

## Site Visits to See Other College Unions and University Centers

A group of five (5) student leaders and five (5) administrators conducted a series of Site Visits in April of 2008 to see other University Center/College Union facilities. Each of the facilities had some very positive features, as well as some “concepts” that the Site Visit team noted as to how our UC and UC satellite compares. Those comments, as well as a photo gallery for each campus are included below.

### Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ. @ Indianapolis Campus Center

To see the photo gallery from this Site Visit click [here](#).

#### Positive Features

- Atrium area very open – but yet enclosed
- Very consistent architecture
- Nice architectural design
- Multiple ATM options
- Nice 4<sup>th</sup> floor patio – for student events (capacity up to 250 or so)
- Nice building plan (consistency between floors)
- Great Loading Dock
- Escalators was a nice feature – very easy to navigate from floor to floor
- Great amount of natural light
- Atrium was outstanding feature
- Access hallways for AV, set-up and Catering
- Meeting rooms equipped with AV
- Great access to garage for parking
- Nice signage
- Overall spacing is awesome – very open concept.
- Great that the Bookstore had a good amount of leisure books – as well as textbooks.
- Student Organization space is minimal
- Great concept for the book buyback center
- Very welcoming
- Nice “hang out” place
- Nice programming venues – particularly for student organizations
- No AV equipment charges to student organizations – just personnel expenses
- Gorgeous TV lounge (multi-TV approach - 12)
- Bathrooms (family-friendly)
  - Paper towel dispenser was not located well
- Restrooms (consistent location, look and no doors)
- Nice meeting room diversity (size, location, AV items included, and multi-purpose rooms)
- Nice dining areas
- One-stop shop center for student services
- Nice walking tunnel to other building
- Completely high tech
- All meeting rooms had technology built-in
- Very large TV lounge – would be nice to have an enclosed option
  - Used development opportunities as a source of funds
- Nice recycling program
- Spirit Wall – but would locate it in a more open area – like Info area or food court
- Signage was good – with “shoot outs”
- 

#### Comparisons with UH and Concepts for UH

- Welcome Center is nice – possible relation between UH UC and new Welcome Center – and great connection to the Garage (with spirit wall)
- Love of IUPUI community and history (pride)
- Based on IUPUI started with (new building) they basically had no limitations
- Opening the UC Building – removing all the black tile around the perimeter – and include glass to increase open feeling
- Improved food service options (healthy, quality)
- Very nice e-mail stations
- Information Center right at the entrance (that has a building function as well)
  - Very open, visible and centralized (Open Concept)
- Lots of surrounding land
- Very “open” feeling
- Great natural light – definitely a highlight
- Nice placement of shops on a “retail level”
- UH has to be more organized when it comes to the planning of a renovation/expansion of the UC / UC Satellite – it appears that students had little input (Chartwells was actually boycotted for a short time due to limited input from students)
- Building style at UH should express diverse community at UH
- Fabulous atrium and use of light
- Very open – visible and has curb appeal

- Bell Tower rocks – even without a bell
- Use more glass in design (possibly using shading – to keep cool)
- Good flow in food service areas – and can close off sections
- Nice digital displays instead of menu boards are great in food service areas
- Liked it – but unrealistic for UH
- Energy efficient
- Skywalk between the UC and Library

### **San Diego State University Aztec Center**

To see the photo gallery from this Site Visit click [here](#).

#### Positive Features

- Multiple ATM options
- Campus organization that run food services is more intertwined with SDSU community – than a for-profit business
- All leases generate income for the Center (utilities, CAM and/or commissions)
- This facility falls in line with campus architectural space.
- Nice open-air
- New floor plan/design adds good use for the site topography
- Nice programming space in their “Mall” area between the Union and the Bookstore (at least 100 yards)
- Directory desk is well positioned
- C-stores and Bookstore are very good – and students seem happy
- 12 bowling lanes
- Cottage is an alternative location for programming
- SGA/students is a real priority
- Greek shop seemed nice
- They have a marquee – and have for several years
- Grab and Go food options are nice
- Great rooms for Student Government – which runs the Aztec Center
- Building leads to a central square surrounded by the Bookstore
- Nice recycling program
- Nice fluted column design
- Ballroom is in a cathedral style – very nice
- Aztec Shops provide \$50,000 to the ASI President for student organization initiatives
- Mural on walls would be nice at UH
- Nice outdoor seating space
- Student was Chair of the Project Team

#### Comparisons with UH and Concepts for UH

- Similar to our Facilities, it has challenges because of design and technical aspects.
- Nice landscaping
- Bookstore (not in the Union at SDSU) was amazing (with two levels)
- Very large and welcoming Information Center (that has a building function as well)
- Larger courtyard than UH
- Nice direct connection between the student organization offices/spaces and the games room
- Close to where we are – nice to see their “planning” phase

### **UC-San Diego University Centers**

To see the photo gallery from this Site Visit click [here](#).

