

Steps underway for UT alumni center

By David Jacobs
Collegian News Editor

University alumni officials are pursuing plans which they hope will lead to the construction of an alumni center by the fall of 1989.

The size, location, design and financing of the building have not been determined, but site evaluations by an architect should be completed this fall. The building could cost between \$1.5 and \$2 million, project coordinators, Robert TenBrook, director of alumni relations, and Sharon Kubiak, assistant director of alumni relations, said.

"We'd like the alumni, community and University to see the importance and activity of the alumni population," TenBrook said.

The project coordinators say construction of a building would allow the Alumni Association, UT Alumni Foundation, Office of Alumni Relations and Office of Alumni Development to move out of cramped quarters in the Driscoll Center for Continuing Education. It would also provide a home at UT for about 46,000 alumni.

"THE ALUMNI center can be a

home base for people when they come back to town," Kubiak said. "We think the alumni need a place to call home when they come back to campus." She said about 40 percent of UT's alumni live outside of Toledo.

Kubiak and TenBrook said an alumni center would allow for increased programming and expanded alumni services.

Five sites for an alumni center were suggested and four are under consideration, TenBrook said. Lew Cross, chairman of the Alumni Center Building Committee, said the list has been narrowed to three.

They include the following:

- Land directly across from University Hall between Goddard and Drummond roads.
- Land between Centennial Hall and UT's Computer Center near Lot 18.
- Land directly across from the Driscoll Center for Continuing Education on the east side of University Hills Boulevard.

Cross said the Alumni Association board of trustees has authorized the allocation of money to hire an architect to evaluate the three sites.

TENBROOK FAVORS the parcel of land across from University Hall.

"I like the fact that when we hold a large reception, (alumni) can see University Hall which is the place that most people identify with the University," he said. "I would like to think that the majority of the faculty, staff and students could look at University Hall and every time see the commitment of the alumni to the University."

Kubiak said she also likes the land across from University Hall because it has a commanding presence. But both Kubiak and TenBrook say they are open to any suggestions.

Besides visibility, TenBrook said the location of an alumni center will be important for specific reasons.

"We need easy access from alumni and visitors to the campus," TenBrook said. "We would like to be close to Centennial (Hall) and the stadium (Glass Bowl) for

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programming and we need space for visitor parking.”

After structure and site evaluations are completed, a campaign to raise money for the building will begin, TenBrook said, adding that no specific proposals for fund raising have been made.

Three types of donors will be sought, he said.

They include major donors, middle-level donors (corporations and companies and large donations by individuals) and donors from the general alumni population.

When a site is selected, TenBrook said it could be leased from the University on a long-term basis with the building eventually given back to the University if another alumni center is built.

A second option, he said, is to build the center on property bought from the University.

THE IDEA OF an alumni center has been heard by UT's Master Plan Advisory Committee and TenBrook is confident that the building will be in the University's Master Plan which is expected to be revealed this fall.

“We want to take a logical progression and build the best alumni center that we can build,” Ten-

Brook said.

UT President James McComas said most major universities have alumni centers or alumni houses. He explained that such centers provide several benefits to the universities and to the alumni.

“I think it would do a lot to develop a sense of unity and purpose for our alumni,” he said.

Dr. McComas said he favors beginning the campaign to raise \$10 million for the Glass Bowl renovation project before beginning the campaign to raise money from the private sector for the alumni center.

“I think it would be important that we don't launch both of them at the same time,” he said, adding that the two fund raising projects may overlap.

McComas said the two projects may appeal to different contributors who have an interest in one project or the other.

In the UT Alumni Association's 65-year history, its office has been housed in four locations on Main campus: the basement of University Hall, the Student Union, Tucker Hall and its present location at the Driscoll Center for Continuing Education.