published through the Academy for Contemporary Problems, 1501 Neil Ave., deals primarily with the condition of streets, the quality of street lighting and the efficiency of street sewers. These types of facilities were chosen for study because citizens have daily contact with them.

THE REPORT shows Columbus area residents split on the adequacy of street lights on their blocks. About half felt there is enough street light, while the others said there is not enough. Only five per cent felt there should be less light or no light on their streets.

Persons responding to the survey were also asked to compare the adequacy of street lighting in their own neighborhoods to other parts of Columbus. Six out of ten felt they had better or the same amount of lighting as persons in other parts of the city, while 42 per cent said they had less.

Columbus residents were also asked to rate the efficiency of their storm sewers, or how water was handled during a heavy rain. Overall, 46 per cent said their sewage systems did an adequate job, while 54 per cent believed some water backed up during heavy rains.

MORE RESIDENTS of the central Columbus area said their sewage systems were not adequate to handle heavy rain water. Seventy per cent of them reported their sewers might back up when it rains heavily.

Finally, the respondents were asked which of four kinds of neighborhood improvements (new or improved park facilities, resurfacing of streets, more street lights or better storm sewer systems) are needed most.

The responses were split. Twenty-eight per cent said they would like new or improved parks, 26 per cent tended towards street lights or improved sewers, and 34 per cent chose resurfacing of their streets.

Benchmark surveys city's medical habits

A Benchmark survey found that 32 per cent of central Columbus residents have no personal or family doctor and 45 per cent of all Columbus residents smoke cigarettes.

The Benchmark report, released last week, is part of the data collected in the first Columbus Area Social Profile (CASP I). It was conducted by the Academy for Contemporary Problems, 1501 Neil Ave.

The report dealt with emergency medical and health facilities. Respondents were asked to evaluate their personal health care, use of emergency medical facilities and satisfaction with their physical health.

In an attempt to determine what measures Columbus residents take to safeguard their health, the respondents were asked questions about the type of medical tests and care they had received.

Eight of ten Columbus metropolitan area residents said they have either a family or personal doctor. But fewer indicated they take standard medical tests such as blood sugar, blood pressure, chest X-ray, and physical examinations.

SIX OF TEN respondents said they have smoked cigarettes sometime in their lives and as many as 45 per cent indicate they still smoke. Thirty-two per cent of the college students polled said they smoked cigarettes.

CASP I respondents were asked questions about the use of emergency medical facilities.

Forty-eight per cent said that, if they, or members of their household, had used hospital emergency rooms in the past 12 months. The survey indicated that persons in the central and south metropolitan area, by 55 and 54 per cent, respectively, were more likely to use the emergency medical facilities.

THOSE WHO indicated that a member of their household had gone to a hospital emergency room then were asked how long they had to wait before receiving any medical attention. Forty-four per cent said the wait was less than 15 minutes, while 23 per cent said they had to wait for more than an hour.

The survey indicated that 16 per cent of Columbus residents could not reach an emergency facility by car during rush hours in less than 30 minutes.

Finally, CASP I respondents were asked to evaluate their physical health. Seventy-eight per cent said they were satisfied with their health, while 13 per cent were not. But in the central Columbus area, only 67 per cent were satisfied with their health.
Academy remains without budget

By Blair Charles

The Academy for Contemporary Problems is without a 1975 budget — and will remain so until the University decides whether to become sole sponsor of the organization.

Currently operating on a $1.5 million 1974 budget, the jointly financed academy and its future are still being discussed by its two parent organizations, Ohio State and Battelle Memorial Institute, following a Jan. 8 proposal settlement in which Battelle would divest itself of its interest in the 1501 Neil Ave. academy.

THE ACADEMY divestiture was a part of an $80 million Jan. 8 settlement in which Battelle pledged that amount in charitable contributions plus a share of future incomes. The academy is valued at $7.5 million, including the $2.5 million building and a $5 million endowment by Battelle.

The settlement is still pending approval to end five years of litigation on whether institute trustees since 1929 have operated the worldwide research institute in compliance with the will of the founder, Gordon Battelle.

ONE "OPTION being discussed" separates the academy from Ohio State and Battelle, said Albert J. Kuhn, provost for the Office of Academic Affairs and an overseer of the academy.

Settlement questions are currently going on between Ohio State President Harold L. Enarson and Battelle President Sherwood Fawcett, Kuhn said.

