

History of the FHSU Memorial Union

- 1939 Interest in a Union building was expressed by a faculty-alumni group at homecoming, with student interest soon following.
- 1942 The old Gymnasium-Woman's Building was converted into a Social Building and began serving as a student center.
- 1945 Permission granted by the Board of Regents to collect student union fees at \$5 a semester and \$2 a summer session.
- 1957 Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on February 12, 1957.
- 1958 The first unit of the Memorial Union was completed and was dedicated on October 18, 1958. Cody Commons was remodeled and incorporated into the new building as the food service center -- built at no cost to Kansas taxpayers at \$851,600.
- 1960 To provide an addition to the building, the Union fees were increased to \$7.50 a semester and \$3 a summer session, beginning September 1, 1960.
- 1970 Annex to the Memorial Union was completed, which added a 12-lane bowling alley, billiards, snack bar, booths and lounge, bookstore, theatre-television lounge, art gallery, a large ballroom and several new meeting rooms.
- 1992 Major renovation to the Union Cafeteria, Grab 'n Go and TV Lounge
- 1995 President Hammond appoints a committee to study the Memorial Union and to make recommendations for a facility capable of serving FHSU well into the next century.
- 2003 A student referendum was passed to assess students an additional \$6.00 per credit hour fee to finance a renovation of the Memorial Union.
- 2004 The architectural firm of Howard and Helmer Architects from Wichita, KS are selected to develop renovation plans, and a Union Renovation Committee is formed to meet with the architects.
- 2005 In November, construction begins on the \$8.5 million dollar Union renovation by Paul-Wertenberger Construction from Hays, KS. The Memorial Union remains open and is renovated in phases.
- 2007 The Memorial Union renovation is complete, and grand opening celebration activities take place in August and September.

