

Culture Center frustrations aired at forum

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that would have been used to maintain and improve the Culture Center was used to purchase movable items, such as the chairs and tables in the new auditorium.

But now that the project is complete, Griesen said, he and Nebraska Unions Director Daryl Swanson could bring money back to the center.

Griesen said he had scheduled a meeting with Swanson to determine the building's future, now that the two can speculate how much money is available to dedicate to the center.

Reshell Ray, assistant director of Student Involvement, testified about the Culture Center's importance to students of color.

"It is first and foremost a place for students of color," Ray said. "It's a place to call home—a place to be."

When a cross-burning happened during a Sigma Chi Fraternity ritual two years ago, the center was the only place minority students could express their feelings honestly and openly, Ray said.

Student leaders from minority groups also said they were frustrated in the scheduling of events. No groups receive priority in scheduling events.

Oftentimes, groups are forced to hold meetings or listen to speakers in the basement of the center while a loud band is playing above them in the multipurpose area, Brown said.

Swanson said the mission of the building is to be open to all.

"A concern when this building came into being was that it would become a separate but equal facility," Swanson said. "From the day we opened it, any student group could use it."

"No group is declined the opportunity to use it based on race."

Members of the audience said one of their main frustrations was that talk was the only progress ever made.

Brown said some students expressed that they would like to cover the dingy walls of the building with murals.

After university officials said the building could have a fresh coat of paint instead, Brown said, students became frustrated.

"Why do we even meet?" Brown said. "Here we are at another discussion of the Culture Center."

"When is there going to be a plan?"

Griesen said the first time he'd heard concern about the building was last fall. He responded to concerns saying that plans would take time to develop.

"The possibility of commercial interests is one thing that is plaguing us," he said. "We're coming to a point where we'll have to make a judgment call."

Professor, 63, dies of cancer

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for the university.

He was a former Marine pilot and one of his favorite ways to spend free time was flying his Cessna 150 airplane.

His love of flying was nearly taken away by a battle with lymphoma and basal cell, in which he lost an eye, but he recovered and regained his pilot's license.

Peters is survived by his wife, Jane Spence Peters, and two daughters.

Services were held Thursday at the First Plymouth Congregational Church, 2000 D St., and burial will be 11 a.m. today at the Bancroft Cemetery in Bancroft.

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