

New Baptist Student Union nears opening

BSU members hope new home away from campus will increase interest

Lisette Metz Grulke
Index Staff

It dropped a million dollars less than a block from campus and hopes students will come investigate.

The Baptist Student Union is spending the money to reconstruct its One 10 facility at 110 W. Normal St., which should be completed by mid-November.

"It's a lot of money, almost a million dollars, but it will be worth it," said senior Megan Miller, student intern with the BSU.

The Missouri Baptist Convention owns the campus-adjacent property, which the BSU has called home since 1976. BSU Campus Minister Gene Austin said. The One 10 building has undergone few changes in almost 30 years, and the reconstruction is well overdue.

"I've been here for over six years, and they've been talking about doing something new to the building since before that," Austin said. "What we're working on right now has been in the works for about two years."

The new building will put One 10 at about 10,000 square feet, more than

three times its former size. It will include a multipurpose room, an atrium area with a coffee bar, a downstairs lounge area, a kitchen and extended office spaces for the BSU's full-time staff members and student interns.

Austin said the new space will be very student-oriented.

"We're going to have plasma-screen TVs, wireless Internet and lots of couches [for] hangout space," he said. "At the students' request, there's going to be a patio area right out front to welcome people from the sidewalk. People will notice."

Some of the project's funding comes from donations from parents, alumni, students, churches and friends of the BSU, Austin said. Additionally, the organization spent more than two years raising funds for the project.

Miller said she made a pledge to go specifically toward the atrium area.

"It was important to [the student interns] that the foyer be a great place to draw people," she said. "We committed money for three years to make sure it happened."

Construction began when 85 percent of the funds were secured, Austin said. Trickle Construction out of Kearney, Mo.,

has contracted the project, but most of the job has been subcontracted to local workers.

"We really want to keep the money



Trickle Construction superintendent Scott Anderson and workers Nathan Allen and Carlos Hendricks build a ramp at the reconstructed Baptist Student Union at 110 W. Normal St. The new BSU will cover 10,000 square feet, nearly three times its former size.

Adam Kabins/Index

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Megan Miller
Student Intern with BSU

going to local people," Austin said.

Not many student organizations have off-campus facilities to call home, said Robin Taylor, coordinator of the Center for Student Involvement.

"A few fraternities and sororities have spaces, and some of the religious-based organizations have them," Taylor said. "You have the Lutheran House and CCF and Ekklesia. But it's a very small percentage. We have 230 organizations. It's less than 10."

Until the construction is finished, BSU events formerly at the One 10 were relocated. However, BSU event planners remained flexible.

"We're moving our events around a lot," Miller said. "We've had almost everything since freshman week events

on the Armory lawn. We had a tent set up freshman week, and now we have our Fuel on Tuesday and our [Damasus Road] on Thursday there. So once it starts getting colder, we're just going to go into our building."

Austin said the change of venue itself has not been as inconvenient as advertising the change has been.

"It hasn't been finding the place, but getting the word out about where things will be," Austin said. "It's hard to get a steady crowd if no one knows where you are."

A grand opening for the new building is set for Oct. 21. The project should be fully completed by mid-November. Both Austin and Miller said they are eager about its completion.

"We look forward to having it done, for people just coming," Miller said. "It's always going to be open for people to just stop in and hang out. We'll have a flat-screen TV and couches, places where people can feel comfortable without feeling churched if they aren't comfortable with church."

Austin said he looks forward to the opportunity to reach out to more students.

"I've already seen so many lives change through the BSU," he said. "I've seen students come into Truman as business majors in it for themselves and leave going to help humanity, to help others. We can do that more with the new building. We will have failed if we don't do that."

Green buildings get the go-ahead from select colleges

Nikki Burk
for the Index

Green is just a color to Truman, but to many other universities, green means something different.

Students and administrators at Ball State, Brown, Harvard, Yale and other universities have worked together to use "green building" standards for recent construction projects. Green building standards, regulated by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), require buildings to use energy as efficiently and naturally as possible.

