



University Architect and Uptown Project Forum

20 November 2008

University Officials Present:

Margaret Carney – University Architect and Planner

Sue Nickel-Schindewolf – Associate Vice President for Student Affairs for Campus Life

Russel Berusch – VP for Commercial Development

Kevin Slesh - Director of Commercial Development

Margaret Carney started the forum explaining her background and stating that she had been here for 5 years. The two main topics for the forum were the Campus Center plans as well as the Uptown Development. The Campus plans are online at:

http://www.case.edu/webdev/mplan/proj_central_a.html

The building would be to unite the campus in an effort to tie together the schools that came together during the merger of Case and Western Reserve to create one University. Since currently there is no one building that everyone can claim some tie to, the campus center is aimed at collecting undergrads, professional, and graduate students as well as staff, faculty, and administrators. The building is aimed at being on the same size as Kelvin Smith Library and would be connected to the library as well as Thwing. Programming in the building will be multi dimensional as well as constantly evolving, and one main aspect of the new center would be an event space twice the size of the Thwing ballroom. Smaller meeting rooms are also planned in the new student center. Thwing will be restructured as well as part of the project to better use the space in Thwing for functions that better match the building type. The projected cost of the new student center would be about \$50 million. Any plans in the new student center are aimed at keeping costs low so that operating costs that would be low and usage fees for students could be kept low as well. A discussion that will have to be had in the future is what type of fee structure would graduate students see if space is going to be allocated to them in the new student center.

The “Indefinite Planning” of the student center was addressed, but it was mentioned that it is a top priority of the capital campaign that CWRU will be undertaking in the upcoming years. It is hoped that construction would be started in 2011, but that date is approaching quickly. The design to construction time is about 2.5 years, and CWRU is hoping to get a jump on things by getting the design process started early.

A brief discussion revolved around the central question: What would make you use/go to the new student center. Food and alcohol were cited as unifiers of people to a space and are especially important for graduate students. It is hoped that the new student center will be a hang out place as well as an event place. While it would be “inconvenient” to have all departmental lectures and speakers in the new student center, there are plenty of advantages of uniting the campus and offering lectures that span the scope of topics and research at CWRU and highlight these events in a central location.



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Russel Berusch then took over and explained that when he started 3.5 years ago, he was given a contract for the Uptown Project property and an edict to start the process in developing it. The Uptown Project will be a multiuse residential and commercial development around the intersection of Euclid and Mayfield. The history of the selected developers was discussed and the design guidelines were addressed. The development will be multistage with the Barnes and Noble bookstore moving from Thwing to their new bigger building first. The goal with the whole project is to minimize the financial risk the University is taking on in the development of this land. Other retailers that were talked about included a drug store, a microbrewery, and other restaurants. These retail spaces would be underneath newer apartment space while the existing Triangle buildings will be redeveloped to create lofts of varying sizes. The timeline is for groundbreaking to occur in Spring of 09 and construction is aimed to take about 18 months.