

Frequently Asked Questions Student Recreation Center

Why does the university need a Recreation Center?

The current Student Recreation Center opened in 1992 with 80,619 gross square feet. Existing spaces are only able to accommodate between 50% and 65% of current demand for high priority activities of cardiovascular fitness, group fitness, free weights, weight machines and indoor walking. As a result of significant student enrollment growth since 1992 and facility usage by students, UNCG is now near the bottom of the UNC system in amount of indoor and outdoor recreation space.

The initial design of the new student recreation was to be 250,000 gross square feet. In analyzing enrollment at the university, the facility was reduced to 225,000 gsf. Upon recent analysis of enrollment and construction costs, the facility was further reduced to the current 216,000 gsf.

The new student recreation center will limit overcrowding and ensure equipment and programs are easily accessed to provide students with a healthy avenue for engagement. The new center will also have the ability to host campus events that have grown too large for the Elliott University Center and respond to student demand for concerts, dances, career fairs, etc. The facility will respond to and continue to work with academic areas in developing partnerships.

The new Student Recreation Center is designed for recreational purposes that all students can use. Currently, Campus Recreation is the largest employer of students with over 150 student employees. The new Student Recreation Center will result in the hiring of more students to work in the facility increasing the number of student jobs on campus.

Why is recreation important?

Studies have shown that first-year students who used campus recreation facilities not only persisted at a greater rate than those who did not, but their GPA and number of credit hours earned were higher as well (Belch, Gebel, & Maas, 2001). Campus recreation has important responsibilities in terms of promoting the overall well-being of students, helping to reduce negative or destructive forms of play, extending and enriching academic learning and contributing to other college and university goals (McLean, Hurd, & Rogers, 2005).

Have students been involved in the process?

Yes. There have been several opportunities for student input and approval regarding the new Student Recreation Center. Student surveys and focus groups were conducted in 2007 for the formal campus recreation needs assessment. As the university continued to move forward with the planning process, additional opportunities for student engagement were provided. An open forum was held in April 2009, in which students were given an opportunity to learn more about the proposed project and share their concerns. In an effort to continue to educate students about the new facility, the Department of Campus Recreation gave presentations to multiple student groups throughout the spring 2010 semester. The groups included the Student Government Association, Graduate Student Association, Inter-Fraternity Council, College Pan-Hellenic Council, and others. This presentation was also made available on-line through the Campus Recreation web site.

In the Fall of 2010 multiple presentations were given to the UNCG Student Government Association explaining the details and funding plan for the project. That same semester, the Chancellor held the annual Open Forum on Tuition & Fees where students were provided an opportunity to give input.

How is the University paying for this facility?

The university utilizes many funding sources to operate. Many of these funding sources can only be used for specific purposes. Some functions are funded from state appropriations (paid by taxpayers), some by fees (paid by students), some by tuition (paid by students), and some are self-funding (paid by the respective users – such as residence halls).

The Student Recreation Center is funded through the Facility Fee that will support the construction and through the Student Activities Fee for programming. No state funds have or will be spent to construct or operate this facility.

How is UNCG working with members of the Glenwood Community?

UNCG has held several open meetings with members of the Glenwood neighborhood (which is adjacent to the site for the new center). Feedback from the Glenwood Community resulted in the recreation center site being moved one block west. Consideration for the residential neighborhood has also shaped the building design. UNCG is working on a Memorandum of Understanding, which addresses landscaping, parking, site placement of the facility and number of other issues important to both the Glenwood and UNCG communities.

Will the Student Recreation Center be environmentally sustainable?

The goal for this project will be to seek LEED silver certification.

What will happen to the old Recreation Center?

UNCG is currently examining options and ways to use the space.