Ralph Widner, director of the academy, said that of an original four options, two were ruled out six weeks ago. These options are the dissolution of the academy totally and the association of a new "partner" to replace Battelle.

Kuhn said the University was concerned about its commitment to the academy and the possibilities of the academy "existing on the edge of campus as competition" to the University.

Widner said a decision will be reached "well before June 30," when the current budget expires.

ORIGINALLY FOUNDED in 1971, the academy started with a minimum annual pledge of $500,000 from each parent organization.

But in 1974, Battelle contributed $1 million, while Ohio State only met the minimum of $500,000 because of University financial difficulties, said Herb Cook Jr., coordinator of public relations and communications for the academy.

The academy is working from a $1.5 million general budget, but actually will spend $46,000 more than originally budgeted for.

This won't throw off the budget, Cook said, but will be "charged against" the 1976 funds.

UNTIL THE divestiture of the academy is settled, "there is no 1975 budget to subtract it from," Cook said.

The projected $1,450,000 July 1, 1975 to June 30, 1976 budget was readjusted to reflect the probable transfer of Battelle's interest to Ohio State and not an independent organization, Cook said.

A CURRENT breakdown of academy programs allots funds as follows:

- **$180,000 Crime and Justice**
- **$185,000 Metropolitan Growth**
- **$231,000 Benchmark**
- **$220,000 Work and Education**
- **$185,000 Information Systems**
- **$40,000 Public Services**
- **$25,000 Costs for members**
- **$25,000 Program Evaluation**
- **$30,000 Program Support**
- **$225,000 Building Support**

FISCAL AND budgetary authority is exercised by seven overseers, three appointed by the president of Battelle, three appointed by the president of Ohio State and one — the academy director — appointed by the other six.

Overseers at the present include: Charles A. Csuri, professor of art; John P. Hirth, professor of metallurgical engineering; Kuhn; Ronald S. Paul, vice president at Battelle; Roger L. Merrill, a Battelle corporate director; and Thomas H. Langevin, president of Capital University.
Academy begins criminal study

By Chris Amatos

A three-year study of the "dangerous criminal" and alternatives to the prison system will be conducted by the Academy for Contemporary Problems, 1501 Neil Ave.

The study's goal is to investigate other justice systems to see how they handle dangerous offenders, said John Conrad. He is a senior fellow of the Academy's social justice program and will conduct the project with Harold Goldman, professor of pharmacology at Wayne State University in Detroit.

A $150,000 grant to research this problem was given to the Academy April 1 by Lilly Endowment, Inc., Indianapolis, said Simon Dinitz, academy fellow and professor of sociology at Ohio State.

The study will search for more effective ways of handling habitual offenders and then recommend these effective methods to others, Conrad said.

"There is widespread concern about dangerous offenders," he said. Many officials and prison administrators are desperate for new ideas on how to handle the dangerous offender. "The hard-core offender is the bane of their lives," Dinitz said.

The study hopes to make recommendations on how to more intelligently, rationally and humanely handle the problem of the serious offender, he said.

The Lilly grant expires in one year, Conrad said. However, he hopes Lilly will support the other two years of the study as well. Expected cost of the study is around $450,000.

It costs $10,000 to lock a man up for one year, Conrad said, and millions to build the prisons. It costs as much to build a cell as it does to build a hospital room, he said.

"The survey will look at the definition of dangerousness," Dinitz said. Since different people define it differently, the meaning associated with dangerousness governs the way a dangerous offender is treated, he said.

Almost all states have two basic sets of laws to determine and deal with dangerous offenders, Dinitz said. These are the habitual criminal offender laws and the sex psychopath laws.

The second area of the study will look at how states execute the laws, Conrad said. They will study why certain cases are prosecuted and others are not. The study will also examine plea bargaining.

A third area of study is current knowledge of pathology and organic brain damage, Conrad said. The study will examine how well the organic theories of violence, such as the extra Y chromosome and topical brain damage, hold up, he said.
Academy may become independent operation

By Chris Amatos

The Academy for Contemporary Problems, presently funded by Battelle Memorial Institute and Ohio State, has apparently become a ward of the court.

As it now stands, Battelle will have to divest its half of the academy under the terms of an $80 million out-of-court settlement, said Samuel Barile of Atty. Gen. William Brown's office.

Brown is suing Battelle because he believes Battelle has not followed the stipulations of Gordon Battelle's will, which established the world-wide research organization, Barile said.

The Attorney general doesn't feel Battelle should engage in social research, because of the terms in the will.

