

Bookstore committee completes study on possible expansion

By Jann Nyffeler

UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale's Bookstore Committee has completed its location and feasibility study of the University Bookstore. The report, submitted to Massengale last month, recommends four solutions to the bookstore's present crowding problems.

The committee's recommendations are in part based on a study done by bookstore consulting firm Ken White Associates of Westwood, N.J. The firm has served as consultants to more than 800 academic bookstores.

"Least desirable" of the options is the possibility of renovating existing spaces, according to the report. Other options are to relocate the bookstore within a single area in the basement of the Nebraska Union; to combine sales areas into a single area in the basement with a two-floor addition to be built to the east of the Union, adding sales, storage, receiving, dock and office space; and to build a free-standing building in the current parking lot north of Broyhill Fountain.

White determined that about 30,000 square feet of floor space is necessary to meet the bookstore's needs.

The Nebraska Union bookstore area currently totals 8,600 square feet. One single area in the basement would provide 15,824 square feet; a single area in the basement with the new addition would

result in 28,150 square feet and the new building would create 30,000 square feet.

Estimated costs for the proposals range from slightly over \$1 million to \$2.3 million.

Committee member Reg Kuhn said that if projections are accurate, there will not be a need for an increase in student fees for the project. White's report indicates that a new store will have a gross sales volume of \$6.16 million after five years of operation, an increase of \$4 million from current gross sales. The committee recommends that this larger profit be reviewed by the Committee for Fees Allocations. The CFA could then decide how to use the extra profit.

The effect of the project on the Union is still uncertain, the report says. A reduction in traffic through the Union is probable if the bookstore moves out. A new bookstore north of the Union would have a positive impact on traffic into the Union, it says. Remodeling the bookstore would disrupt union traffic, it says.

Committee member Laura Meyer said students should realize that in the long run, the project is in the best interest of UNL students. A new bookstore will eventually offer increased access to additional supplies including trade references and computer software, she said.

Monday afternoon the committee met with Massengale. Massengale and the committee will consider the advantages and disadvantages of each option, according to Kuhn and Meyer.

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