



Oklahoma State University
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Backgrounder

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Student Union Renovation

The student union undergoes a drastic makeover and prepares for its opening ceremony.

The Oklahoma State University Student Union provides many services for the students to use while on-or off-campus. Before the renovations began the union was outdated and overcrowded. Students were still able to use its facilities, but due to rising number in students enrolled at the university it was evident it was time to expand.

The student union was created in 1937 under President Henry Bennett's term. His vision was to create a place where students could enhance their cultural and social environment through programs and services. The original union was a mere \$4.3 million funded by a self-imposed tax by students. Today the project has expanded to an \$86 million development, which also has been covered by a student self-imposed tax.

Construction began on the new student union in November 2005, when the consulting team of three began to make plans for the expansion project. The committee began traveling the country in 2006 to visit other campuses for architecture ideas. After the planning committee's \$86 million proposition was approved they began hiring a team of

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architectures and engineers. In January 2010 construction began on the exterior framework, portables were constructed as temporary locations for the bookstore and food court so students could still use their amenities.

In the September 2011 portions of the interior were opened for student use; these include the bookstore, Jamba Juice, Johnny Rockets and Caribou Coffee. Students immediately began to enjoy the new editions and have given much positive feedback.

A celebration is in order for the completion of the student union renovations. OSU's Student Government Association is planning a black-tie event for faculty, alumni, and related donors. Burns Hargis in addition to T. Boone Pickens will be in attendance to the congratulatory event.

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