An Update on the Capital Plan

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Presentation outline

● Background
● Timeline & progress
● Feedback from Council & COFA
● Executive Campaign Crew
● Updates on proposed levy
● Faculty Association Feedback
● Annual survey results
● The next steps
● Questions
Background

- Issue: How can the UASU sustainably mitigate the long-term threat of deferred maintenance while continuing to thrive in the short-term?

- Why now?
  - Interest rates are low but likely going up
  - Myer Horowitz and bars accessibility
  - University and deferred maintenance

- 2 fee options:
  - SUB Specific fee
  - Campus-wide fee
Feedback from Council

- 14/15 respondents preferred the campus wide levy
  - More flexibility
  - Greater *potential* impact on students
  - “I just love the idea of hanging in an SU lounge that’s not in SUB”

- Many great questions and concerns were raised
  - What are the top locations in need of renovation?
  - How would spaces be prioritized?
  - How will spaces be balanced across faculties?
  - Augustana & CSJ?
The Executive Campaign Crew

● Composition
  ○ 2 Business students
  ○ 1 Science student
  ○ 1 Arts student

● Roles
  ○ Digital Strategist
  ○ Communication Strategist
  ○ Volunteer Coordinator
  ○ Campus Relations Coordinator

● Conducted consultations with Faculty Associations
● Will create and implement both campaigns
Presentation to COFA Senior Board

- Almost all, anecdotally, prefer the campus wide levy
- What would the first 5 years look like?
- What are tangible examples of what this levy would go towards?

Consultations at Student Leaders Summit

- General Qs such as “what are some spaces on campus that are not well maintained?” and “if you had $1 million to fix any space on campus, what would it be?”
- Feedback: marginalized community consideration, staggered fee

*Pivot Point*

Scrap the SUB fee as students clearly preferred the campus wide fee. Focus pivots towards process around how it will be used and controlled.
Student spaces levy

- The levy will be used to fund the maintenance and renovation of non-government funded space around campus, and areas in SUB.
- University has a deferred maintenance debt of 1 billion dollars, thus student spaces will not be prioritized.
- The funds will be controlled by students
- This levy will be charged in perpetuity so that our spaces have predictable funding, and fees don’t have to increase year after year.
How are spaces selected?

- Projects around campus can be proposed (via FA or an individual student by getting 100 signatures in support of the proposal) to Council, outlining:
  - Current state of space
  - What are the issues?
  - What is the general proposal?
  - How students would benefit from it’s reno?

- Projects will be approved via Students’ Council with a ⅔ majority and prioritized using the following criteria:
  - $ amount in reserve
  - cost vs. impact
  - Areas that have been renovated previously
  - Marginalized communities impact
First 5 years

- Summer 2019, replace furniture on main floor SUB
- January 2020, Myer Horowitz Theater and North Entrance
- First 5 years: $1 million into students spaces
- Year 5: $5 million into Dewey’s

*Pivot Point*

Focus pivots away from Myer Horowitz Theatre renovation, towards “reimagining” the theatre space.

TL;DR:
The theatre is a deteriorating asset that we need to deal with. What use of the space would best serve students?
Feedback from FAs

- “If students overwhelmingly tell the SU that they don’t want a theatre, are you going to listen?”
- Study spaces are very important (outlets, microwaves, water fountains, etc)
- Tangible examples of spaces and proposals?
- What will the fee cost?
- Advocacy and use of space
- Concern for how spaces are prioritized in Council for smaller faculties
- Why hasn’t this been done before?

When SUB was created in 1967, there was a $3 maintenance fee attached to it but it was not tied to CPI. Eventually it was dropped, which is a shame because in 2018 dollars it would be $21...
Annual Survey Question

- Tested 6 different questions, ~800 students responded to each version.
- Response options were Yes, No, and Unsure (with textbox)
- Structure of the questions: [PREAMBLE] A potential student spaces levy would cost [LEVY OPTION], and would match the rate of inflation afterward. The resulting student-controlled fund would help maintain and renew the SUB and other student spaces that are not eligible for government funding. Would you support this levy?
Different Preambles

● Version 1: It would cost over $1 billion to address all maintenance needs on campus. Government funding for updating university facilities usually leaves out student spaces, such as study and community areas across campus.

● Version 2: The University has a 'deferred maintenance' liability of $1 billion in old buildings, spaces, and equipment. Government funding supports renewal and maintenance on campus, but only for academic and administrative space. Non-academic student space is ineligible for government funding.
Amount options

- Version 1: $8/term in Fall 2019, $16/term in Fall 2020, and $24/term in Fall 2021
- Version 2: $10/term in Fall 2019, $20/term in Fall 2020, and $30/term in Fall 2021
- Version 3: $12/term in Fall 2019, $24/term in Fall 2020, and $36/term in Fall 2021
- Version 4: $30/term, starting in Fall 2019 (final fee identical to Versions 2 and 5)
- Version 5: $10/term in Fall 2019, would increase by $10/term in both Fall 2020 and Fall 2022 (numerically identical to Version 2)
The Results from 4,979 respondents...
$10/$20/$30 "liability"

- Yes: 42.4%
- No: 45.3%
- Unsure: 12.3%

$12/$24/$36

- Yes: 42.0%
- No: 43.2%
- Unsure: 14.8%
$10/$20/$30 restated

- Yes: 49.2%
- No: 36.7%
- Unsure: 14.1%
Up next

- Study of campus spaces
  - Conducted by an Urban Planning student
  - Will entail:
    - Student space categorization
    - Student space report card
    - Informal student interviews
    - Formal semi-structured interviews
    - Site visits (photos & summary report)
  - Completion in January

- Summary of Annual Survey
  - Wording of the questions
  - Concerns from textbox answers with “unsure” option
The Next Steps

- Design Campaign #1
- Consult w/ DAs, SGs, etc., answer Questions
- Prep draft referendum Q w/ Bylaw
- Late Jan Design Campaign #2
- Jan 28th - Feb 8th Campaign #1
- End of Feb Campaign #2
- Early March Referendum
Questions?