

All aboard SUB 2000

New Student Union Building conceptualization on display

By KAREN RAWLINES

A conceptual sketch of the building known only thus far as "SUB 2000" has recently been completed, and is on display at the current student union home, the UPEI Barn.

The new image of the SU promises to maintain the novel appeal that its predecessor proudly boasted, as the proposed structure bears the uncanny resemblance of a train station.

Norma Cameron, Executive Director of Advancement Services, explains that it was designed so that it would look "new" in keeping with the energy of students, but that it would maintain consistency with the aesthetics of the other buildings on campus.

SU President Matt Gray says that the sketch should be helpful as planning for the building continues.

"It'll give a general idea of what it [the building] will look like for fundraising purposes, so people know what they're supporting," he says.

Gray is an active member of the committees charged with the creation of the new facilities.

The SUB 2000 committee, consisting solely of student union members, has taken the project to the current point in the building's evolution. "It [the committee] has taken us to the point where we could ask the university for fundraising help."

Since then, a coordinating committee has been struck, consisting of five

members from various areas of the university community. This is the body which will be doing the bulk of the work from now on.

This committee is comprised of Neil Henry (VP Facilities and Finances), Norma Cameron (Executive Director of Advancement Services), Phillip Brown of the Board of Governors, Student Union General Manager Heather Love, and Gray. They will be launching a fundraising campaign beginning the first week of April.

"We'll be looking for a 'Big Ticket' Sponsor to supply the majority of the money," says Gray.

Already \$1 million dollars have been collected to date, and an estimated \$2 million more are needed.

Gray says a "search for title" starts in March, which is a search for a donor who will be able to provide the majority of the money towards the project. This building will be named in honour of this donor.

The search will mainly target alumni and other members of the community rather than a larger corporation, as the case of the KC Irving building. In the event that such a corporation were to come forward, the final decision of whether or not to accept the donation would be brought to council. "All kinds of stipulations surround that [kind of donation]," says Gray.

Already, Advancement Services funding drive has committed to donating all moneys garnered from its upcoming Fall campaign to the SUB 2000 project. This

fundraising will begin in September.

The new building will be the home of the student union offices, as well as all related activities. To date, only CIMN has been officially granted entrance to the new space as of last week's council meeting. Unofficially, the newspaper and yearbook offices will be housed within the building. Other campus groups, clubs and organizations, may apply for space as well.

There are also hopes to include a food service through the Panther Lounge, a conference room capable of accommodating 500 people, a green room featuring couches and desks, and more. "There's 20,000 square feet up for grabs," Gray says.

Unofficially, there are plans to include the bookstore in the building.

"They need way more space [than what they presently have]. This would mean additional space added to the

20,000 square feet we already have," Gray explains. "The university would have to add money for this."

The planning of the SUB 2000 is one of the major undertakings of this year's SU Executive. Gray is quite pleased with how plans are advancing.

"There was some delay with Dr. Epperly's stepping down," he notes. "We were expecting an answer if

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CIMN radio will find a new home in SUB 2000.

- photo R. Haines