

CAMPUS NEWS

Future of Student Facility Fee begins to take shape

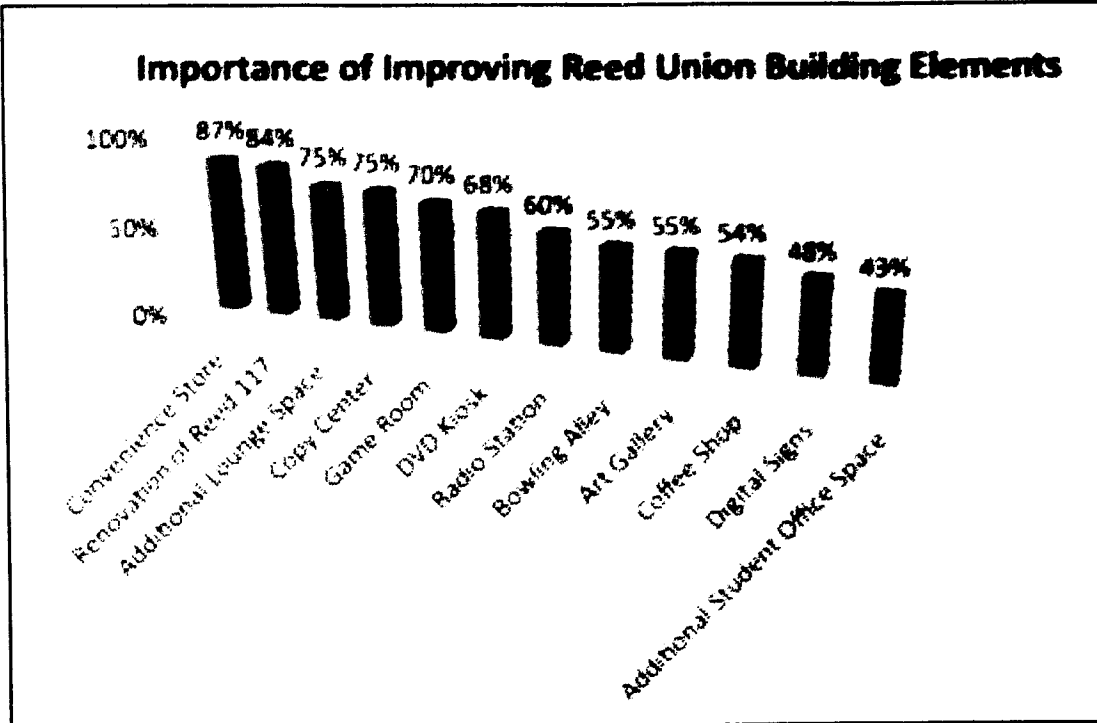
By Rachel Reeves
editor in chief
rcr5057@psu.edu

This week, the Division of Student Affairs and the Student Government Association have released their recommendations for the use of the spring 2009 Student Facility Fee (SFF).

After reviewing the results of the Student Facility Fee survey completed in January, the SFF committee has outlined some preliminary steps for the school to take.

The top priority is conducting a feasibility study on building a convenience store on campus. The SFF committee intends for the study to be completed by the end of the 2009-2010 academic year. After the study is received, SFF will be able to determine how funds will be spent on the project. Another subject of a feasibility study includes the addition of another workout room like the Jageman Fitness Room, to be completed by February of 2010.

For the more immediate future, the committee would like to see the college start renovating Reed 117 and the lounge area on the ground floor of the Reed Union Building. All renovations will



be based on the study conducted by the 2008 SFF committee. The goal is to have the project completed by the spring semester in 2010.

The committee requests that a few study groups are formed in order to look into some more possibilities. One group will be formed to review plans from the Communications department to establish a student radio station on campus. Another group will look into the possibility of adding a copy center in the Union Building,

and another group will explore the chances of renovating the game room in Lawrence Hall.

