

Danna Center Space and Feasibility Study
Executive Summary
February 15, 2007

On January 24 – 25, 2007, MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni (MCF) architects conducted a second visit with the Steering Committee to present their initial ideas based on previous interviews conducted November 2006 and from data collected from 195 responses to a campus questionnaire regarding the Danna Center.

General consensus from verbal and written responses is that the building is physically located in the correct location and is seen with the Peace Quad as the center of campus. Common detractions included the hardness of surfaces, lighting, lack of color, long hallways, and the exterior grille work. Our goal should be to create a different concept of where community happens, in that the center is a place to “see and be seen” both day and night; a place to gather for academic and co-curricular purposes; and become the hearthstone or family room on campus.

MCF outlined common themes found in all student centers: inviting common spaces (small and large); a variety of food locations; and amenities such as the bookstore or post office. Increasingly student centers are also becoming mixed-use facilities with the addition of exercise equipment and computer or music labs.

In reviewing pre-schematic floor plans with the Steering Committee, MCF presented their initial concepts of what could happen, in phases, using the existing building.

Phase 1

1. Open up Underground into the Wolf Den to create food/lounge/gaming space.
2. Create open meeting room in the basement.
3. Create an information desk at the first floor main entrance.
4. Enclose the St. Charles room to create a “main street” thoroughfare.
5. Convert Audubon room into shared student organization offices.

Phase 2

6. Open bookstore text department for access from the basement.
7. Move bookstore storage to allow use of exterior windows.
8. Move post office into current mall area.
9. Move orientation and Center for Intercultural Office to the second floor.

Phase 3

10. Convert existing LUCAP offices into Career Center.
11. Convert existing Student Activities office into the Counseling center.
12. Address food service storage needs.
13. Reorient entrance into the Orleans Room and create two private dining spaces.
14. Move student activities and residential life offices to second floor.

Phase 4

15. Expand and reorient Health Center.
16. Add glass roof over patio and remove sliding glass doors to create indoor/outdoor atrium.
17. Move and expand convenience store.
18. Extend front porch.
19. Add additional meeting rooms and roof-top deck on the second floor.
20. Add brick façade exterior so building conforms to rest of campus.

Based on these initial ideas, the Steering Committee will meet in March to determine and communicate our priority needs; MCF will return to campus shortly thereafter with additional plans, including simple refurbishment. An open campus forum will be held to share our progress and garner additional feedback.