

University of Saskatchewan Students' Union

Room 65, Lower Place Riel Student Centre
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 5A3



Telephone: (306) 966-6960
Fax: (306) 966-6978
E-mail: contactus@ussu.ca
Website: www.ussu.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Number of Pages: 1

Special Presentation and Meeting to be Held to Decide Future of Place Riel Renovations

A set of presentations to University Student Council (USC) and undergraduate students of the University of Saskatchewan on the future of the proposed renovation to the Place Riel Student Centre will be held on Thursday, September 18, in Room 241 Arts, starting at 6:00 p.m. In addition to the presentations, the USC will examine the issue of rising construction costs, and whether to adjust the student infrastructure fee that is funding the project.

The presentations will focus on proposed renovations and building additions to the Place Riel Student Centre, long considered the "front door" to the University.

"There's been a lot of uncertainty lately about what is, or is not going to happen to the Place Riel Student Centre," said USSU President Josie Steeves. "The meeting will lay out a detailed blueprint about the renovation and expansion of the Centre, and how it will greatly benefit the student population," said Steeves.

The presenters will include representatives from the USSU, Saunders-Evans Architects, Quorex Construction, First Nations Bank / TD Canada Trust, and the University of Saskatchewan.

Following the presentations, USC will publicly debate budget shortfalls facing the project. Changes to the original design, as well as recent increases in the cost of materials and construction work has resulted in a gap between the project's original design and current cost estimate.

"The renovation of, and expansion to, Place Riel was originally budgeted to be \$16 million," said Steeves. "Since that estimate, an unforeseen rise in the costs for materials and labour has had an impact on the project's original budget," said Steeves.

"Because of rising costs, the current plans for renovation and construction cannot be realized within the current infrastructure fee," said Steeves.

In 2008-09, U of S students will pay a \$44 per term infrastructure fee for the autumn and winter terms.

"Either USC will have to adjusted the fee, or it will have to decide to scale back the project."

Regardless of which way the USC proceeds with renovations, the project is due for review and approval by University Board of Governors this December. If approved by the Board, renovations to Place Riel could begin in early 2009.

Following Thursday night's presentations, the floor will be opened to questions from members of USC, student attendees and members of the media.

For more information about this media release, please contact:

Josie Steeves
USSU President
Telephone: 966.6965

Jeremy Ring
USSU VP Operations and Finance
Telephone: 966.6967