However, the fate of the academy, located at Neil and Eighth avenues, is still to be decided in court before Franklin County Common Pleas Judge William T. Gillie, Barile said. Gillie is expected to rule in a month or two.

Battelle and Ohio State are supposed to share the funding of the academy under the 10-year agreement establishing the academy in 1971.

Under the original agreement, Ohio State and Battelle would each contribute $500,000 a year for the 10 years, according to Herbert Cook Jr., coordinator of public relations and communications for the academy.

However, last year Battelle gave the academy about $1 million, while Ohio State gave the original $500,000 promised, Provost Albert J. Kuhn said.

Under the terms of an agreement announced in January, Battelle may not operate the academy itself, Barile explained. Battelle could set up the academy as an independent organization and fund it with up to $7 million.

Battelle and Ohio State will have to come to a decision about the fate of the academy before July 1, because that is when Ohio State's new budget goes into effect, Kuhn said.

Sherwood Fawcett, president of Battelle, and President Harold L. Enarson are expected to begin discussion about the academy today. Meanwhile, no one knows whether the academy will be absorbed by Ohio State, which isn't very likely according to Kuhn, or if it will become an independent organization.
Ohio State, Battelle Agree To Cut Ties to Academy

The Academy for Contemporary Problems will become an independent public foundation free of any formal ties with Battelle Memorial Institute and Ohio State University, spokesman for both organizations said Friday.

The move to change the status of the academy was prompted by the pending settlement of litigation Battelle has been involved in with the state, Sherwood Fawcett, Battelle president, said.

THE LITIGATION has centered on whether the institute's charitable contributions have lived up to the intent of its founding trust.

The university's board of trustees adopted a resolution saying the academy's future "will be best served if it is an independent public institution."

The academy was created four years ago to promote innovative social research. Once it becomes independent, Battelle will deed to the academy the buildings housing it, valued at $2.5 million, and will provide a fund of about $5 million to assist in establishing its independence.

OUT OF that fund will come the costs Battelle has incurred in its support of the academy, from Jan. 1 until the academy becomes a legal entity.

The agreement between OSU and Battelle is scheduled to terminate June 30, according to the trustee resolution.

The agreement originally called for joint support of the academy for a minimum of 10 years at an annual level of $1 million.

BESIDES BUILDING costs Battelle gave $1.6 million to support the academy between 1972 and December, 1974. OSU has put about $1 million in as its share of the academy's support, Enarson said.

An academy spokesman said the budget for calendar year 1975 is about $1.5 million, but the academy is switching to a fiscal year calendar, probably beginning in July, and that budget will be in the same amount.

The spokesman said the academy will draw on Battelle principal for operating money for a time, but in the future the academy expects to obtain gifts and grants from a variety of organizations and individuals.

THE ACADEMY'S governing body will be reconstituted to include representatives of other public organizations.

Presently the academy's board of overseers consists of three representatives appointed by Battelle and three by OSU, plus the academy's director, Ralph Widner, who serves as an ex officio member.

After the trustees adopted the resolution, OSU President Harold Enarson said, "This is a good solution. We are relieved of funding we can't justify in today's tight budget.
OSU ends financing of Academy

By Chris Amatos

Friday's vote by the Board of Trustees ends the four-year-old agreement with Battelle Memorial Institute that established the Academy for Contemporary Problems.

After July 1, the academy will be an independent organization and will receive no funding from Ohio State, Provost Albert Kuhn said. The academy will have to succeed on grants and endowments, he said.

The academy has been receiving $500,000 yearly from Ohio State and about $1 million from Battelle.

UNDER THE 1971 agreement creating the academy, Ohio State and Battelle were to jointly provide $1 million annually for a minimum of 10 years.

The academy will receive the deed to the buildings housing it, valued at $2.5 million, and a $5 million initial grant from Battelle as part of the new agreement to establish its independence.

The academy already has 20 grants lined up, ranging from $10,000 to $150,000, Ralph Widner, academy director, said.

Widner added, however, that the academy will have to dip into the $5 million Battelle principal to meet the annual $1.5 million budget for the next two years.

THE ACADEMY, located at the corner of Neil and Eighth Avenues, was founded by Ohio State and Battelle to deal with social problems in the community.

However, a recent agreement between Battelle and the state attorney general's office required Battelle to divest itself of its half of the academy.

