

March 26, 1960

To: Capital Improvements Committee
From: Chancellor D. B. Varner
Re: Crisis at MSUO - Building Needs

I. Survey of Current Space Situation

A. The Over-All Picture

Our present enrollment is 570 students. Total square feet of floor space available for this enrollment is 125,000 - 100,000 in North and South Foundation Hall and 25,000 in the Student Center. This means that we have approximately 220 square feet per student for this academic year as opposed to a desired norm of from 150 to 200 square feet per student.

B. The Student Center

The Student Center can now accommodate 410 students at one time in the dining room. In addition to this, there is moderate lounge space and student activities space plus a partially undeveloped basement.

C. The Library

The present library has a gross of approximately 10,000 square feet. This includes the space for receiving and processing books and the librarians' offices as well as stacks and study space. We can seat now 140 students in study positions. The desired ratio by librarians is one study space for each four students.

D. Faculty Offices

We now have available a total of 24 faculty offices and 23 of them are filled. This means that there is room for one additional faculty member to be housed in our present facilities.

E. Classroom Space

There is a total of 39 classrooms in South Foundation Hall. This is augmented by four laboratories in North Foundation Hall and the one science lecture room in North Foundation Hall. This year we are utilizing but 15 of the classrooms and but one of the laboratories.

This makes it perfectly clear that for the year 1959 we do not have space problems-- as a matter of fact, there is some surplus space in the classroom building.

II. Next year - 1960-61 - the total space available will be exactly the same as we now have.

III. Anticipated Enrollment - 1960-61 = 1200

This means:

- A. 1) approximately 100 square feet of floor space per student
- 2) one study position in library for each 10 students (part of existing available space must be sacrificed for book shelves)
- 3) thirty-six new faculty members to be accommodated, plus added administrative personnel - one office now available
- 4) a need to accommodate 1200 students in a cafeteria designed to seat 410 students

IV. Our Plan of Action for 1960-61

A. For the library -

- 1) convert the east lecture room (across the hall from present library) to a library annex, thus providing an additional 150 study positions, retaining in this way a reasonable student-study position ratio

This means, however, that all daytime meetings of Continuing Education must be discontinued.

B. For the cafeteria -

- 1) establish a goal of a turnover of 3 students per meal by scheduling the lunch period over a 2-hour span

This will leave serious congestion in the student lounge, the student government office, and the student activities area.

C. For classroom and laboratory space -

- 1) use the first 2 floors of South Foundation Hall in an intensive pattern - this can accommodate the full 1200 students
- 2) use all four laboratories - one for beginning chemistry, one for advanced chemistry, one for physics, one for biology

D. For faculty offices -

- 1) reserve all the third floor of South Foundation Hall for faculty offices
- 2) install temporary partitions to provide privacy, but with the idea that these partitions will be used eventually in the conversion of the present library into faculty offices.

V. In Summary -

We can, through these measures, accommodate the anticipated enrollment in the fall of 1960 -

BUT

VI. Without immediate action on a new building program, we cannot accept an entering class in the fall of 1961 - except to fill in where students have departed.

VII. Why the Word "immediate"?

- A. 1) Foundation Hall required 15 months for completion after work actually began.
- 2) This means that for any such building to be ready for use in September, 1961, construction must begin no later than June 15, 1960.
- 3) While plans are well along for 3 buildings, the architects tell us that in each case a minimum of 90 days will be required between the day we give them the green light and the day actual construction begins. This will permit finalization of plans and specifications, bidding time, and time to get the contractor on the site.
- 4) Walking the calendar back, this means that March 15 was the theoretical deadline for giving the "go ahead" to an architect if building relief is to be provided by September, 1961.

VIII. Immediate Building Needs -

- A. The Library - (cost \$1.5 million - proposed to Kresge Foundation)
This building will relieve the crisis for student study positions and other normal library needs.

It will also relieve the pressure on faculty office space, since the present library can be converted to offices.

- B. Expansion of Student Center - (cost \$750,000 - hopefully, Oakland County Board of Supervisors and pledge of income)
This is essential for 1961 to accommodate student growth. It could be started as late as October or November, 1960.

- C. Science and Engineering Building - (cost \$2 million - now being considered by Legislature)
Without this building, it will be virtually impossible to go into junior year work in any of the sciences or engineering because of lack of specialized laboratories and facilities.

- D. Intramural Building - (cost \$2 million - no funds in sight)
It will be increasingly difficult to maintain student morale without some type of facility for recreation and exercise. Currently, we have not a single shower in the physical plant!

- E. Residential Houses for Students - (cost \$200,000 - could be financed with bonds)
To provide a focus for student life - social as well as intellectual - and to accommodate an increasingly large number of students who want to live on campus, we genuinely need to have ready for September, 1960, two residential units, each accommodating 75 to 80 students - or a total of 150 to 160. Time will still permit this, but the deadline grows close!

IX. How?

- A. Library - Kresge Foundation
- B. Science and Engineering Building - Legislature
- C. Student Center - Oakland-Macomb County Boards of Supervisors plus income
- D. Intramural Building - assess a special student fee
- E. Residential Housing - stock exchange program plus earnings.