

■ SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT CORPORATION CAMPUS CENTER

PLANNING THE SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT CORPORATION CAMPUS CENTER

In the fall of 1998, President David J. Ramsay, DM, DPhil, appointed a task force to lead the planning initiative for a new Campus Center. The task force reflected on the results of the 1994 University-wide “Quality of Life Survey” that identified UMB’s greatest weakness as “the lack of interaction among the schools.” With these results in mind, the task force crafted the following vision statement to guide its planning and deliberations:

“The new Campus Center will be a place with a welcoming and vibrant environment that brings students from all of the schools together to interact with each other, with faculty, with staff, and with the broader campus community. Its activities and services will contribute in a meaningful way to the intellectual, physical, and social well-being of the campus.”

As part of the subsequent planning process, students were surveyed regarding what facilities and services they thought should be included in the Campus Center. Top items included 24-hour study space, wellness rooms, lounge and meeting room space, and a swimming pool.

Construction of the Southern Management Corporation (SMC) Campus Center began in mid-2007. The SMC Campus Center is at 621 W. Lombard St., on the footprint of the former Baltimore Student Union (BSU), which operated from 1960 to 2004. At the time it was decommissioned, the BSU housed a variety of University offices (Records and Registration, Financial Aid, Student Services) as well as a lounge/meeting space, a deli, and two floors of dorm rooms.

Construction of the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center concluded this past summer and the building opened in August, just in time for the 2009-2010 academic year.

MISSION AND PURPOSE

The Southern Management Corporation Campus Center is poised to become UMB’s town square, fostering leadership development and student learning, encouraging health and wellness, housing student organizations and services, and offering outstanding food and dining venues. With the SMC Campus Center’s wealth of recreational, educational, and programmatic opportunities, the UMB community will be able to come together for the first time at the very heart of the campus, sharing knowledge and ideas across curricular disciplines with an eye toward bridging diverse personal, educational, and professional backgrounds.



FEATURES OF THE SOUTHERN MANAGEMENT CORPORATION CAMPUS CENTER

Wellness Hub—The Wellness Hub raises awareness of wellness and healthy lifestyle issues throughout the campus community, especially among students. Balance is the key to leading a healthy lifestyle, and wellness is the dynamic process of becoming aware of, taking responsibility for, and making choices that directly contribute to one’s well-being and the common good. It is the integration of body, mind, and spirit, and the ongoing development of one’s own meaning in life.

By raising awareness, the Wellness Hub enhances the opportunity for change and elimination of unhealthy, self-defeating behaviors. The program strives to create a positive impact on personal growth as well as academic performance while enhancing the community culture on campus. Events and programming focus on the eight types of wellness (social, cultural, physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, life planning, and environmental).

Recreation & Fitness—UMB is taking a dynamic and dramatic step forward with the opening of the SMC Campus Center’s recreation and fitness facility. Housed on three floors, the facility offers a 25-yard recreational swimming pool, a 7,000-square-foot fitness center, a spinning studio, several multipurpose rooms, two basketball courts, two racquetball/squash courts, an elevated running track, state-of-the-art cardiovascular and weight-training equipment, and space for power weight lifting.

Bon Appétit—The SMC Campus Center’s food/beverage and catering services are provided by Bon Appétit, a San Francisco-based company dedicated to “providing excellent food and service with a commitment to quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction.” Twice named the number one college food service provider by *The Princeton Review*, Bon Appétit is “culture driven to create food that is alive with flavor and nutrition, prepared from scratch using authentic ingredients.” The company’s goal is to provide a food service that is socially conscious of the well-being of students, staff, and the environment.

Through UMB’s collaboration with Bon Appétit, we are able to offer two distinctive choices for food service as well as dynamic on- and off-site catering. Bon Appétit to Go, on the first floor, mainly serves customers who are “on the run” as they head to work in the morning, while passing through on the way to a meeting or class, or as they leave the gym. The Bon Appétit Café, on the second floor, is a dining destination serving hot entrees, tossed-to-order salads, soups made from fresh

stock, and a mix of local, regional, and international items. Bon Appétit serves food that is reasonably priced and portions that are appropriately sized. Recycling and sustainable-resource practices are priorities.

Meeting/Lounge Space—The SMC Campus Center houses a variety of flexible and attractive meeting and conference-room options. Two ballrooms on the second floor, when combined, provide more than 4,000 square feet of space. A more than 1,200-square-foot pre-function lounge is adjacent to the ballrooms—for special events, direct access from the lounge to the Pratt Street Garage can be arranged. Meetings, including those that require catered meals, can also be held in well-appointed conference rooms with great views of the campus. State-of-the-art communication tools make dynamic multimedia audiovisual presentations possible.

Students and guests who simply want to relax can also enjoy the various lounges and meeting rooms.

Student Life Services—Services regarding residence life and student support are easily accessible through the Student Life Services Suite. Open, dynamic planning/meeting space is available to campuswide student organizations.

Overnight Extended Study—Starting in September 2009, the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center is offering extended building access for “overnight study.” Under the program, the SMC Campus Center remains open after closing time for UMB One Card holders only. The Caravan shuttle bus and the police escort patrol vehicle will run on schedules that complement the extended study hours.

In short, the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center is a destination—a place of energy and a place of gathering where the UMB community can connect, grow, and prosper socially, intellectually, and professionally.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The staff of the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center is committed to providing services and building programs that reflect and advance the SMC Campus Center’s mission. To reserve meeting space, to schedule an event, or for general information, call 6-3782 or visit the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center’s Web site www.umaryland.edu/campuscenter.