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Correspondence Regarding the Student Union

Fort Hays Kansas State College

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FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
HAYS, KANSAS

December, 1953

Dear Friend:

In connection with the campaign to raise funds for a Student Union building at Fort Hays State, there are ways in which you can be of tremendous help in the success of this project. It is going to take every shoulder to the wheel with a spirit of optimism, cooperation and loyalty to everything Fort Hays State stands for in service to the youth of Western Kansas.


First, we need to have from you a list of names of Fort Hays State graduates and former students who have made a success in their chosen work, and who are making a contribution in their fields--science, teaching, industry, etc. Send us any information you have regarding these persons.

Second, we need to have a list of friends of Fort Hays State who are interested in the development of this college and in making a contribution, large or small, to the building of a Student Union on this campus.

Third, we need to have the names of persons who would be interested, or who could be contacted, in regard to a memorial of some kind to be included in the building.

Any other information you can give us that would be of value in conducting this campaign will be gratefully received. Thank you kindly.

Sincerely yours,


M. C. Cunningham, President

MCC:sjt

991-01-09

December 11, 1953

To area chair

Mr. Wilbur Meckenstock
111 North York
Oberlin, Kansas

Dear "Mack"

It was certainly a real pleasure to talk to you on the 'phone the other day, and as promised here is a summary of what we are trying to do.

In fifty years Fort Hays Kansas State College has never asked its alumni for any Capital Fund gifts for any major building project. As there is no provision for tax source money to build a center of social life for our school, or in other words a Student Union Building, it was decided by the Student Committee and the Endowment Committee that an effort should be made to raise enough funds among our alumni and friends to build the needed facilities.

The students themselves have raised over \$100,000.00 to date, and now they are looking for help in finishing the project.

These are the words of Dr. M. C. Cunningham, our president: "We will make this one major effort and build this building, and then it will be a long time before we ask our people for any contributions again except for their regular small Alumni Association memberships."

We appreciate your acceptance of the chairmanship of the North Area Drive, and the enclosed map will show your area. Simple instructions as to what to do and when will be in your hands in a few days.

I personally am getting a big kick out of having a chance to help our alma mater, and I'm sure that you'll have a lot of fun, too. Thanks for accepting, and we will keep in close touch with you.

Sincerely

Vernon Meckel ✓
General Chairman
Alumni Drive for Student Union

VM:tb

SAMPLE COPY OF FIRST LETTER

991-01-09

December 12, 1953

to area chair

Mr. Wilbur Meckenstock
111 North York
Oberlin, Kansas

Dear "Mack"

Here is the tentative schedule of meetings for the Alumni Student Union Drive. Will you please check to see if it is possible to have your Northern Area alumni meeting at Norton on the date scheduled? We don't want it to conflict with any major activity like a big basketball game or a civic event that would cut down on our own crowd.

This has been coordinated with President Cunningham's busy schedule and he will be available on the dates indicated. Please let us know by return mail about the date and the place where the meeting is to be held.

Sincerely

Vernon E. Meckel
General Chairman
Alumni Drive for Student Union

tb

SAMPLE COPY OF SECOND LETTER

schedule attached

991-01-09

December 17, 1953

*to area.
to alumni chair*

Mr. Wilbur Meckenstock
111 North York
Oberlin, Kansas

Dear "Mack"

Enclosed are lists by counties of all of the alumni in your Northern Area. I have asked Arris Johnson, Kanona, of Decatur County; Keith Sebelius and Abe Schneider, Norton, of Norton County; and Bob Cully, Morland, of Graham County, to be county chairmen of those counties. Will you please choose your own chairman for Phillips County?

Then if you will, please send to each county chairman:

1. His county list of alumni
2. The 2-page instruction sheet
3. 2-copies of County Organization blank.

Please notice that each county chairman is to rate the names on his list, choose one worker for each five names (and get good workers!), and write on his county list the five alumni each worker is to see. Then he is to return his list and the 2 copies of "county organization blank" to you SO YOU CAN MAIL THEM TO US AROUND DECEMBER 28. We have to make a card for each name between then and the time of the meetings in mid-January--about 5,000 cards.

An addressed, stamped envelope is enclosed for the return of these lists to us, and thanks for your prompt attention to this.

Yours for a successful drive,

Vernon Meckel
General Chairman
Alumni Drive for Student Union

tb

Encls - county lists
- instruction sheets
- county organization blanks.

FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
HAYS, KANSAS

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 7, 1954

Dear Fort Hays Stater:

How would you like to help spend \$250,000.00?
Have you heard about it?

