

Transforming the “Study Place”

Part 1: Overview

Our plan for the ImProve-It initiative is to transform the “Study Place”, located in the University Center, into a central hub of the campus, offering study space, lounging and dining options. The changes will be attractive to all students, especially commuters, as well as faculty and staff. This project will restore an underused and neglected space to its full potential and greatly contribute to promoting a thriving UMBC community. With support, as well as input from various UMBC departments, faculty, students and student groups, we know that our initiative will have far reaching benefits for everyone. Cooperation between all organizations and individuals influenced by the project is the single most important factor of our plan.

Our proposal involves substantial renovations, including the addition of restaurants, and new flooring and lighting. We also intend to replace most of the existing furniture and appliances. We have developed an excellent design and concept, along with an aggressive advertising campaign, that will make our plan an instant success. By effectively engineering a new center of campus, we will draw students out of their dorms, as well as from The Commons, Dining Hall and the Library. The effect will be far less congestion at the scarce studying and dining venues on campus. With the renovations, combined with a superb visual concept, the “Study Place” will be transformed into a revolutionized and modern facility dubbed “The Hub”.

Part 2: Benefit to UMBC

The main goal of our plan is to benefit the entire UMBC community. To do this, we plan to take very careful consideration of what the students, faculty and staff want, as well as the specific problems that the “Study Place” currently faces. Previous suggestions made to the staff at the “Study Place”, by the people that use the space, have already been taken into consideration in our implementation and budget. The design and style of the newly renovated space will be inviting to

both residential and commuter students. It will be a great meeting place for people of different ethnicities and cultures to come together and share ideas in a comfortable and relaxed environment.

Having a dining option incorporated into our project will attract students traveling between classes and also to staff members who do not wish to trek from their offices to The Commons, only to be faced by long lines, and to be left with ten minutes to eat before their next class. Indeed, congestion at The Commons during meal times is almost unavoidable and we would be able to provide an easier and more convenient alternative, at the same time reducing the seemingly endless flow of traffic through The Commons. Our approach to create a modern studying, learning and dining environment will also be impressive to Alumni as well as incoming and prospective students.

Part 3: Implementation Plan

By definition a hub is a point of communication for a network and a place where people converge and connect with each other. Our proposal aims to transform the “Study Place”, in the University Center, into a hub of the campus, where anyone can come to enhance their college experience.

Transformation of the “Study Place” will proceed in five phases: a Community Involvement Phase, a Planning and Design Phase, a Bidding Phase, a Construction Phase, and a Promotional Phase.

During the Community Involvement Phase we plan to have the community as actively involved in the decision making process as possible. This will help us to achieve our goal of catering to the entire UMBC community. We plan to hold three forums to allow students, faculty and staff to voice concerns and/or make suggestions for our plan directly to us. We would hold one meeting at The Commons and one in the Library. We would make arrangements to discuss the plan at the Residential Student Association’s town hall meeting.

Members of the community that take part in the meetings will get to see our concept designs as well as hear a detailed explanation of our plan. They will have direct input into the types of policies, different resources available to them, designs/color schemes of the furniture, as well as appliances that they will find to be the most useful.

During the Planning and Design Phase our goal is to take all of the ideas and feedback received from phase one and practically apply them to an overall design for the space. We will hold meetings with facilities, dining services, and campus planners to hammer out the details of our design. Students will also be invited to come to the meetings and voice their opinions. After the final design is complete we will hold another series of town hall meeting to get feed back on the final product.

After the approval of our design we would move directly into the Bidding Phase. This portion of our plan involves contractors submitting bids to the university to complete any construction we need done. During this phase we will continue to hold meetings, but with a focus on the policies of the new space.

The Construction Phase will start once all of the bids are chosen. This step will involve working with contractors to ensure the overall design concept is met. Dining services will be responsible for renovating the kitchen space and providing the necessary funds to staff the food service

venue. We have discussed options with Tim Tenon, Regional Manager of Sodexo, and he has expressed interest in placing a Starbucks in the new space, as well as other dining options. We are aware of the possibility that Sodexo may not be the food vendor on campus for the duration of our plan. After speaking with Dr. Nancy Young, Vice President for Student Affairs, we hope for and will be encouraging any collaboration with a new food service vendor. Our timeline allows for any negotiations with a new food vendor. We plan to be available during the entire construction phase, to assist in any way possible.

After the completion of construction we would move into the Promotional Phase of our plan. This phase consists of holding events during welcome week in the new space and handing our giveaways. This promotional phase would also continue into the first few weeks of the fall semester.

Part 4: Timeline

March 2008: Prove It! Winner announced.

March – May 2008: Community Involvement Phase begins. We will set up the three town hall meetings to give all students a chance to voice their ideas and concerns.

June - August 2008: Planning and Design Phase begins. We will work with Dining Services, Facilities, and Campus Planners to develop a final design for the bidding process

September 2008 – November 2008: Final design is revealed and second round of town hall meetings are conducted to get student opinions.

December 2008: The Bidding Phase begins. Bid Requests are placed.

April 2009: Bid submission deadline. All bids are reviewed and selected by the Department of Procurement.

May 2009: Construction Phase Begins. After the last day of classes construction will begin to ensure there is enough time to open for the fall semester. During this time we will also book welcome week events in the new space.

August 2009: The Hub opens in time for welcome week. The promotional phase begins. We will start holding events in the new space and hand out promotional items.

August 2009 - ????: everyone enjoys the space ☺.

Part 5: Budget

Construction Budget:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| -\$15,000.00 | Floors, Pillars, Beams Resurface and Stain |
| -\$1,000.00 | Paint yellow interior wall |
| -\$480.00 | Replace and paint ceiling tiles |
| -\$2,000.00 | Replace current entrance with double doors |
| -\$3,000.00 | Replace light fixtures, increase number of outlets |
| -\$2,000.00 | After construction cleaning and dumpster rental |
| -\$1,500.00 | Landscaping |
| \$24,980.00 | Funds spent |

Furniture and Appliances:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| -\$3,300.00 | 4 New Computers |
| -\$500.00 | Network Printer, ink, and paper |
| -\$200.00 | 2 microwaves (Koshor/Non-Koshor) |
| -\$2,500.00 | 2 plasma TVs |
| -\$1,500.00 | 1 furniture set (sofa and side tables) |
| | Tables (8 Small Café Tables, 3 Larger Café Tables, 6 Large |
| -\$2,500.59 | Study Tables |
| -\$3,103.61 | Chairs (28 Café Table Chairs) |
| -\$2,494.41 | Chairs (24 Study Table Chairs) |
| -\$300.00 | TV Stands |

- \$400.00 trash cans
- \$100.00 DVD Players
\$16,898.61 Funds spent

Advertisements:

- \$350.00 50 Promotional T-shirts
- \$140.00 400 flyers (commonvision)
- \$279.00 Posters and Banners (commonvision)
- \$171.00 300 Promotional pens
- \$230.00 72 Promotional Nylon drawstring backpacks
- \$1,000.00 purchase sign for UC and window decals
\$2,170.00 Funds spent

Emergency Funds:

\$5,951.39 (Funds remaining)

Part 6: Letters of Support

Diane M. Lee, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education