With the approval of a $29-million expansion plan, Hofstra University will continue to upgrade its academic and physical appearance, including renovations of two theaters and other buildings on the 240-acre campus. "Hofstra's tremendous success in attracting new students and faculty, along with our growing reputation for academic excellence, requires that we enhance our physical plant," said President Stuart Rabinowitz.

Along with improvements to its academic departments and facilities, the plans also alter how the University will utilize the site of the former federal courthouse building located adjacent to the campus. Instead of the original plan, which would have transformed the courthouse into a performing arts center, it now will become the much-needed new home of the School of Education and Allied Human Services. "It reaffirms our development as an institution and our position as an educational leader in the 21st century."

The English Department and the Hofstra museum will be relocated as well. The museum, with its exhibit and storage capacity increasing from 2,500 to 10,000 square feet, will move from Emily Lowe Hall into the soon-to-be-renovated space inside Mason Hall and Gallon Wing. "The alternative plan for Hofstra University's expansion approved by the Board of Trustees will greatly enhance Hofstra's cultural offerings while adding substantially to the University's resources for our students and faculty," said John J. Conefrey, Jr., Chairman of the Hofstra University Board of Trustees.

Further expansion plans include significant changes to improve and refurbish the 1,134-seat John Cranford Adams Playhouse as well as the 385-seat Monroe Lecture Center Theater, where a backstage area will be added. Also, a four-story building will be erected near the Playhouse to house 10,000 square feet of rehearsal space for bands and orchestra, a 300-seat theater, 70 faculty offices, and two floors of classrooms. "We are very enthusiastic and appreciative of the support that the President and the University have shown toward the department," said Music Department chairman Howard Cinnamon. "It represents a new vision for the entire University, and we're looking forward to working with the President."

Student Government Association President Steve Richman added, "I'm extremely excited about the expansion and believe that it will greatly benefit and enhance the school as a whole."