#### Positive Features

- Great use of color (to draw you in – loud – eye catching – stand out - inviting)
- Quotes in the new floor are awesome and student-centered
- Marquee was awesome
- News ticker on large clock wall (inside of facility)
- Multiple ATM options
- Food options
- Physically beautiful and good use of color
- The supermarket, the chairs/furniture and lounge were all very nice
- Much better choices, quality, staff in the food service areas – and they manage this at the University Centers level
- Very attractive exterior “parks” and spaces
- Nice information about the Price Center renovation on the wall (with a model display)
- Great use of natural light
- Food Services has local vendors in their union – great connection to the San Diego community
- Great furniture (flexible, moveable)
- The Loft space was very innovative and student savvy
- Second Ballroom
- Multiple ATMs increase student/community access
- Food Court options are diverse.
- More food options that we have now – and six more scheduled to open (thai, Japanese, Mexican, good grab and go) – we need to have significant change in this area at UH

- Very high tech – including office space
- Student Affairs funded night club in the works
- Food Service staff appeared to care about users
- No AV equipment charges to student organizations – just personnel expenses
- Self Contracted Food Services creates more competition and reduces a “monopoly”
- Union handles all leases
- Computer Lab – Development space
- Study carrels
- Great food options – diversity options
- School spirit in several locations
- Commuter Services space (including kitchenette, study rooms, “bar” area)
- Nice use of decks and patios
- Dance rehearsal space
- Food service customer service..... ☺
- Private study group space
- SGA Meeting room space – with balcony
- Courtyard creates a sense of community
- Nice computer lab
- Open computers to public
- All leases generate income for the Center (utilities, CAM and/or commissions)
  - Specifically, food service commissions generate 30% of operating budget – keeping student fees for the University Centers low
- Great Loading Dock
- One Stop area – bridges the University Center and Campus Life offices (rules, policies, advising, all forms)
- WOW – students in the plaza area seemed to be very pleased with this space. Students were eating, laughing and studying. This is an atmosphere I would love to see in the UC (North Patio, patio in front of the UC off dining or new location) and the UC Satellite.
- Many entrances
- Nice recycling program

#### Comparisons with UH and Concepts for UH

- Center Courtyard area
- Underground Loading Dock – Great Idea!!
- I could imagine our facility being able to transform with an addition such the one here at UCSD.
- Second Ballroom
- Impressive lighting, size and dining flow.
- UCSD is very unique
- The size of the Union is ideal – as well as the floor dedicated to student organizations
- Marquee – Marquee – Marquee!!!
- Courtyard is awesome
- The pocket guide from the University Centers in our packet was awesome
- Grocery store – but not sure if UH needs one – or could support one financially – certainly should not allow current food service provider to screw this option up as well
- Self contracted food service really has a positive impact on the community and increases responsiveness – we have two middle people/groups (UHDS and AFBS)
- The seating area (courtyard) was the best feature of the trip!
- Very well manicured and landscaped areas
- Great addition which matches old facility
- “East” and “West” was a neat idea
- Artwork and quotes on the floor would be a nice addition

### **Texas Tech Student Union**

To see the photo gallery from this Site Visit click [here](#).

#### Positive Features

- Student Organization space is inviting, large and attracts a great deal of traffic.
  - 65 carrel spaces
  - Work Space
  - Connected to advisors and reservations (Student Union and Activities)
  - Greeks, Spirit Groups, Orientation connected to DOS
  - Creation Station
  - No walls – open friendly
  - DOS / SU&A / Student Organizations all close in proximity (avoiding the student run-around which exists at UH)
  - Meeting rooms adjacent to student organizations
- Multiple ATM options (24 hour access)
- Well maintained and has a “clean” feeling
- Original building and expansion very similar in style
- School spirit evident
- Students clearly were involved throughout the planning process – and it shows

- Meeting rooms were great (diverse styles)
- New/Old areas of the building seemed almost seamless
- Artwork in meeting rooms represented TT spirit, history and tradition
- The use of limestone was genius!
- No AV equipment charges to student organizations – just personnel expenses
- Double T in bookstore, on floors, pride - community
- All leases generate income for the Center (utilities, CAM and/or commissions)
- Great Loading Dock
- Meeting rooms had school spirit, history, Masked Rider, Round Table, embed pictures in tables
- Student Union and Activities are together – supporting students and student organizations
- Food – options, friendliness of staff, choice, healthy options – we need self-op food service
- Electronic window shades (natural light and open)
- Post Office, Technology Store – Retail Corridor was very well organized
- Use different styles of chairs/furniture
- Food choices and variety
- Simply amazing
- SGA, FS and SS Council Room was impressive
  - Outlets in table units
- Auditorium in Union was awesome
  - Chair design could improve
  - Note – Price Is Right Wheel
- Nice recycling program

Comparisons with UH and Concepts for UH

- Very different view of a renovation/expansion – in a positive way
- Always stayed open throughout renovation/expansion
- Multiple ATM options (24 hour access)
- Study Spaces and Lots of Small Rooms
- Has a great community feeling
- Great Union space
- Closest to my vision for what UH could do with the UC
- Great architecture
- Wide open food court – with great/diverse options
- Good space for student organizations – and not just fee-funded student orgs
- Like the Terrazzo and the TT logo in the walkways
- Retention of former outside space - not being inside was very cool – we need to enclose the Arbor – and reduce it in size
- UH should follow the renovation (with significant internal restructuring/repositioning) and small renovation approach
- Restaurant options are creative and diverse in nature
- Student organization cubicles were great (large and community oriented)
- The artwork is awesome!
- Great overall model for UH to follow (students and student organizations first, TT pride, positive food services, great retail area, true collaboration)
- All units/offices/departments provide financial support (CAM, utilities, etc.)
- Food Services in general – can the UH Hilton do food services on-campus? Clearly a single contractor reduces student satisfaction.
- Retail corridor is very well developed – from each of the entrance points
- Great Student Union model that focuses on STUDENTS as the main focus
- Information Center right at the entrance (that has a building function as well)

**University of South Florida Marshall Student Center**

To see the photo gallery from this Site Visit click [here](#).

The Site Visit to the Marshall Student Center at the University of South Florida was scheduled in late September. No official report was completed for this visit, but again, we encourage you to view the photo gallery.