

## **SACUBO**

### **“Best Practices”**

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The main campus of Oklahoma State University is located in Stillwater, Oklahoma. It was founded in 1890, as a land grant, public institution. Total enrollment for fall semester 2001 was 21,872 student at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Oklahoma State University is a level two-research institution. Its President and Chief Executive Office is James E. Halligan. The Vice-President for Business and External Relations is Harry W. Birdwell. The Associate Vice-President and Controller is David C. Bosserman.

Oklahoma State University recently opened a 76,500sq. ft., \$8.7 million, Center for Services to Students (Center), designed to centralize, into one convenient location, services for entering and continuing students. Included in the Center are the University Welcome Center, High School and College Relations, Admissions, Registrar, Enrollment, Financial Aid/Scholarships, Bursar, University Academic Services (for specifically admitted students), and an 8,000 sq. ft. multi-purpose atrium. Previously these services were located in inadequate and multiple facilities that made it very difficult and time consuming for students to conduct business or find and receive the services offered.

What distinguishes this facility from those on other campuses is that it was constructed as an addition to the OSU Student Union. The Union and the Center allow the integration of a much broader spectrum of services, programs, and activities than could exist if these facilities operated independently of each other.

The Union was already a focal point of the University Community. The Center added to an existing and extensive array of Union operations to an existing and extensive array of Union operations to form perhaps the most comprehensive college union in existence. Already located in the Union were Campus Life/Student Organization Center, University Counseling Service, Career Services, Multicultural Development and Assessment Center, and Alumni Association. Its auxiliaries included the Bookstore, Food Services, Hotel and Conference Services, and a 550 space-parking garage. The Union, also, leases spaces to thirteen commercial services/retail outlets. No other Union offers the unique blend of tradition campus activities, student development, business enterprises, and academic support. With the addition of the new Center, the OSU Student Union now stands at 611,000 square feet making it the largest college union in existence.

The Union's "one stop for all needs" has been well received and greatly appreciated by students, faculty, and staff. Now, adequate facilities make services more comprehensive, effective, and efficient. Valuable time is no longer wasted traveling among multiple buildings. Traditional barriers are dissolving into productive partnerships

among service units. The already existing and well known 'path to the Union' has become more of an integral part of the daily lives of the University Community.

Not only are the changes in the Union greatly appreciated by those who are currently members of the OSU community, but now serves as the "front door" to the University for prospective students and visitors. From its convenient guest parking, guest rooms, welcome center and all services associated with matriculation, the Center stands as a "welcoming beacon" for new members of the OSU family.

The Center was funded from a compilation of General University Sources. This marked the first time in the Student Union's fifty-year history that any additions or major renovations were not funded through revenue bonds. The Union receives an annual allocation from the General University for the operations, custodial service, and maintenance of the new Center. There are no other subsidies associated with the remaining operations and care of the Union building. The entire Center project was completed "on time and with the money." Thanks to excellent cooperation among architects, contracts, and responsible University officials. This was due in part to weekly meetings throughout the project to track timeliness, expenditures, change orders, and to keep open all lines of communication.