David Purdie
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078
555-555-5555

# Backgrounder

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For More Information, Contact:
Oct. 13, 2011 David Purdie
Director of Media Relations
555-555-5555
david.purdie@okstate.edu

**Student Union**

The Student Union at Oklahoma State University is the largest Student Union in the nation. The Student Union unofficially opened on Sept. 9, 1950. The Student Union was a part of OSU President Bennett’s 25-year plan. Under his plan, it “called for 25 new buildings and enlargement of more than half a dozen of the main campus buildings” (union.okstate.edu). The last major renovation to the Student Union was in Dec. 1963, which included an additional floor to the northeast side of the Student Union.
 The Student Union renovation was heavily pushed by the student body at Oklahoma State University. Many students within “Student Government Association, Residential Hall Association, Office Multicultural Affairs, Student Union Activities Board, etc. have played an active role in focus groups, design advisory groups and other informal information gathering processes” (union.okstate.edu). The Student Union renovation has increased campus life space, retail operations, updated the dining area and is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED, certified building.

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The Student Government Association passed a bill in 2007, which would allocate roughly $50 million of student fees toward the renovation project. The renovation is made possible through those student fees, “university funds, bonds and private donations” (union.okstate.edu). Members of the Student Government Association pushed for the renovated Student Union to be a LEED certified building. Being a LEED certified building allows the Student Union to “use environmentally responsible materials, sustainable architecture techniques [and] become more energy efficient” (union.okstate.edu).

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