Fort Hays State is launched on a project in which
we want and need your help. This is it.

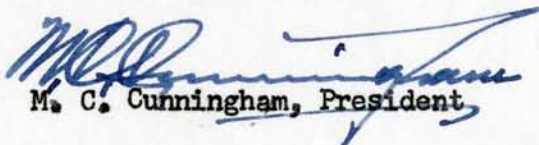
This is the only state college in Kansas that does
not have a Student Union. The students on our campus are
the finest young people in the state. They have contribut-
ed \$100,000.00 toward a Student Union building, but that
is not enough. It is up to us to help them finish the job.

We want you to meet with the other 174 Fort Hays
Staters from the northern Kansas area at the Silvaire
Ballroom in Norton at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19,
to discuss the plans. We will do some bragging, too,
about our C.I.C. tournament win, and the other big things
going on at Fort Hays State.

The dinner will be \$2.00 per person. Mail your
reservation with check today, or not later than January 15,
to Keith Sebelius, Norton.

I expect to be there. I sincerely hope to see YOU.

Cordially yours,


M. C. Cunningham, President

991-01-09

**FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
HAYS, KANSAS**

Dear Fort Hays Stater:

I know that you have heard about the campaign which Fort Hays Kansas State College is putting on for funds with which to build a Student Union. I am writing this letter to give you some information which I think you should have.

There has been a feeling on the part of a few persons that because Fort Hays State is a tax supported institution, there should be no need for a campaign to raise funds from alumni and friends. I only wish it could be that way. However, the state will appropriate money for instructional buildings and dormitories, but has refused consistently to appropriate any monies to be used in the construction of a Student Union building.

The University of Kansas, Kansas State Teachers College of Emporia, Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg, and Kansas State College of Manhattan have all either constructed, or are in the process of constructing, Student Union buildings, and none of this money has been appropriated by the state legislature.

Our tentative plans provide for a roomy snack bar and game rooms, spacious and comfortably furnished lounge, and a hall joining this building to Cody Commons, present cafeteria. This is a great saving--the \$100,000 kitchen already built can serve the Student Union also. Upstairs from the lobby are club rooms of various sizes, a music room, and a large activity room which may be used for anything from formal parties to area meetings of the many groups which come to the campus for conventions and special programs.

The Student Union building will be a "place at home" for the students on the campus and for former students returning for a visit to the campus. It provides a place for refreshments and recreation, and for students and faculty to meet on a social basis. It gives training in self government, and promotes friendships and school spirit. I am sure the alumni realize the full significance of a Student Union building on the Fort Hays State campus.

The campaign committee has organized eastern Colorado and the state of Kansas into districts for solicitation of funds from alumni and former students. The returns are already coming in and the committee is greatly encouraged. We now have approximately \$115,000 in the fund. The building as planned will cost approximately \$250,000 and they will need another \$50,000 for furnishings.

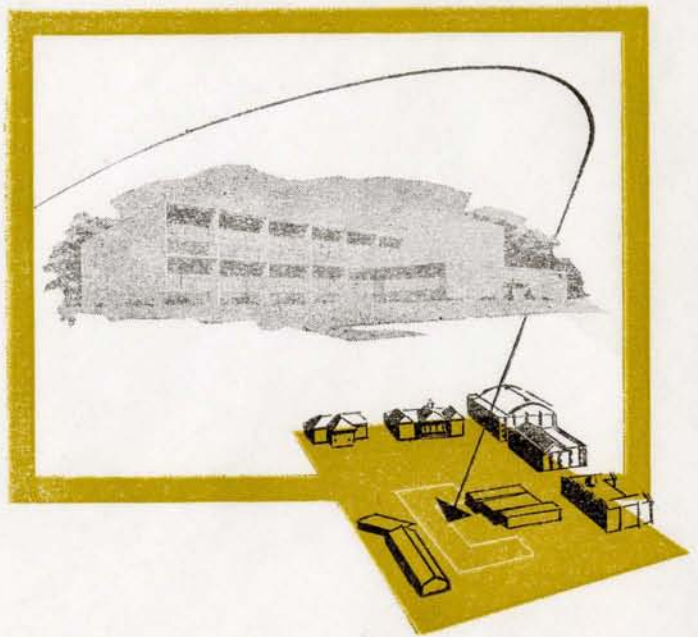
The Student Union Fund committee will no doubt have a fellow alumnus see you within a few days to talk with you about a contribution to this fund. We want every one of you, graduate or former student, to have a part in this project. Your help and the help of others will make possible the attainment of a Student Union of which you and all Fort Hays Staters can be proud. We solicit your help and are confident you will not let us down.

