

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

### A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

*In Joint Session with*

### B. Finance, Audit and Facilities Committee

#### Ethnic Cultural Center (ECC) Expansion Project

In May 2007, the Services and Activities Fee Committee (SAFC) co-funded a feasibility study to assess and outline long-range goals related to changing student user needs and lifestyles, aging infrastructure, and code compliance for the ECC. Based on extensive interviews, focus groups, and an open forum, a conceptual/programmatic option was generated. Estimated cost projections, at a conceptual level, range from \$15 million to \$17 million (including cost escalation and other “soft costs” such as design, state sales tax, furnishings, and contingencies).

Based on the consensus of the project’s planning committee, which is comprised of 7 students, 7 faculty and staff, Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity has submitted a \$850,000 request to the SAFC to partner with Capital Projects Office to provide pre-design, schematic design and design development documents for a potential expansion that meet the prioritized needs. If approved, the allocation would come from bond funds that remain from the canceled Recreational Sports Golf Driving Range project.

The pre-design and preliminary design processes would determine the actual scope, timing, potential phasing, program and space needs, and project budget for the expansion. The next step would be to partner with ASUW, GPSS, and SAFC student leadership to determine whether or not to advocate the issuance of bonds for project construction.

#### BACKGROUND:

The ECC provides programs and learning environment where students and student organizations collaborate, develop and implement programs while building leadership and organizational skills.

The existing 10,000 SF ECC is a single story light wood frame building located at the southwest corner of 40<sup>th</sup> Street and Brooklyn Avenue in the Seattle west campus. The building is 38 years old.

The Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity planning committee convened in October 2007 to analyze the space needs of this facility based on concerns raised by minority students users.

The Office of Educational Assessment was retained to gather input from 10 stakeholder groups and facilitate a large open group forum. The findings of the needs analysis included:

1. ECC is a well used and much loved “safe zone” for minority students.
2. Minority student organizations need more office and work space.

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3. Students want more meeting space to accommodate organization functions including dance and music programs.
4. Students value the existing lounge space and want additional space to allow expansion of informational displays, access to multi-cultural resource materials and more educational technology.

The Capital Projects Office working with the OMA&D planning committee completed a Feasibility Study. The feasibility study findings include:

1. The facility would be 34,000 SF to all needs identified.
2. In response the Planning Committee prioritized the program, eliminated some needs identified to compromise on a 22,500 SF program that will meet the high priority needs identified with reasonable capacity for limited growth over time.
3. Building infrastructure and systems are mainly original and currently or in the next 10 years need replacement.
4. Any addition to the building will require costly code upgrades, ADA, fire/life safety, etc.
5. Horizontal or vertical expansion of the existing facility is not viable or cost effective.
6. Demolition of the existing facility and replacement is the most cost effective and only viable option.

#### ECC Expansion Timeline

SAFC Request for Predesign and Schematic Design Funding	May 2008
Predesign Phase Commences	June 2008
Predesign, Schematic Design, Design Development Phase Completed	April 2009
SAFC Request for Renovation & Expansion Funding	May 2009
Construction Documents Phase Commences	June 2009
Design Completion	Sept. 2009
Construction Commences	Dec. 2009
Construction Complete	May 2011