Harvard would have a hard time attracting top students, because many peer programs are funded.

- Investing in the construction of “new innovative arts spaces” and upgrading existing spaces.

The nascent Allston campus represents an opportunity “to bring into being precisely the architecturally exciting structures that will enable the innovations for which we are calling,” the report said. It traced the outlines of a center for the arts in Allston that brings together artist and scholar, creator and viewer, rehearsal and performance, classroom and museum.

Renovating existing spaces is not enough, the report declared: “Our existing physical structures and exhibition spaces reinforce principles in which few, if any, of us continue to believe.” It called the division between artworks, housed in the Harvard Art Museum, and ethnographic objects, gathered in the Peabody Museum, “artificial” and said such divisions “can run counter to the imperative for a more inclusive history of art, one to which, for example, the arts of Africa, Oceania, and Native America certainly belong.”

Three of Harvard’s peer institutions have major arts initiatives under way: Yale is in the midst of a $3.5-billion capital campaign that includes $500 million for its already prominent schools of architecture, art, drama, and music. Stanford’s capital campaign envisions a major expansion of creative-arts programs and faculty, and creation of a comprehensive “arts district” lining both sides of the main road into campus. Princeton also has major arts facilities in the works.

Although these plans appear to be proceeding, universities are not immune from the recession, as recent events at Harvard indicate (see “The Fiscal Crunch,” page 43).

In a statement accompanying the arts report, President Drew Faust outlined how the arts might become even more important under such worrisome conditions:

Especially in difficult times, when ways of thinking and doing that we have taken for granted are chal-

Yesterday’s News

From the pages of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin and Harvard Magazine

1924 The Bulletin confesses that a proposal for a Harvard radio station “sounds a little startling to those not yet affected with radiofanitis. But, we wonder—will it sound so strange ten or fifteen years hence?”

1934 The Harvard Summer School announces “an interesting experiment”—an intensive course of instruction in written and spoken Russian, using phonograph records and sound films to speed the learning process.

1949 The Faculty of Arts and Sciences votes to phase in required courses in General Education, seeking to educate undergraduates as “responsible human beings[s] and citizens[s].”

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The recently organized National Council for American Education issues a pink-covered pamphlet, Red-ucators at Harvard, which claims that 76 faculty members are “involved” in “affiliations” with 124 “communist fronts.”

1959 Radcliffe’s weekly news-paper, Percussion, sponsors a contest to pick the best-dressed Radcliffe girl, who will enter a national contest sponsored by a fashion magazine. Barnard and Moors Halls vote not to participate, terming the contest “against Radcliffe’s principles.”

1964 The freshmen are up in arms (“Stamp out dehumanization!”) about a decanal proposal to computerize the House selection process.

1969 The Harvard Corporation agrees to open merger talks with Radcliffe, with a view to achieving total merger by the fall of 1970. Radcliffe’s Board of Trustees and College Council have already voted to begin such discussions with Harvard. “Merger of Radcliffe into Harvard,” write the Bulletin’s editors, “has the ring of historical inevitability.”

1984 The Faculty of Arts and Sciences has voted to reimburse MIT for overhead costs (for space, heat, and light) incurred by allowing about 60 Harvard students to cross-register in its Reserve Officers’ Training Corps unit.

Illustration by Mark Steele