

March 7, 1960

To: Don Ahrens and Jim Zader

From: D. B. Varner

Re: Crisis Number 1 at MSUC - Building Needs

I. Survey of current space situation

- A. 1) 570 students
- 2) 125,000 square feet of floor space
- 3) 220 square feet per student
- 4) desired norm - 150 to 200 square feet per student
  
- B. 1) currently can seat 410 in cafeteria
- 2) can seat 140 in library (desired ratio is 1 seat for each 4 students)
  
- C. 1) now have 24 faculty offices
- 2) now have 23 faculty members
  
- D. 1) have a total of 39 classrooms and 4 laboratories
- 2) this year using 15 classrooms and 1 laboratory

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 is 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 - pledge student fees**
- E. Residential Housing - stock exchange program plus earnings**
- F. Reserves:**
  - 1) General Motors - Ford - Chrysler**
  - 2) Mr. Mott**
  - 3) Kellogg Foundation**
  - 4) other individuals, corporations, foundations**

**DBV:naw**