

THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

STUDENT UNION

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A BILL

BILL HISTORY

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The University Memorial Center (UMC) programs, facilities and services are intended to provide students and the University community with a wide-range of out-of-the classroom activities and opportunities. The UMC is intended to also provide space for students to meet, organize and present programs that satisfy their common interests. The UMC is intended to be the "living room" of the University and serve as its primary gathering place. In short, the UMC and its programs and services provides the venue for these wide-ranging activities.

The UMC has not received any expansion since 1964 when 50,000 square feet were added. Since that time, the student body has nearly doubled in size and many programs and student groups are being turned away for lack of space. In calendar year 1996-97 over 10,000 requests for program space were denied for lack of space and that year more than 20 student organizations were denied office space in the UMC

Overcrowding is a problem in every facet of the UMC. At lunchtime, many students are unable to find a seat in the existing dining room and student organizations are cramped in shared offices if they are accommodated at all.

Overcrowding has also meant that students at the University of Colorado at Boulder are denied services that are common or expected in Student Union buildings. Among these services are computer labs, mailing services, commuter services, television viewing areas, adequate copy services, retail opportunities, and a full-service banking or credit union operation.

Furthermore, the lack of meeting and conference space has meant that important revenue-generating operating services are not producing enough revenue to offset the burden on student fees for operations. The University also lacks space to provide a broader range of cultural and entertainment events which students request.

The UMC was opened in 1953. Because of the age of the building, there exist several health and safety issues and code requirements that require attention. Among these issues are asbestos abatement, and fire suppression/alert systems. The UMC is also lacking other infrastructure elements including electricity, telecommunications capabilities and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning. These needs are severe and would be addressed by an expansion/renovation project.

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Since 1996, students have assessed the need for more space in the UMC. There have been surveys, focus groups, standing committees and a charrette which have all insured that student input and requirements have been addressed and measured.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill places a referendum question on the Spring 1998 UCSU election ballot regarding the funding of the University Memorial Student Center expansion and renovation.

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Union, THAT:

SECTION 1: Shall the following question be placed on the UCSU Spring fee 1998 ballot:
“Should the University Memorial Center be funded for expansion and renovation of the facility upon completion of the project, (approximately Fall 2001 and lasting for a maximum of 25 years) an additional \$36.00 in student fees per student per semester?

YES NO

SECTION 2: This referendum shall be placed on the Spring 1998 ballot upon passage by UCSU Legislative Council.

SECTION 3: This Bill shall take effect upon passage.

March 19, 1998

Passed First Reading

10-0-0