87 percent of students surveyed this winter agreed that adding a convenience store to campus was the top priority, followed closely by 84 percent requesting improvements to Reed 117. However, students should keep in mind that changes might not be as drastic as could be expected for an estimated \$800,000 in funds. 71 percent of students surveyed felt that it would be best

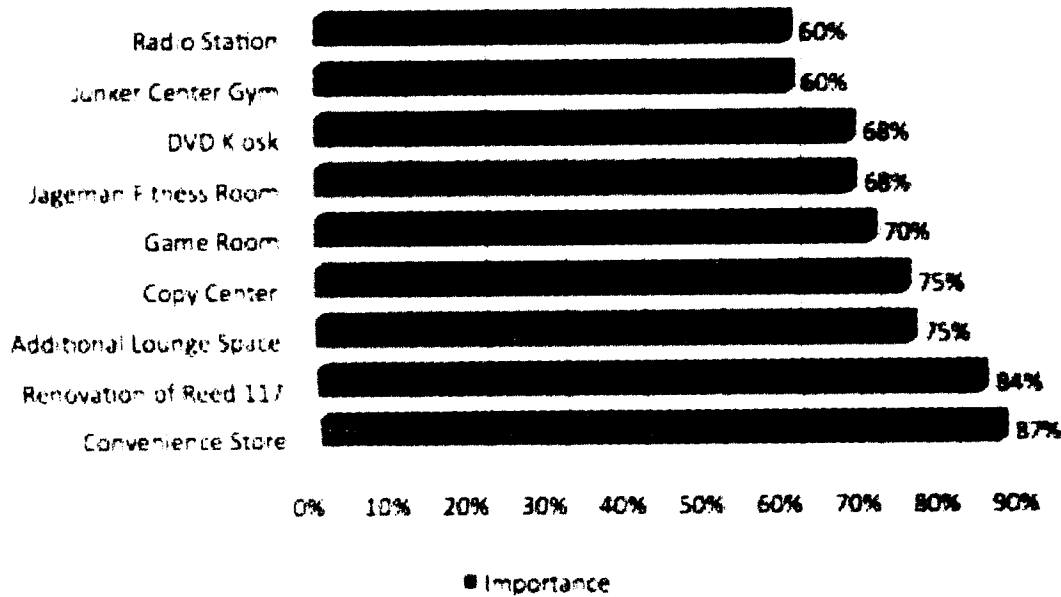
to spend some of the money now, but also to save a portion for later and larger projects.

29 percent of the student population responded in this year's survey, compared to an average response rate of 15 percent. One of the conditions for collecting and spending a student facility fee is that the student body has to demonstrate significant support. Although in the comments section of the survey there were a handful of students who expressed resentment at the \$100 per student fee, most were excited about future potential changes.

The SFF committee acknowledges the need for improvement and expansion of the campus in the immediate future. According to the report, "The growth in the student body over the past 5 years is reflective of the standards of high-quality the college demands. The Student Facility Fee committee has established the above priorities in the spirit of creating high-quality, high-impact space for use by students."

Results of the 2009 Student Facility Fee Survey.
Above: Potential Reed Union Building Improvements
Left: Ranking of all potential changes by importance

Ranking of All Elements by Importance



UNIVERSITY GATE APARTMENTS

Summer Rentals

Now Available

Step into the new rental office

now located in the

"NEW" Student Community Center

& check out the

Great Summer Rates and Availability!

DON'T DELAY, SIGN UP TODAY!



(814) 899-5160

www.jamesproperties.com
universitygate@jamesproperties.com

Interested in writing news for *The Behrend Beacon*?

E-mail Matthew Schwabenbauer at mjs5387@psu.edu for more information.

What's Inside

Men's tennis team victorious against AMCC rivals

Don't let their 5-7, 2-0 record fool you. The Penn State Behrend men's tennis team means business.

Fresh off consecutive conference victories over Pitt-Bradford (1-3, 1-2) and Pitt-Greensburg (0-4, 0-3), the Lions have their sights set on defending their 2008 AMCC championship.

