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Fogg Building Is Now Given A Go-Ahead

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 21 — Harvard University announced tonight that it has reversed a decision made earlier this month and would proceed with plans to build an addition to the Fogg Art Museum, pending an additional \$3 million fund-raising drive to be completed by March 15.

The alumni who oversee the operation of the Fogg, meeting in a special session here this weekend, also resolved to raise another \$3 million over the next three years to create a "stabilization" fund to help meet operating expenses for the new building. The addition will be constructed across the street from the current Fogg facility.

A university official said this evening that Harvard had every expectation that sufficient funds would be raised to assure the completion of the building. Other sources within the university said last week that pledges amounting to an additional \$1 million were secured after Harvard's Feb. 4 announcement that construction plans were being canceled. The pledges were contingent on the project's revival.

The new facility, which will have classrooms, offices, display space and storage rooms, has been long sought by the university to relieve overcrowding in the present building, constructed in 1927. Seymour Slive, director of the museum, said earlier this month that current storage conditions were threatening the condition of some works in the Fogg collection.

The majority of the funds for the construction and operation of the new building, about \$10 million, has been promised by a donor reported in Boston newspapers to be Dr. Arthur Sackler, a New York philanthropist and art collector. In a meeting last week with Derek C. Bok, Harvard's president, Mr. Sackler reportedly agreed to reinstate his pledge if the visiting committee and Mr. Bok assured him that they would complete the project.

Mr. Bok and the Harvard Corporation, the university's governing body, cited the inability of the university to obtain sufficient finances for the new building, at a time when Federal cuts to education are placing strains on the university's budget, as the primary reason for having canceled construction earlier this month.

In January, Harvard was harshly criticized by the Association of Art Museum directors for its proposal to sell some of the museum's less-valuable works to make up for expected deficits. Those criticisms, and the difficulties they would cause in the current effort to find a new director for the museum, were major factors in the decision to abort construction plans, university officials said.