The agreement is part of a settle-
Study observes planned cities

By Chris Amatos
15 May '75

Seventeen federally assisted planned communities are in deep financial trouble and some may be bankrupt before too long, Sylvan Kamm, staff member of the U.S. House Banking and Currency Committee, said Tuesday.

Kamm was at the Academy for Contemporary Problems for a study conducted by the academy at the request of the committee.

The study looked at the financial, legislative and administrative problems of the New Communities Program, which is helping to finance the planned cities, Ralph Widner, academy director, said.

THE PROGRAM, part of Title VII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970, guarantees federal loans for new communities.

The study also looked at two non-federally assisted programs at Reston, Va. and Columbia, Md., the two largest planned communities in the country. Columbia and Reston are having financial problems also.

New communities are totally planned cities built from scratch, most of them near large metropolitan areas. The idea was to build a better place to live, Widner said, including a government subsidized housing for lower and middle income families.

However the expectations were too many and too high, Widner said, adding there were supposed to be 100 new communities by the year 2000.

The three questions being studied regarding new communities and Title VII legislation, Widner said, are: Was the legislation which created Title VII sound? Could the communities survive in the face of a deep recession? Have the communities failed because of poor management?

One-third of the conference was represented by community developers, one-third by government administrators and one-third by academic experts, Widner said, who is also taking part in the program.

The major problem of the communities is they have run out of money, Kamm said. Some communities don't have enough money to complete basic land improvements, one report indicated.

Most of the communities are 20-year investments and some conference members question the soundness of investing in a 20-year project during these economic conditions.

Changing population trends are another factor in the problem, Kamm said. When these communities were planned, the population was expected to double by the year 2000, he said. Now, however, the population is expected only to climb above its present level and then level off before doubling, he explained.

Another trend, caused by the energy crisis, is to build more housing in the city, Kamm said, so workers won't have to commute as far.
Benchmark profiles
Columbus citizens

7-31-75
By David Clouston

Benchmark, an information gathering arm for the Columbus Community Council (CCC), reports that 84 percent of Columbus citizens are satisfied with their jobs. It also reports they drive their own cars to work (76 percent), are satisfied with housing in their neighborhoods (82 percent) and feel that their neighborhood streets are in good condition (67 percent).

Most Columbusites have not been to court in the past two years (75 percent), they report a crime if they see it committed (83 percent) and think criminal punishment is too lenient (64 percent).

THOSE ARE some of the statistical results reaped from the Columbus Area Social Profile (CASP I), a collection of answers to social questions directed by and solicited from Columbus citizens through the Benchmark program. The program is affiliated with the Academy for Contemporary Problems (ACP), 1501 Neil Ave.

The CCC, which includes Columbus citizens as well as ACP professionals, acts through Benchmark to determine the needs, feelings, inclinations and outlooks of John Q. Public within urban Franklin County.

In May 1974, Benchmark began collecting data for CASP I. Each of 2,401 randomly selected Columbus residents was asked a list of 400 questions during a 90-minute interview. Questions covered housing, the environment, education, crime and justice, employment and political involvement.

Occasionally a question is posed that requires more data to be collected than those already in CASP I. Then a Community Originated Study (COS) is initiated.

Since November 1974, 32 COSs have been generated, dealing with such subjects as the political orientations of particular age groups, credit availability, citizens’ attitudes toward education, the trend for citizens to buy guns for protection against crime and volunteers in the community.

JENNIFER B. MALONE, community services director for Benchmark, said “The information (we gather) is to be used in the public sector. It is intended to be used in decision-making processes in the community.”

Some additional findings show 45 percent of Columbus citizens smoke cigarettes, and of those, 72 percent smoke one pack or less per day, 24 percent smoke two packs per day and 5 percent three packs a day.

A citizens review board of the Columbus Division of Police is favored by 62 percent of area residents. If accused of a crime, 47 percent of citizens feel they will not receive fair treatment from news media. Nineteen percent feared police would not accord them fair treatment if accused of a crime.

Academy appoints nine fellows

C-3 1-29-76

The reorganized Academy for Contemporary Problems announced Wednesday the appointment of the first nine of an anticipated 22 fellowship holders who will run the state and local government policy research and conference center.

The academy, founded in 1971 by The Ohio State University and Battelle Memorial Institute, was given to a consortium of six national organizations in September of last year.

Ralph R. Widmer, academy president, outlined the reorganized operating structure for the urban research center.

“THERE WILL BE ten fellowships making up the core team of the academy, plus about a dozen more directing work on specific issues,” he said.

