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Groundbreaking Ceremony for Titan Student Center Expansion

By Clayton Wong

“With so many students receiving a great education at Cal State Fullerton — and I know there’s 26,000, almost 27,000, square feet of expansion — it’s much needed,” Kim said.

The expansion had been planned for about 3 years, Badal said.

Initially, the TSCGB proposed the idea, which was approved by the ASI Board of Directors. Then, after both boards agreed, they worked with campus communities to ensure they desired the expansion before finally approving the plan with the CSU Board of Trustees.

Prior to the proposal, the TSCGB hired program management firm Brailsford & Dunlavey to survey the TSU and determine what students would benefit from most, Grime said.

The expansion is a \$20 million cash expansion project, Grime said.

“We didn’t raise student fees, nor did we accrue student debt of any sort,” the TSCGB chair said. The project was funded by the accumulation of the \$74 student body fees and the \$134 Titan Student Centers fees, Badal said.

“Once the money came to a point where we could expand the building, (ASI) decided that would be the best service we could give to students,” Badal said. The money from student fees is allocated towards work on the TSU, the Student Recreation Center and the Children’s Center, he said.

The expansion is estimated to be completed in spring 2017, after which there will be a grand opening ceremony.

Associated Students Inc. held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Titan Student Union expansion Wednesday afternoon.

ASI hosted the event to celebrate the construction of the TSU expansion; however, the actual groundbreaking will be held at a later date.

“The reason we wanted to do the ceremonial groundbreaking now, rather than when we actually broke ground, is that students are on campus,” ASI President and CEO Michael Badal said. “Since this is a project that was paid for by students and it is for students, we wanted students to ... have the opportunity to be out here and see what we’re doing.”

The groundbreaking ceremony was preceded by seven speakers, including CSUF President Mildred García, Vice President Berenecea Johnson Eanes, California State Assemblywoman Young Kim, Titan Student Centers Governing Board (TSCGB) Chair Kristyn Grime and Badal.

García referred to the TSU as the “campus living room,” likening it to living in a home with a large family.

“It’s important that our students have the elbow and breathing room to enjoy their living room,” García said.

Kim spoke about her connection with CSUF, noting that three of her children are graduates and one is currently in attendance. The TSU was a central aspect of college life for her children, Kim said.