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Finding Aid to the Wallman Wellness Center Records

Wallman Wellness Center

Wallman Wellness Center Records, 1996-2004

.25 linear feet

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OVERVIEW

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HISTORY

In 1991, President Jim Ozbun formed a Health and Wellness Commission to address the health and wellness needs of the NDSU community. The catalyst for this project was based upon the need to update the present on-campus health care facility, which was built in 1939 and has had one small addition since, in 1964.

In 1993, the Commission called upon Dr. Murray DeArmond, Director of the Health and Recreation Center at the University of Arizona, to consult with NDSU. After Dr. DeArmond's visit, student interest in creating a Health and Wellness Center increased. In 1993, student government formed a Student Health and Wellness Committee to continue exploring the topic of health and wellness and the possibility of a center that would replace the old health center and incorporate a broader approach to health and wellness.

The student committee developed a mission statement, defined health and wellness, identified the components that were important to them, and identified the benefits of a center. As part of their data collecting activity, the students visited health, wellness and fitness centers at the University of Minnesota, College of St. Catherine, Concordia College (Moorhead), and the University of North Dakota. In addition, NDSU has communicated with two outside vendors of health care management.

In April 1995, the Student Senate voted to support the Health and Wellness Committee's continued research of the Health and Wellness Center. Further research indicated a need for a business plan for the facility and its operation. The purpose of this business plan was to evaluate and analyze the need for and the feasibility of building and operating a Health and Wellness Center at North Dakota State University. On March 31, 1996, the NDSU Student Senate passed a resolution to increase the health and wellness fee from \$17 to \$55 to finance the construction and operation of the proposed Health and Wellness Center. The North Dakota State Board of Higher Education gave its approval to the proposed center at its June 21, 1996 meeting.

The 1997 North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee and the full Senate gave their approval to the project. However, the House Appropriations Committee stopped the project from moving forward when it voted not to support the Health and Wellness Center. In an effort to continue the Health and Wellness Center initiative, committee members conducted focus groups to learn what students at large thought about the project. As a result of those focus groups, the Committee decided to continue with the project as originally proposed, with the exception that the health and wellness fee would be increased to \$65 and that more money would be acquired through fund raising. (The health and wellness fee was increased to \$27.00 in May 1997.)

The committee also decided, at the request of the House Appropriations Committee, to submit the Health and Wellness Center initiative to a vote by the entire student body. The student body passed this initiative in the April 1998 election. The Student Health & Wellness Committee and members of Student Government spent the next fall and spring lobbying members of the North Dakota State Legislature in support of the Wellness Center. All of the student's hard work paid off in April 1999 when the state legislature passed the initiative in both houses and the Wellness Center Building Committee began meeting with Harold Thompsen of Geston Duffy Company, Architects.

Sub-committees for fitness, child care and Student Health Service were formed to focus on those specific areas of the Wellness Center. Each was comprised of students, faculty and staff who had a particular specialty in each area.

In an effort to research and create the most comprehensive fitness facility, the Fitness Sub-Committee traveled to the University of Northern Iowa Wellness & Recreation Services in Cedar Falls, Iowa; the University of Minnesota Recreation Center in St. Paul, Minnesota; and LifeFitness in Plymouth, Minnesota. Committee members also visited the Sioux Valley Wellness Center and the McKennan Center for Health & Fitness, both in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The Student Health & Wellness Committee, the Building Committee, and the three sub-committees spent the following months working with the architect on final plans, discussing policies, and determining any additional needs for the center. A model of the new Wellness Center was unveiled to students, faculty and staff in December 1999. Architectural plans for the center were displayed to give members of the campus community a sneak peek into the new center. In February 2000 the project went out to bid. Bids were awarded to Lee Jones & Son for the general contract; Rick Electric for electrical work; and Manning Mechanical for the mechanical work.

The Student Wellness Center Committee broke ground for the Wellness Center on April 14, 2000. Construction began immediately. By the time the snow flew in the fall, the building was completely

enclosed and crews were put to work on the inside of the building. Construction was completed in July with possession of the building turned over to NDSU on July 13, 2001. Furniture and fitness equipment began to arrive in the beginning of July 2001. The staff soon moved into the building and began preparing for opening in August. The Wellness Center opened for student use on August 27, 2001.

In September 2007 the Wellness Center was rededicated as the Wallman Wellness Center and Narum Atrium, honoring George Wallman, former NDSU Vice President for Student Affairs and Gary Narum, former NDSU Associate Vice President for Student Affairs.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This artificially created series contains clippings dealing with the initial discussions about building the Center through present. Also included are plans for expansion, brochures, flyer, memos and newsletters.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

BOX 1

- 1/1 Finding Aid
- 1/2 History, Mission & Construction
- 1/3 Clippings: Health and Wellness Center plan still in the works (*Spectrum*, 9/24/96, p. 1); House committee fails to approve SU health and wellness center (*Spectrum*, 3/25/97, p. 11); Health and wellness center's future uncertain (*Spectrum*, 4/4/97, p. 1); Plans for Health and Wellness center alive and well (*Spectrum*, 9/19/97, p. 1); Student vote on Health and Wellness Center set for March (*Spectrum*, 11/4/97, p. 3); Campaign for Health Center awareness begins (*Spectrum*, 1/9/98, p. 1); Health and Wellness Center advocates targeting students (*Spectrum*, 2/27/98, p. 1); Health and Wellness Center almost a reality (*Spectrum*, 8/28/98, p. 1); Ground broken for the Health and Wellness Center (*Spectrum*, 4/18,2000, p. 1); Wellness Center schedules open house (*It's Happening*, 8/15/01, p. 9); Wellness Center dedication planned (*It's Happening*, 10/17/01, p. 5); Wellness Center offers licensed daycare (*It's Happening*, 11/7/01); Center of Attention, new facility offers healthy options, room with a view (*Forum*, Section B, 11/12/01, p. 1); *Spectrum* index print out: Wellness Center (thru 2004),
- 1/4 Dedication – October 2001
- 1/5 Expansion – 4/03 –
- 1/6 New Member & Payroll Deduction forms – 2001-2002
- 1/7 Brochures: Fitness Programs (2001-2002); Child Care Service (n.d.); Faculty/Staff Fitness Packages (7/02); Faculty & Staff Services (8/02)
- 1/8 Flyers/Memos – 2001/2002
- 1/9 *Wellness Works* (newsletter) – October, November 2001
- 1/10 *Wellness for Life...* (newsletter) – September/October, November/December 2002
- 1/11 *Wellness for Life...* (newsletter) – March/April/May, September/October, November/December 2003
- 1/12 *Wellness for Life...* (newsletter) – March/April 2004
- 1/13 NDSU Health Fair – April 2004

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