Fellows will serve both as professional staff and workers on specific problems, he added.

Named as the first four of the ten-member governing core are: Joseph White, former Ohio Youth Commission director; Peter Brown, a former visiting fellow with Battelle Seattle Research Center; Robert Waller, former associate professor of management and economics at the University of Northern Iowa; and Michael Brewer, former president of the Population Reference Bureau.

WHITE WAS NAMED fellow in social policy; Brown was appointed fellow in law and ethics; Waller will be fellow in management science; and Brewer will serve as fellow in environmental and resource management.

Waller and Brewer will serve out of the academy’s Washington, D.C., office.

Named senior fellows to head the academy’s Lilly Endowment funded program to identify and control dangerous criminals will be carryover appointees John Conrad and Simon Dinitz.

Conrad is former chief of the Center for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. Dinitz is an OSU sociology professor.

THREE MORE associates of the “old” academy will run the Center on Urban and Regional Development, financed by a Charles F. Kettering Foundation grant, to assist the National Urban Policy Roundtable.

Arthur Naftalin, former Minneapolis mayor and academy fellow since 1974; James Coke, Kent State University political science professor and 1973-74 academy fellow; and John Robin, University of Pittsburgh public affairs professor and a former academy advisory member, are the three.

ALL WERE NAMED associate fellows, meaning they will split their time between the academy and other jobs.

The academy, headquartered at 1501 King-av, is operated by the Council of State Governments, International City Management Association, National Association of Counties, National Conference of State Legislatures, National League of Cities, and U.S. Conference of Mayors.
Benchmark
Dies Nov. 30

BENCHMARK, a project started three years ago, to provide information for better community planning, will go out of business Nov. 30.

The program, named after the mark surveyors use as a reference point, was started by the Academy for Contemporary Problems, 30 Neil Ave., in the fall of 1973.

IT HAS PRODUCED 16 reports or "social profiles" on subjects ranging from how Columbus area residents spend their food dollars to what they think about street lights and the news media.

The Academy planned the project as a three-year experiment which would become independent.

But, said Dennis Benson, director of the program, when Benchmark was ready to seek outside funding, the academy was in the process of reorganizing under six national organizations.

"WE HAD A proposal (for money) for Battelle, but could not apply because the new trustees put a freeze on things," Benson explained. "We got caught in the middle.

Herbert Cook, spokesman for the academy, said that Benchmark "was considered to be a success, but the agencies now in control want to attack national, not local, problems.

Benchmark, which was planned to cost $300,000 over three years, spent nearly $400,000 in its first two years, Benson said. But, he added, about half the "money" actually was staff time donated by the Mershon Center at Ohio State University.

THE PROGRAM WAS promised $185,000 for this fiscal year which ends June 30, but that was cut to $75,000, Benson said.

Benson said costs were high because Benchmark did "expensive" face-to-face interviews in the summer of 1974; put together 37 special reports at the request of agencies or individuals; and provided technical assistance in research and planning to anyone who requested it.

BUT THE PROJECT was a success, he said, because many people used the information, and 80 percent of those who asked for special reports "said they couldn't get that information any place else."

Benson said four of his 10 remaining staff members will go to work for the Ohio Department of Economic and Community Development on projects similar to Benchmark and will continue to assist Toledo and Cincinnati, which, he said, are "very interested" in doing social profiles of their cities.
Academy chairman predicts move to Washington, D.C.

By Ted Wendling
Dispatch Staff Reporter

The beleaguered Academy for Contemporary Problems will move to Washington, D.C., probably in February, the chairman of the academy's board of trustees predicted Friday.

Board Chairman John J. Gunther discounted the possibility that the academy will be disbanded and Ohio State University will absorb its assets.

But he admitted he had not read a Dec. 2 "open letter" by Sherwood L. Fawcett, Battelle Memorial Institute president. Fawcett suggested the academy's assets should be used to endow a graduate fellowship program at OSU.

Gunther said he expects the academy to move soon after the sale of its two-building headquarters at 1501 Neil Ave.

A contract to sell the buildings — valued at $1.5 million — was signed last month, but both Gunther and academy Executive Director Ralph Widner refused to identify the buyer.

GUNThER SAID, "The board will be looking at it (Fawcett's proposal), but I don't expect us to close down the academy in order to leave the money in Columbus.

"I expect the academy to move to Washington, probably sometime in February."

Jointly formed in 1971 by Battelle and OSU as a public-policy think tank, the academy became an independent public foundation in 1975.