Junior Suzanne Russell, campus environmental chair for Student Senate, said she wants to collaborate with LEED to introduce green building standards to the University's academic buildings and residence halls.

She said she hopes this will consequently lower energy bills and reduce the harmful effects excessive energy use has on the environment.

"What this would likely entail for Truman buildings is installation of motion sensors on lights, windows that retain heat in the winter and deflect it in the summer, heating and cooling systems that run only when necessary, better insulation, low-flush toilets and energy-efficient light bulbs,"

Russell said.

Russell said buildings that are not energy efficient can emit excessive carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, pollute water and drain water sources.

"When [LEED] first came out, it was kind of like this environmentally friendly thing to do, and that's why you should do it," Russell said.

She said the general focus of LEED renovations now is less on caring about the environment and more on convincing building owners that they will experience a direct monetary benefit.

One concern about involvement with LEED is a potential rise in tuition to support a budget for green building supplies.

Russell said she hopes to fit renovation plans into a budget that will not raise student tuition.

"I first of all don't think students would go for that at all," Russell said. "Everything we would do would be built into the budget already. It wouldn't overstep anything."

Russell said she thinks it would be possible for the University to implement green building standards but that the University might not be willing to do so.

"The utilities around Kirksville are so cheap," Russell said. "They are some of the cheapest in the na-

Green Building

- Preheat water with unglazed solar collectors
- Windows designed for maximum ventilation
- Filter ventilation airsupplies
- Save reusable construction materials
- Shaped for exposure to prevailing winds
- Oriented to control solar energy collection
- Water-efficient irrigation system (collect rainwater)
- Bike storage
- Narrow floor plates
- Recycling system
- Light-colored exterior

Source: <http://greenbuildings.santa-monica.org>
Design by Lindsay Koski/Index

tion, and that's what makes it hard to find an incentive [to implement green building standards].

Although that number might be big, it could be a lot bigger somewhere else."

David Rector, director of budgets and institutional research, said the University spent \$1,558,000 on electricity last year for academic buildings and residence halls. He said the budget

for the University's electricity has increased to \$1,760,000.

"Electricity is a major cost," Rector said. "If we could just cut down on 10 percent, that's real money."

Russell said there could be another difficulty in working with LEED. Architects must be certified to build under LEED standards. The standards are high, and reaching them requires

rigorous testing.

"LEED sorts through everything in your building, from the nails to the sofas you're sitting on," she said. "And everything in that has to go back to how it was made, how it was produced, where it was made. If that source isn't environmentally friendly, it goes back to the beginning."

Russell said that if collaborating with LEED is too challenging

for the University, she would not mind starting with a simpler plan for a green campus. Other universities have started out simple and then expanded, such as Harvard University.

The Harvard Green Campus Initiative (HGCI) started with a grant and then employed a full-time "campus sustainability" professional. The HGCI is a more than \$1 million business that generates more than \$5 million of annual savings every year, according to Harvard's Web site. The Web site states that HGCI is reducing Harvard University's greenhouse gas emissions each year by 60 million tons.

Russell said the Environmental Campus Organization and the local chapter of the Sierra Club are now interested in working together with her and LEED. She said she will dispense LEED's official brochures on campus and form a committee to begin research and proposals. She held an informational meeting Wednesday.

Michael Kelrick, professor of biology, said he helped students start the University's recycling and cafeteria compost program.

"Students have an enormous amount of power," Kelrick said.

Kelrick said the initial success of this program will depend on the commitment of students who are passionate about energy efficiency at Truman.

"You care about this stuff," Kelrick said. "Don't be passive. Start with that, get other people on board, and see what happens."

Kirksville R-3 School is celebrating the new 2006-07 school year. With this comes many great changes. Just a reminder to everyone that our school and campus is **smoke-free**. We take **pride** in the health and well-being of each and every student as well as every faculty member. Kirksville R-3 would like to wish all the area fall sports a victorious season and **good luck** this year!

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