



## **Oregon State U. Recreation Center to Undergo \$18 Million Facelift**

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By Gabelle Vazquez, OSU Daily Barometer

Oregon State University's Dixon Recreation Center is planning to get a face-lift that may begin as soon as summer 2001.

Some of the renovations will include: improving the lighting, the roof over the gymnasium, the plumbing and the electrical system; and bringing together the outdoor recreational equipment program hut and the indoor climbing center with the original building, said Dennis Monroe, assistant director of recreational sports.

Tom Kirch, director of recreational sports, also said the building would be brought up to seismic code.

Kirch said the project has been on a waiting list for about 19 years.

This project was broken down into three different phases. The second phase, which was the addition of the aquatic center, was completed in 1992.

The third phase is planned to be completed by the summer of 2002.

Students are not to worry, Kirch said.

"When construction starts we will still be able to operate the building."

Although there may be some inconveniences, Monroe said, the building will continue operating during construction.

The project, which will cost roughly \$ 18 million, is funded by student fees gathered from colleges all over the state and will allow improvements to be made to meet the needs of an increasing number of students.

"This money is used strictly for student-related facilities," Kirch said. "It is dedicated for specific purposes."

The collected funds are placed into a pot and distributed to the school by the chancellor's office, he said.

"With enrollment increasing, something has to be done to meet the needs of the students," Kirch said. "A study done by Brailsford and Dunlavey, has shown that students are concerned about overcrowding and the need for more space."

Brailsford and Dunlavey's internal study shows that students had a high level of interest and need for change, Kirch said.

The project will add an expansion of 70,000 square feet. This includes a new gymnasium with a suspended running track, multi-purpose rooms and the addition of family changing rooms, glass lookouts over the pool area and a new cardiovascular fitness area.

The fitness area will be nearly three times what it is right now, Monroe said.

The building will also have a new entry, which will be accessible according to Americans with Disabilities Act codes.

"The intent is to make the facility welcoming to everybody," Kirch said.

But that isn't the only motivation for changes.

"The building needs an upgrade and improvement," Kirch said. "The way it was built, aesthetically, wasn't very good."

The final design for the project is coming to its final stages.

Anyone interested in seeing the proposed changes can find the models on display at Dixon.