

Wellness Recreation Sports Complex Informational Outline

The University of Texas – Pan American

Why a Wellness Recreation Sports Complex?

- A quality recreation center can transform a university's campus life
- Campus focal point/a major gathering place
- Other universities have found their new wellness-recreation centers to be the most popular facility on campus
- Enhance intramurals and recreation
- Most important: a wellness-recreation center will help students develop a healthier lifestyle that will benefit them the rest of their lives

Developing the proposal:

- Committee makeup
 - 5 students
 - Faculty member from Kinesiology
 - Faculty member from Nursing
 - Staff member from Rec-Sports
 - Staff member from Business Affairs
 - Staff member from Athletics
 - Staff member from Health Services
 - Dean of Students (chair)
- Research
 - Road trip to San Antonio, Austin, and Denton
 - Researched NIRSA's 12 outstanding new facilities
 - Survey off 600+ students
- Guiding principle: this is a student-first facility
 - Under Dean of Students office, not Athletics or Academics
 - Faculty, staff, and alumni needs considered but as a secondary priority
- Strategy for developing the specific proposal:
 - 1) What facilities do we want in the complex?
 - 2) How much space is needed to include all of these facilities?
 - 3) How much will it cost to build a complex this size?
 - 4) What fee will be needed to pay for the cost?
- Committee identified the features essential to a quality center for UTPA students
 - Weight room and cardio room at least 4 times larger than our current facilities
 - Gymnasium for basketball, volleyball, badminton, etc. (minimum of 3 courts)
 - Multipurpose court for basketball, indoor soccer, floor hockey, etc.
 - Climbing and bouldering wall
 - Locker rooms
 - Racquetball courts (minimum of 3)
 - Aerobics/Multipurpose rooms (minimum of 2)
 - Indoor jogging track
 - Student lounge
 - Outdoor recreational swimming pool

- Size: Originally anticipated 100,000 square feet to guarantee these items
- Cost: Originally anticipated \$20-24 million
- Fee: \$75 per semester (\$35 per summer) beginning the semester the center opens
- Other revenue:
 - Faculty, staff, and alumni will be able to use the facility, but their fee will be higher
 - Camps and other revenue generating events, but will do so primarily during summer, semester breaks, or other times when student use is low

Referendum details:

- With SGA elections on March 29 through April 1
- Referendum identified the specific features to be included in the facility
- Results: 1631 students voting; 1411 to 220 in favor (86.5%)

Complex Overview:

- Approximately 85,000 square feet indoor; 56,000 outdoor
- Cost: \$26 million (construction costs \$18.8 million)
- Architects: F&S Partners (Dallas)
- Preliminary design contains all the referendum items, plus
 - A second student lounge/meeting room
 - A fourth racquetball court
 - Weight/fitness area actually 7 times larger than current
 - 2 outdoor tennis courts
 - 2 outdoor basketball courts
 - 2 outdoor sand volleyball courts
 - Spa included with outdoor pool
- Fee revenue in FY08: \$3,598,595; other revenue: \$171,000 (\$3,769,595 total)
- Operating costs: \$3,372,308 (debt \$2,266,799); net income: \$362,286 FY08
- Location: SW corner of Sugar Rd. and Schunior Rd.
- Timetable: we anticipate construction would begin in early 2006, major construction completed in June or July 2007, and the complex would open in the fall of 2007
- A board comprised of 75% student membership (appointed by the Student Government Association) will advise the center's operation.