

Magruder project close to complete

BY CAITLIN DEAN
Assistant News Editor

Dripping ceilings and a ventilation system so loud it drowns out lectures—and the building re-opened less than three years ago.

After extensive renovations, Magruder Hall became fully functioning again in spring 2006, a semester behind schedule. However, when the University decided to wrap the project up, it left a few issues to be completed at a later time, as stated during the Oct. 3 Board of Governors meeting. Bob Jones, associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences,

“I do believe that as far as the College of Arts and Sciences is concerned, and the University too, we want to make the building right.”

Bob Jones
Associate Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences

said the main problems in the building pertain to the air handling system and water infiltration through the windows and roof.

“The air handling noise in the building is really loud,” he said. “It’s very difficult to hear in some of the classrooms because of the sound of the air coming through the system, and it’s very difficult to talk above that noise. If you go in the north main entrance of Magruder, you’ll always see trash cans sitting there under holes in the ceiling where the water leaks in.”

When specifications are

drafted for renovations, clients often rely on engineers and architects to help decide where substitutions for products can be made, which could be a factor contributing to the Magruder problems, Jones said.

At the Oct. 3 meeting, the Board passed a motion that allowed the University to hire architecture firm Hastings and Chivetta to draw up plans for Magruder. Hastings and Chivetta also are working on plans for the Pershing Building renovation project. Jones said he doesn’t know why the original architecture firm was not asked to remedy the

problems because he was not involved in those conversations. Rather than engaging in finger-pointing over the root of the problems, the University has decided to become more proactive and address the issues through other sources, he said.

“I do believe that as far as the College of Arts and Sciences is concerned, and the University too, we want to make the building right,” Jones said. “We want to get it as good as it can be given the circumstances.”

Campus Planner Mark Schultz said University offi-

cialists knew about these problems in 2005.

“The agreement was to settle with the architect, settle with the contractor, and that the University would take it up at a later date,” Schultz said. “They’ve continued to be an aggravation, and we’re trying to get organized here to address some of those issues.”

Schultz said some materials and parts were left out of the building to save money, creating some of these problems. For example, air ducts in Magruder lack the controls that create constant pressure, he said. This causes the ducts to expand and contract, or pop, similar to crushing a soda can but on a much larger scale, he said.

He said the University hopes to design the changes with Hastings and Chivetta this fall, put the project out for bid to contractors next spring and complete the work during the summer.

Physical plant workers have been able to come up with some temporary fixes and some permanent solutions for Magruder, but this will be a major construction project, he said. A lot of this project will be bid out to a general contractor and their sub-contractors, Schultz said.

“We’re liable to go in and put suspended ceilings in a bunch of these classrooms if we can do it and change the kind of controls that are on the HVC and maybe even take them out of the classroom and put them in another room,” he said. “So we’ll be investigating all of that in the next few



Mayank Dhungana/Index

A trash can and a recycling bin catch water leaking through the ceiling and dripping down to the second floor in Magruder Hall.

months.” Budget Director Dave Rector said two sources will fund the project.

“We had some money that was retained from the main construction project ... and then

what we call local capital funds,” Rector said. “That’s money that we’ve set aside internally for building improvements.”

The completed project will cost about \$1 million, Rector said. The cost probably will be

the same as it would have been in 2005 plus inflation, he said.

The architecture firm, science department chairs, Schultz and Jones will meet tomorrow to discuss plans for Magruder, Rector said.

Technology upgrade maximizes SUB’s potential

New equipment makes SUB more accessible for students

BY SARAH SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The Student Union Building is getting some high-tech upgrades. Damon Ferlazzo, Student Union programs coordinator, said the renovation of the SUB will include state-of-the-art equipment.

“We wanted to make sure we had everything that somebody would need for a presentation, or a show or different events,” Ferlazzo said. “Because right now we have the capability of doing different things, but it’s not permanent.”

Ferlazzo said that with the upgrade all rooms except the Alumni Room will have data projectors. He said the rooms also will have wall plates with inputs for a computer, VCR, DVD player and even iPods. He said all rooms will have amplified sound systems and one room will have a SMART Board, a white board that can interact with the computer. He said the Georgian Room will have five-inch touch panels to allow people to select different inputs, such as for a computer or to control lights, as well as a wireless microphone system. He said the SUB Down Under will have an improved sound and lighting system.

“A lot of the equipment you will never see because it will be behind-



Brian O’Shaughnessy/Index

An improved sound and lighting system will enhance the SUB Down Under. Installation of the new equipment should be completed before the spring semester.

the-scenes,” Ferlazzo said.

He said extra equipment will make rooms available for more than one group to use at a time and will

save time for the SUB staff because there will not be as much to set up.

Ferlazzo said the Parents Council approved funding for up to \$85,000

for the equipment. He said he thinks the rest of the almost \$190,000

cost is coming from the same fund the SUB furniture came from.

He said the cost is for the equipment and installation.

“I know it sounds like a lot of money, but it’s going to be really beneficial to the SUB,” Ferlazzo said.

He said the Dean approved plans Monday and that everything should be installed before the spring semester.

Annual Fund Manager Robyn Kollar said the Parents Council raised \$78,627 for the SUB technology upgrade.

The Parents Council is made up of parents serving three- to four-year terms who choose a service project to fundraise for every year, she said.

Kollar said the Advancement Office receives proposals from different departments and presents them to the Parent’s Council.

She said past projects have included the Baldwin Hall Auditorium Renovation, the Cyber Café in Magruder, Lexus Nexus and several technology upgrades.

She said next year’s project includes technology upgrades in classrooms around campus.

Sophomore JoEllen Flanagan, chair of student affairs for Student Senate, said she spends a lot of time in the SUB. She said events have had problems with technology in the past.

“I know a lot of people have been really, really frustrated, especially with the Down Under,” Flanagan said. “I know a lot of people that maybe have ordered [equipment] and it’s not automatically in the room.”

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