



Board Takes on Campus Renovations

Modern Space progress, WebPortal changes expected this year

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By Anna Christy, Contributor

Following up on many of their campaign platforms, Associated Students executive board members, led by A.S. President Matt Keipper are tackling long-time campus concerns. This includes overcrowding and registration issues, as well as rapidly solidifying plans for a new student union and an updated WebPortal system.

The San Diego State Modern Space Student Union Expansion, a project targeting the renovation of Aztec Center, will begin this fall with the initiation of a new \$11 student advisory fee -included in tuition - that was approved in March by 75.2 percent of SDSU students.

A.S. held open forums in the spring and will continue inviting student input during the early developmental phases of the project.

Keipper and the council expressed their goals to reach out to students and follow through with a unified vision of the new student union.

"I'm all about accessibility," Keipper said.

The estimated \$44 million project will incorporate the architectural and technological conveniences of a contemporary college environment with consideration to environmental practicality and tentative propositions for some solar-powered facilities.

"We need to develop a campus for the 21st century student," said Khoulood Elmasri, A.S. vice



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Associated Students executive board members (left to right), John Ly, Tyler Morgan, Khoulood Elmasri, Brian Hamilton and Matt Keipper, discuss campus issues during one of their meetings.

president of external affairs and chief communications officer.

With the Aztec Center boasting nearly 40 years of use since it opened in 1968, SDSU's growing student population is rapidly seeking more accessible outlets than Aztec Center currently offers.

According to an SDSU-sponsored study conducted by the facility planning firm Brailsford & Dunlavey in 2001, Aztec Center was found to be lacking in "significant aesthetic, functional, operational and technical deficiencies in comparison to contemporary student unions."

To date, A.S. has spent \$50,000 on the Modern Space project, primarily for gathering student information and marketing the referendum. Now in the planning phase, A.S. has not spent any money from the construction fund, said Tyler Morgan, A.S. vice president of finance.

In addition to campus expansion and development, A.S. is also cooperating with SDSU Student Affairs, Information Technology and Enrollment Services to develop a more accessible WebPortal system that will incorporate Blackboard and an online class-crashing system aimed to eliminate the frenzy and frustration of semester enrollment.

The board is also looking to integrate campus calendars through the WebPortal system to inform students of upcoming school-related events, such as Aztec football games.

A.S. Executive Vice President Brian Hamilton said he hopes all students will attend the SDSU tailgate before the football season home opener.

"I'm all about increasing Aztec pride," Hamilton said. "We want students to be more involved because this is their campus."