V.J. and Angela Skutt Student Center Advisory Board  
Tuesday November 12th, 2013  
Meeting & Minutes

Voting members present: Sue Selde, Jennifer Yee, Margaret Zimmer, Nick Tvrdy, Anne Taylor, Ashley Sickel, Michael Wiese.

Voting members not present: James Dorcey

Non-voting members present: Scott Maas, CJ Jackson, Tami Thibodeau, Karen Serratore.

Meeting minutes: Meeting called to order by Scott Maas at 3:42pm. Minutes approved from last meeting by Jennifer and Sue second the motion.

Review:
CSU will amend their previous proposal and submit the new one in 2014.

New Business:
Proposal to do a Skutt policy review over the next four months. One representative from each department will compromise the review committee. Representatives have not been chosen yet. The focus will be to see if Skutt’s policies are accurate and apply to our need. In the past policies have been discussed then brought to legal counsel for review. We will continue to proceed in this way. Throughout the next months, the review team will bring updates to this meeting for approval. Motion to approve by Nick and Jennifer second the motion.

Discussion about the physical presence of Skutt. Skutt is the ‘living room’ of the university. What do we need on this campus to support our students? What is missing from the physical aspect of the student center? Union needs to stay on trend and meet the need of the student population. How do we do this? Everyone provided copies of Renovations & Construction showcase 2013 for universities across the US. This shows new things that are happening at other universities. Skutt is 25 year old and has only had internal renovations. Complete tear down and rebuild not possible at this time. The need for meeting space was helped by the addition of the Harper Center several years ago. Now the traffic in Skutt has increased since the loss of space in Harper to the Heider College of Business. Skutt only has 3 rooms for use. With the Strategic Plan of increasing enrollment, how are we going to meet the increased need of space? Are we looking at a proposal to increase space? Room 104 with some renovation could be divided into 2 smaller rooms possibly but not 105. What is the draw for students to come here? Will they want to spend the next 4 years here? What will impress them?
Creighton is one of the top academic schools in the country but can’t find a place on campus for students to meet or study together in a larger group. If you have a class project with a group of larger than 4 it is very difficult to find any space to work in.

A common thing that other universities have is the space for student organizations and storage for them. SAO is not meeting the need here. Skutt is not big enough to house the Greek community. There is no permanent common place for office space or storage for to use. Student orgs don’t ask for office space or storage because they think it is not a possibility. All student orgs having a common room for meetings would be a cool way to represent a large population of the campus. Most other campuses have a student activities center and a student organization area.

Changes suggested:
- More technology in the building is a long term goal because of expense.
- Change chairs downstairs
- Computer signage in Skutt like Harpers
- Better lighting (hard to study in here at night lights to dim)
- Outside appeal
- Coffee / convenient store area needs better traffic flow. Knock out wall and make wider.

Recent changes
- Phone charging station has been added at info desk. Can charge up to 8 different phones.

Skutt needs to do an assessment of its space maybe a survey of students with good detailed questions. This should be done by one dedicated person or selected students to receive better response. Do we need a Street Team to do survey’s and conversations? The main focus should be “How we can change Skutt for the better”? Possible Skutt Advisory Students to be involved in completing this survey. CSU raised the funds to get Skutt built so they should be the platform to raise funds for renovations. Use a marketing intern or research student to work on survey questions and data collection for a semester project.

Next meeting scheduled for December 3rd, 2013 from 3:30pm – 5:00pm.
Meeting canceled

**Adjournment:** meeting adjourned at 4:53pm.

Addendum:

Before the end of the academic year the Skutt Advisory Board was asked to approve the renaming of the fireplace lounge. Dr. Cernech has worked for Creighton for 30 years and this student center was built under his leadership. To honor Dr. Cernech the fire place will now be known as the Dr. John Cernech Fireplace Lounge. His name will be placed above the fireplace and this gift will be presented to him at his retirement party.

Proposal was emailed out and vote was requested to be returned by December 11th, 2013.

In favor of proposal: Nick Tvrdy, Jennifer Yee, Anne Taylor, Ashley Sickel, Michael Weise, Margaret Zimmer.

Scott reviewed the responses all in favor of this proposal so it will be passed on Monday, December 9th, 2013.