Pershing pushes forward with plans

BY JESSICA RAPP

Editor in Chief

The future face of Pershing Build-

ing takes on the look of a chal-

lenge as renovation plans begin to
date from discussions to drawings
to reality.

The 700-ton historic structure

stands as one of the region’s most

imposing buildings, housing thou-
thousands of students over the

years.

With that kind of history, any
classroom renovation is a

project that will have a lasting
effect on the campus as a whole.

“In many ways, this is a project

that will touch just about every

student, faculty and staff,” said

Barbara Dixon, senior vice presi-
daent for marketing, public rela-
tions and university communications.

“Many of the building’s

facilities are outdated, the

building is not earthquake

resistant and the overall

condition is not up to

modern standards, so the

project is long overdue,” she

said.

According to Dixon, the $44.5-

million project is in keeping

with the University’s overall

goals of modernizing

infrastructure.

The renovation will be

completed in phases, with

the traditional fall semester

and the second phase due for

completion during the spring

semester.

Minner said that the

project is a major undertaking

for the university’s annual

budget, which is currently

under pressure.

“The overall project is

expected to be $44.5 million

and most of that money is

expected to come from state

funding,” Minner said.

“While we’ve received $10

million to date, that leaves

$34.5 million to be funded by

the state and a lot of that

funding is in the process of

being secured. We’re hopeful

that we’ll get the rest of the

money before the end of the
current fiscal year,” he

said.

According to Minner,

the university is preparing for

the possibility of not receiv-
ing all of the funds it was

awarded.

“The state has a lot of

projects on its plate right now,

and with the economy in as

crisis as it is, it’s difficult to

say that we’re going to get

all the funds that we need to

complete all of the renovations

we plan to do,” Minner said.

“However, we will continue

our efforts to do the best we can

with what funds we get so that

students get the best possible

learning environment,” he

said.

One of the biggest

challenges Pershing faces,

Minner said, is not just the

anticipated financial

problems, but also the

expected challenges of

shifting renovation plans to

accommodate any changes

in the university’s

learning environment.

“The design of the

building is in keeping with the

arboretum, which is what we

want to make of the building,

but at the same time we’re

trying to ensure that

technology is integrated into

the spaces,” Minner said.

“Instead of just adding

technology to the spaces,

we want to make sure that

the building is a part of our

learning environment,” he

said.

Minner said that

the project is also unique

for its emphasis on

sustainability.

“We want to make sure

that the renovation

project is environmentally

sound and sustainable,”

Minner said.

“We’re looking at

ways to make the building

more energy efficient,

and we’re also looking at

ways to make it more

accessible to those with

disabilities,” Minner said.

Minner said that the

project has already been

approved by the Missouri

Historic Preservation Board,

and that the university

is looking forward to

working with the board

to make sure that the

building is preserved

appropriately.

The project, which

involves a major

remodeling of the

building, is scheduled to

begin in the spring of

2009 and is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.

Minner said that the

project is expected to

be completed by

fall of 2010.