

UC Regents approve design of University Center

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UC REGENTS APPROVE DESIGN OF UNIVERSITY CENTER

The University of California Board of Regents today (March 21) approved the design of an \$18.6 million University Center to be built at the University of California, San Diego.

Construction of the center, which will serve the entire campus community, will begin this summer with completion expected in 1988. The architect for the project is the firm of Kaplan/McLaughlin/Diaz of San Francisco.

"The students and parents who have so generously supported the center thus far will surely be pleased with this splendid design," said Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson. "When completed, the center will provide a focal point for campus activity that we presently lack."

The University Center will contain 120,000 assignable square feet and will house the campus bookstore, lounges, a ballroom with capacity of 1,500, adjacent kitchen facilities, several restaurants, a campus pub, recreation areas, a 500-seat theater/classroom, and office space for campus groups.

"It's a dream come true for us," said Tom Tucker, assistant vice-chancellor of undergraduate affairs, who has been in charge of the project. "It is unique. We think it's going to be the finest non-classroom facility on any campus in the country. We can't wait for construction to begin."

The center will be built on a five-acre site and will be a complex of two major structures, one with three levels and one with two. There will be an open plaza area between the structures for outdoor dining and suitable for events such as speakers or musical performances.

The facility will be located southeast of the Central Library in an area currently occupied by the office of the registrar, the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, and the Development and Alumni Office.

Funding for the center will come from revenue bonds, the 25th anniversary fund raising campaign, the chancellor's unrestricted funds, the campus bookstore, a commercial loan and student registration fees. In 1984, UCSD students voted a \$25 per quarter increase in their registration fees to help pay for the building.

The new facility supplants the existing 22,000 square-foot student center which was built in 1973 with an 8,500 square-foot addition in 1976. The existing buildings will continue to be used for student activities offices and meeting rooms.

"Institutions of higher education recognize that campus environments may enhance, or may detract from, the fruitful use of student time and, consequently, have major impact on the total educational experience," said Tucker. "Students do indeed learn from each other and from faculty and staff in informal association outside the classroom."

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