Plans Call for Demolition of Interim Performing Arts Center

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Senior Reporter

The Interim Performing Arts Center (IPAC) is scheduled to be demolished after the Lied Center for Performing Arts is opened, said Jim Willet, facilities director at Creighton. No date has been set for the demolition.

“A lot depends on the funds,” he said. Willet said an additional 30 to 40 parking spaces will be built on the site for dental, physical therapy and occupational therapy students. The construction of the parking lot was approved by the board of directors, which is currently working on appropriating the funds.

“Everybody has a different opinion on what should be done with the building, and this is what is best for the school,” Willet said.

Student Board of Governors Vice-President Tom Kirchner said he does not want the building torn down but wants it to be a place for student organizations to hold social functions.

“Fraternities and sororities could hold date parties there,” he said. “It’s on the shuttle route, close to campus and Public Safety has access to it.”

Kirchner said he sent letters to student organization presidents requesting that members write letters in support of his idea.

“We don’t need more parking,” Kirchner said. “It would make more sense to me if Creighton would sell it to SBG for $1 and we could figure out how to use it.”

Willet, however, said several parts of the building are not safe.

“It’s really a garage with some additions,” he said. The city of Omaha used the building as a storage facility for equipment until Creighton built the IPAC, he said.

“Tremendous dust would come out of it,” Willet said. He said he would have to move tenants if it was used for storage.

Kirchner said he would be prepared to use the building for that purpose.

Willet said that the fate of the building is certain.

“The president and vice-presidents have already decided what is going to be done,” he said.