
From: Tuttle, Ilene [BOARD] [ituttle@iastate.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2008 4:50 PM
To: Campbell, Bonnie J.; Connolly, Jenny; Downer, Robert; Evans, Jack B.; Gartner, Michael; Harkin, Ruth; Lang, Craig; Miles, David; Vasquez, Rose; Fry, Bobbi; Novak, Kristin; Waters, Sally
Cc: Smith, Dianne [BOARD]
Subject: Regents Letter -- Rec Services at Iowa State
Attachments: Regents Rec Letter.doc

On behalf of Andy Baumert:

Brian Phillips has asked that we forward this letter to each of you. It will also be posted to the Web site.

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21 April 2008

President Miles and Regents Assembled:

I am pleased to see the docket for the upcoming Board of Regents meeting includes an item for permission to proceed with an outline of funding sources for recreation facility renovations and expansion at Iowa State University. I would like to provide some background on the project and encourage its passage.

The proposal to renovate and expand the recreation facilities at Iowa State was initiated by student leaders in the Government of the Student Body approximately three years ago. Since then, successive student government administrations have worked with the Department of Recreation Services and other university offices to gather information in three areas: assessing the condition of the facilities and equipment currently available to students, comparing the services provided and program costs with other universities both in the state of Iowa and amongst our peers, and more accurately assessing areas of campus need for specific programs and facilities.

The assessment of current facilities indicates deficiencies in several areas, including outdated and too little equipment, small and outdated aquatic facilities, and health and safety hazards such as lead paint, asbestos, and inadequate railings. Some of these facilities are also open-access via several entrances, presenting a security risk due to a lack of access control.

These facilities are outdated when compared to similar facilities at major universities. Lied Recreation Athletic Center, built nearly twenty years ago, is currently serving as the major workhorse for student recreation needs. This causes significant crowding during peak recreation hours. The facility is also shared with the Athletic Department, which results in the closure of some of the equipment and space to the general student body until later in the evening. Lied Recreation Athletic Center is also on the east side of campus, far from a large portion of the student housing. The facilities on the west side of campus, State Gym and Beyer Hall, are currently insufficient to balance the load of student users utilizing Lied. State Gym and Beyer Hall were built nearly 100 and 45 years ago respectively, and are inadequate to satisfy current recreation needs and interests among the student population. Iowa State currently has no leisure swimming facilities, and lap swim lanes at Beyer Hall must be separated by swimmer speed in order to decrease collisions among the high number of swimmers in each lane. The need for larger facilities is clear.

The programming provided currently by Recreation Services is well utilized by the university community. At some point in their college career, nearly every Iowa State student uses the facilities to work out or to participate in intramural sports. A great

proportion of the student body works out at these facilities at least once per week. Iowa State University currently ranks among the most physically active campuses in the country. Recreation Services provides dozens of intramural opportunities with no entry fees for the participants, a program that is unmatched by our peers. Thousands of students participate in these contests each semester. Based on the student interest in recreation activity participation, expanded facilities and opportunities to recreate must be provided to adequately serve students.

These facts are of great concern to the student body at Iowa State University. We believe that improved facilities are important to the student well-being. After three years of developing a proposal for improved recreation facilities, a final proposal for renovation and expansion of the facilities with a mandatory student fee was presented. For two months, a well-publicized educational campaign was carried out to explain the proposal to the student body as a whole and take further feedback. The Government of the Student Body voted overwhelmingly in support of the project, which was followed by an affirmative referendum vote of the student body as a whole. After the referendum, the Special Student Fee and Tuition Committee also recommended that the project move forward.

The proposed renovations and new construction will help rectify many of the significant issues facing our recreational requirements. The need for larger, more up-to-date facilities is clear. I encourage the Board of Regents to take action to ensure this project moves forward. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this project, its history, or the intentions of the students involved. Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Phillips
Student Body President 2007-2008
Iowa State University