Most sincerely,

M. C. Cunningham, President

991-01-09

Fort Hays Kansas State College
Endowment Association



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edward F. Arn, Governor of Kansas, Topeka
Walter E. Fees, Chairman Board of Regents, Iola
M. C. Cunningham, President Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays
Valis Rockwell, President Fort Hays Kansas State College Alumni Association, Hays
W. E. Keating, Fort Hays Kansas State College, (Sec.-Treas.)
F. W. Albertson, Fort Hays Kansas State College
Ralph Archer, Executive Vice-President International Harvester Co., Chicago
Ralph Bemis, Farmer, Hays
Hugh Burnett, Fort Hays Kansas State College
Robert Burnett, Superintendent of Schools, Scott City
R. E. Custer, State Department of Education, WaKeeney
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John Woelk, Attorney, Russell
W. D. Moreland, Fort Hays Kansas State College
Mrs. Jennie A. Philip, Homemaker, Hays
Vernon Meckel, Hays Music Co., Hays
Ward Sullivan, Farmer, Hays
Mrs. Paul Ward, Homemaker, Hays
L. D. Wooster, President Emeritus, Fort Hays Kansas State College

January 13, 1954

Dear Fort Hays Stater:

How would you like to help spend \$250,000? Have you heard about it?

Fort Hays State is launched on a project in which we want and need your help. This is it.

This is the only state college in Kansas that does not have a Student Union. The students on our campus are the finest young people in the state. They have contributed \$100,000 toward a Student Union building, but that is not enough. It is up to us to help them finish the job.

We want you to meet with the other 276 Fort Hays Staters from the Wichita-Hutchinson area in the Frontier Room, Hotel Lassen in Wichita at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 23, to discuss the plans. We will do some bragging, too, about our C. I. C. tournament win, and the other big things going on at Fort Hays State.

To be sure that there are enough coffee and doughnuts to go around, please sign and mail the enclosed postcard to Bob Freeman, not later than January 19.

I expect to be there. I sincerely hope to see YOU.

Cordially yours,

M. C. Cunningham, President

Student Union Committee

M. C. Cunningham
W. E. Keating
Mrs. Paul Ward
Vernon Meckel
John Woelk
Al Billinger
W. D. Moreland
Alice Beesley
Carolyn Bell
Kayo McGilivray
Bernard Riedl
Ross Beach, Jr.

Advisory Committee

D. G. Hansen, Logan
Ross Beach, Sr., Hays
Andrew Schoepel, Washington, D. C.
Lee Warner, Cimarron
Jerry Driscoll, Russell

General Chairman

Ward Sullivan, Hays

Alumni Committee

Vernon Meckel, Chairman, Hays
John Woelk, Russell
Valis Rockwell, Hays
Mrs. Paul Ward, Hays

Kansas Business and Industry

Ross Beach, Jr., Chairman, Hays
William H. Vernon, Larned
H. B. Lamer, Hays
Vivian Meckel, Hays
L. J. Chittenden, Phillipsburg

Kansas Agriculture

A. G. Schneider, Jr., Chairman, Norton

Western Kansas Development Ass'n.

