

Task Force 3

January 12, 2015

McCollum Science Hall 81B

Today, Mike B. from Campus Life discussed Maucker Union with a “Maucker Union Quick Bits” handout with the task force. The group discussed briefly the additions and renovations of Maucker, focusing mainly on the 1994 roof repair on the roof that’s been leaking ever since it was built in 1969. The lower level of Maucker was “one of a kind” when it was built with its many stairs. While it has won many awards for its design, it is still not ADA approved and many rooms are not accessible to the disabled.

The event reservations in Maucker have increased significantly every year. This could possibly be due to the Ballroom renovation in 2011, and the additions of external entities on campus, such as the armed forces.

The task force also reviewed a handout, “Six Considerations for Rehabilitating Your Student Union” which shows the renovation of the student union at Methodist University.

- Includes things for the group to think about for Maucker Union

There is a bond to expire in 2022-2023

- Each student pays either \$100 per year or per semester (unsure which one) for bond payment for improvements.
- Improvement account has disappeared for the lower level of Maucker
 - It currently sits at about \$2 million.

Maucker Union

- Campus bookstores are usually located in student unions, and UNI’s is located off-campus.
 - Would UNI’s bookstore move into Maucker if the space was available?
- Most campus tours end in the bookstores on other college campuses.
 - Helps with increased sales, and student tours are all-year round.

There was a discussion on a possible new student union. New unions cost around \$60 - \$70 million dollars to develop.

- There would be a student fee of about \$300 that lasts about 25-30 years.
- Probably would not get any state funding due to too many academic needs and other buildings need the state funds more.
- Donors would be the best thing for a new union.
 - UNI may get about \$10-15 million from donors
- Possible retail income was mentioned
 - Major issues with parking if retail was increased in Maucker or a new union.
- Potential partnership with library
- If the union moved to the library, it would open up space in Maucker – many possibilities of what could go in there.

- The Academic Needs Task Force deals with the Library
- If something wants to come into a building, something needs to go out.
 - Space gets updated a lot because it becomes obsolete.

Food is a gathering source. It brings people together more than almost anything else.

- Name brand restaurants was brought up
 - Again, huge issue with parking if this was to happen.
 - Branding makes sense because it's comfortable. People/students are more likely to stick to a brand they know and can rely on.
 - Chipotle, for example.
- Healthbeat in Maucker has had a high usage rate since it has been in Maucker

If the university was in a growth mode, then building a new union may be a good idea. If the university was in a stable mode, then keep what is there and improve it.

- One thought was to bring in more light to the building, maybe with a dome, and make it come through the floor to the lower level for sunlight.

In regards to further renovations for the union, it was brought up to create a kick-start fund. Unfortunately, there would be a cost of approximately \$360,000 for feasibility studies to get to that point. It could play a critical role in new student potential if UNI builds a new union.

- Bonding
 - There is currently a Fieldhouse Fee imposed on the students, but that will end soon.
 - Something to consider in due time.
 - If a fee comes off, some other fee could go on (like a new union fee).
 - There was a reference to the need to spend money on a feasibility study for what the students and campus wants. This could help for future direction.

The Commons was on a 5 year plan, \$12 million for the whole thing.

- Could really only do paint and patches.

Foundation wants a Welcome Center, and the Commons does not work too well for that possibility. As for funding, the Commons probably won't get money from the state either. There is extra land space by the Commons if it should expand. There is currently a building site there.

It was suggested that adding a Hotel and Hospitality program in the business college could aid UNI's growth and attract more transfer students from near-by community colleges.

- UNI could create internships on campus.
- A feeder system could be envisioned for graduate employment.
- A possible block of hotel rooms that students could serve alumni, prospective students, guests, etc.

The task force also received a handout, "Excerpts from FY16 BOR Report", that may be discussed for next time. It included enrollment projections and a little bit of what the task force talked about in our December 15, 2014 meeting.

For our next meeting:

- Think about private and public partnerships
 - Renting dorms from private entities and buying them back after a period of time.
 - Athletic buildings have been done
 - Maybe unions could be done this way?
- Discuss the Library's plan

Meeting adjourned at 4:30PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26 at 3:00PM in McCollum 81B.