Since then, it has been governed by a coalition of seven organizations, most of them with offices in Washington.

The dilemma, Widner said, is an ideological dispute over whether the academy should pursue "more comprehensive" national policy goals or simply leave its estimated $2.5 million in assets in Columbus.

In his letter to the coalition's trustees, Fawcett said the rumored move of the academy to Washington, D.C., "falls far short of serving the intentions of the founders and the expectations of the people of central Ohio."

IN A THREE-PART proposal, Fawcett recommended that the academy's trustees:
• End the academy's existence as a public foundation.
• Dedicate its assets to the establishment of an Academy for Contemporary Problems Endowment Fund, to be administered by OSU.
• Restrict the endowment to support two-year fellowships only in the College of Administrative Science and the School of Public Administration.

Fawcett was out of town Friday and could not be reached for comment.

Widner said, "I can understand that, from Columbus' point of view, the institute was hatched there... but there's a misunderstanding in the community that, legally, the institute was deemed to be part of Columbus.

"There's a history that ought to be honored in some way, but this is not a legal issue."

IN 1975, UNDER pressure from the Ohio Attorney General's office, Battelle deeded the Neil Ave. buildings to the academy and donated a $5 million founding gift.

Since then, Widner said, $12 million in non-Battelle money has gone through the academy, "making Battelle's gift only a portion of the total gift."

The academy began scaling down operations earlier this year when it became obvious that its $2 million budget was being drained.

Widner said he expects the Columbus staff to dwindle from a high of 80 to three or four persons by the end of the month.
OSU hopes to buy building

By Patrick McSweeney
Lantern staff writer

The Academy for Contemporary Problems building, 1501 Neil Ave., has come one step closer to becoming OSU property.

Ralph Widner, president of the academy, said OSU took out an option to purchase the building and property last week. The asking price for the building and land is $1.5 million.

"This is a straight forward real estate purchase, there's nothing special about it," Widner said.

The possible sale to OSU will not be completed for several months. OSU officials are expected to recommend the purchase to the OSU Board of Trustees Feb. 5. OSU then would need the approvals of the State Controlling Board and the Ohio Attorney General's office.

Widner said that the latter two approvals would go along with the sale "like any other real estate purchase."

The academy, which is moving to Washington, D.C., does policy research for several government interest groups based in Washington. It once was owned jointly by Battelle Memorial Institute and OSU.

Last spring OSU officials conducted an initial study of the building to determine its possible use for university office space.
Building purchase vetoed by OSU

The Academy for Contemporary Problems building at 1501 Neil Ave. will not be part of the university as once expected because OSU officials felt "it was not needed."

Ohio State had an option to buy the building but instead in early February wrote a letter to the academy's vice president, Dale Bertsch, saying the university was not in a position to execute its option.

Cranston Cos., 100 E. Broad St, a security and mortgage company, then purchased the building and land for the asking price of $1.5 million. The company will house its computer facility now on Kinnear Road at the academy, a Cranston spokesman said.

Bertsch said Cranston originally had the option to purchase the academy in August but the academy owners did not accept the company's offer.

Then in early January, OSU took out a purchase option which expired Feb. 10.

Richard D. Jackson, vice president for business and administration, said OSU did not think the property was needed.

"It just isn't needed. And I don't anticipate that it will be needed," Jackson said.

Last spring OSU began studying the condition of the building and operating costs to determine whether it would be a feasible acquisition.

The academy, which does policy research for several government interest groups based in Washington, D.C., will move to the nation's capital by midsummer. It once was owned jointly by Battelle Memorial Institute and OSU.

But Bob Larrimer, a member of the Neil-Eighth-Cannon-King Organization (NECKO), said if the university had purchased the academy, it would have violated its acquisition line.

OSU cannot purchase land or buildings south of the Eighth Avenue line, according to OSU Board of Trustees' policy.

Jackson said the trustees could change the boundary but have not in the 2 1/2 years that he has been here.

But Jackson said the boundary was not an issue. OSU often is given property outside its boundaries, but "we just decided not to seek this piece of property," he said.

Larrimer said residents were concerned with OSU encroaching into their neighborhood. "The university has been a pretty good neighbor but it has a way of creeping over things."

The residents wanted a definable university that was "over there" and not in their neighborhood, he said.

If the boundary fluctuates, residents tend to let the neighborhood deteriorate because they are not sure how long the neighborhood will last, Larrimer said.