"At this point in the season I feel pretty good about the team," says head coach Jeff Barger. "In some areas we are doing good but in others we have a ways to go. One good thing about the two matches we played [against Pitt-Bradford and Pitt-Greensburg] is I got to rest some regulars and get some other guys into the action."

The Lions feature 10 impressive returning players

from last year's championship team. They are led by senior captain James Getty and sophomore Elliot Blackstone, who was named AMCC co-player of the year as a freshman.

The Behrend men began their season going 5-5 out of conference play. The team initially cruised to a 4-1 record before traveling to Hilton Head, South Carolina over Spring Break to play top competition.

Though the team ended their Spring Break vacation winning just one out of five matches, it was partly due to the absence of sophomore Erkin Nasirli as well as Barger's decision to give all...



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sophomore Elliot Blackstone is ready for the serve.

page 8

College to Career

While sitting in a room cluttered with desks and students frantically scribbling trying to finish their last finals at Penn State, I never once envisioned myself becoming a Cost Analyst for a nuclear power company. Sure enough, infinite internet searches, multiple interviews, five resume rough drafts, and a few months later I found myself living in Charlotte, NC working a full-time job in Fort Mill, SC.

I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Management which has transposed into what I hope will be the start of a career in the nuclear power industry. My search for a job was extremely stressful and for those few months I felt more lost than

I've ever felt in my life, but in the end I persevered and found a place that aligns with both my needs and my personal goals.

I am writing this letter because I know how grueling the period between finishing college and finding a job can be, now more so than ever. All people seem to focus on lately is the economic downturn, falling stock prices, diminishing retirement savings, and how things are only going to get worse. Where does that leave young adults who have little work experience and who are looking to find a job and begin their lives? I am not saying that we need to be oblivious to what is going on, but we need to stay positive and focus on what will make

us stronger. We cannot just fold and admit defeat after a few rejections and blame it on the economy. That's no excuse. Yes, it is extremely difficult right now to find a good job but it is possible.

The corporation I work for is called URS. It is a multibillion dollar company operating in 34 countries with 55,000 plus employees. URS provides services in planning, engineering and architectural design, environmental, construction, program and construction management, systems integration, operations and maintenance, and management.

page 5

THE BEHREND BEACON

Penn State Erie,

The Behrend College

Reed Union Building

4701 College Drive, Erie PA 16563 Room 10H

Telephone: (814) 898-6488

Fax: (814) 898-6019

Executive Board

Rachel Reeves, *Editor-in-Chief* - rcr5057@psu.edu

Connor Sattely, *Managing Editor* - cis5060@psu.edu

Michelle Quail, *Advertising Manager* - mlq5001@psu.edu

Kim Young, *Faculty Advisor* - kiy10@psu.edu

Editorial Board

Matthew Schwabenbauer, *News Editor*

mjs5387@psu.edu

Mike O. Wehrer, *News Editor*

mrw5094@psu.edu

Jennifer Juncosa, *Perspectives Editor*

jdj5061@psu.edu

Nick Blake, *Sports Editor*

nbp5041@psu.edu

Christine Newby, *Sports Editor*

cen5056@psu.edu

Evan Koser, *Arts Editor*

emk5110@psu.edu

Neil J. Peters, *Assistant Arts Editor*

njp5083@psu.edu

Marcus Yeagley, *Copy Editor*

mjy5012@psu.edu

Emily Reichert, *Copy Editor*

ecr5068@psu.edu

Kay Smith, *Copy Editor*

kms5174@psu.edu

Jeremy Korwek, *Website Editor*

jdk5009@psu.edu

Keegan McGregor, *Photography Editor*

klm5323@psu.edu

Daniel Smith, *Senior Photographer*

djs5223@psu.edu

Bethany Long, *Assistant Ad. Manager*

bjl5037@psu.edu

Matthew Alto, *Weather Editor*

mra5065@psu.edu