

Student Union Building Renovations Supplement

We'd Like to Hear What You Think

For the past two years, the Student Union Building Operations Committee has been exploring the possibility of making some much needed renovations to the SUB. During the process many suggestions have been made and during this process of investigation, this year's committee has drawn up a complete package for these changes. Floor plans have been prepared, proposing changes to the third floor and lower level of the building. These plans have been presented to the Dalhousie Student Union Council and has met with their approval. Now we need to hear what you think before final arrangements are made. The proposed changes are detailed on the inside pages of this supplement. Please take some time to review them. If you have any comments, we'd like to hear them. Information sessions have been scheduled to discuss the plans, and will be held in Room 224 of the SUB on Tuesday March 31 and Thursday April 2 at 2:30 pm. If you do have comments and are unable to attend one of the sessions, please feel free to drop by the Council Office, Room 222, and ask for Sandra Bell, Sean Casey or Andrew Beckett.

Here is some of the background information for you to consider:

Why change the building?

The SUB was built in 1968 and since then a number of new services have evolved throughout the building. By far the most significant addition to the building was the Grawood Lounge in the early 70's. The majority of complaints and suggestions that we have received in past years and specifically this year, revolve around the location and layout of the bar, seating capacity of the bar, lack of food service and a dance floor in its present location. As well, quality meeting room facilities for student groups, such as Room 224/226, which accommodates between 70-100 people for various functions, is in increasing demand with the increased usage of the building this past year.

The present Grawood Lounge is L-shaped and lacks permanent kitchen facilities and has a limited capacity of 160-170 people during meal times. A few years ago the Student Union Council opened up the Grawood for lunch time in an attempt to accommodate the overflow from the Garden Cafeteria during these busy times. The additional seating area has been successful but it is very apparent that still more space

is needed. In general, the Grawood Lounge is not considered a place for students to spend a significant amount of time in.

What are the Advantages of this change?

- 1) Capacity in the Grawood would almost double
- 2) A dance floor would be installed
- 3) Food service would increase once again attempting to accommodate as many students as possible who wish to remain in the SUB for peak meal times, as well as providing an alternative for late afternoon/early evening "pub suppers"
- 4) The largest washrooms, located on the lower level would be much better utilized
- 5) Students would not have to travel three floors to find the bar, and its own outside entrance to the proposed bar would be put in place, opening onto Seymour Street.
- 6) Quality meeting room facilities would be increased for student use.

When will the changes be made?

If agreement is reached soon on the floor plans, construction could commence in the spring of 1988. All changes would be completed

and ready for full operation by September 1, 1988.

How much will the changes cost?

The cost of construction and furnishings will total \$500,000. This includes refurbishing, carpeting, etc. of all the affected areas.

How will the changes be financed?

The Student Union has approached the University to request a loan for making these changes. This loan would be paid back over a 15 year period.

By the spring of 1988, the loan given by the university in 1968 to cover the capital cost of the SUB will almost be paid off. This has been facilitated by collecting \$10.00 from each full time student since 1969 as part of the Student Union fee paid during registration. The \$10.00 per student could continue to be collected for an additional 15 year period and these funds to be used to pay for the new changes. Therefore, and most important to students, no increase to the present Student Union Fee will be required to finance the changes.