Joe Berkley, Dodge City

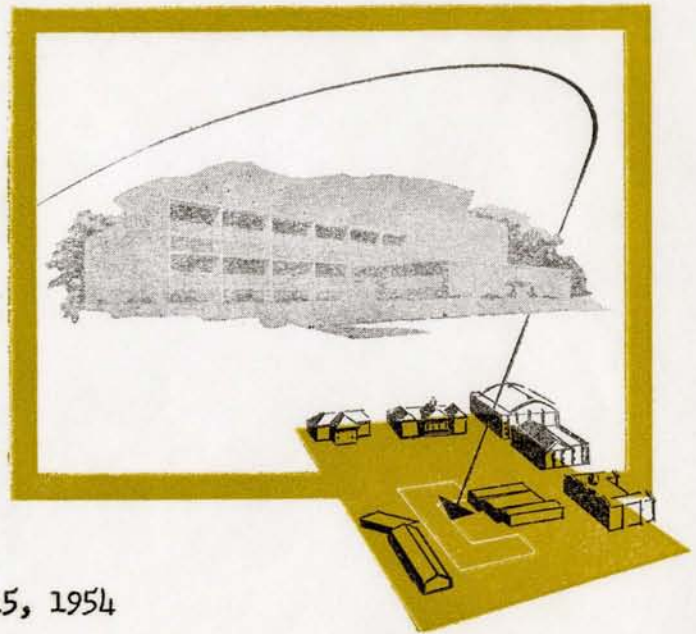
City of Hays and Ellis County

Geo. Gottschalk, Hays

Fort Hays Kansas State College Student Union Fund Campaign

991-01-09

Fort Hays Kansas State College Endowment Association



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W. D. Moreland, Fort Hays Kansas State College
Mrs. Jennie A. Philip, Homemaker, Hays
Vernon Meckel, Hays Music Co., Hays
Ward Sullivan, Farmer, Hays
Mrs. Paul Ward, Homemaker, Hays
L. D. Wooster, President Emeritus, Fort Hays Kansas State College

January 15, 1954

Dear Editor:

As a newspaper man, and a friend of Fort Hays Kansas State College, I believe you will be interested in this project.

The Fort Hays Kansas State College is having a series of alumni meetings. The purpose is two-fold. First, we want as many alumni as possible to meet President M. C. Cunningham, and second, we are launching a campaign for funds for the construction of a Student Union building.

An invitation is enclosed for you and your lady to attend a meeting in your area as a guest of the college. I will appreciate it if you can attend.

Please call the chairman indicated on the card, if you plan to be present, so reservations will be made for you. Kindly present the enclosed card at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Ward Sullivan
General Chairman

revised for radio also - J.V.

Student Union Committee

M. C. Cunningham
W. E. Keating
Mrs. Paul Ward
Vernon Meckel
John Woelk
Al Billinger
W. D. Moreland
Alice Beesley
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Kansas Agriculture

A. G. Schneider, Jr., Chairman, Norton

Western Kansas Development Ass'n.

Joe Berkley, Dodge City

City of Hays and Ellis County

Geo. Gottschalk, Hays

P.S. If you cannot be present we will be happy to have a representative of your paper who would like to report on the meeting.

Fort Hays Kansas State College Student Union Fund Campaign

991-01-09

**FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
HAYS, KANSAS**

February 12, 1954

Dear Fort Hays Stater:

I hope you are aware of the rapid growth your college has made in the past five years, both in capital improvements and in enrollment.

In the category of capital improvements, we have added a handsome new Applied Arts Building, a Residence Hall for men, and a wing which more than doubles Custer Hall's capacity, in addition to remodeling Rarick Hall (which you remember as the Industrial Building) and completing numerous minor projects such as paving, redecorating, etc. In the next year we will begin construction on a large unit to join two smaller units of a Men's Dormitory. Construction of two small dormitory units for women may also begin during the year.

In the category of enrollment, we have been equally fortunate. We have shown the largest increases, percentagewise, of any college in the state. More than a year ago, we passed Emporia in enrollment and are now near enough to Pittsburg's figure that passing them, too, within a few years is not an impossibility.

It is to accommodate this rapidly-increasing student body that we are calling on our alumni and friends for financial assistance in the building of a Student Union on the campus.

Our students themselves--those teen-agers everyone calls "thoughtless and irresponsible"--voted to start a fund for a Student Union building back in 1944. Each student pays \$5 a semester--and these \$5 fees have now reached a staggering total of \$105,000.

Inspired by this achievement, friends and alumni of the college are conducting this campaign in which we hope to raise \$150,000 to fill out this building fund and make it possible for us to begin a \$250,000 Student Union very soon.

Ward Sullivan '09 has been named General Chairman for the campaign. Ralph Archer '18 of Chicago has been named Industrial Chairman. Vernon Meckel '42 has been working hard among the alumni of Kansas and eastern Colorado. Soon you will be receiving progress reports from these chairmen. They will explain how you can help in this very important building program.

Sincerely yours,

M. C. Cunningham
President

MCC:b

991-01-09

**FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
HAYS, KANSAS**

February 12, 1954

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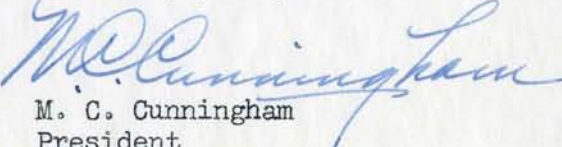
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Sincerely yours,


M. C. Cunningham
President

MCC:b

991-01-09

February 19, 1954

Dear Fort Hays Stater:

Working in the Student Union project for Fort Hays State is a real thrill for me. I believe that raising funds for this building, which cannot legally be provided by the state, is one of the most worth-while projects the college has undertaken. The students themselves have done a splendid thing in raising more than \$100,000 toward this building. We need an additional \$150,000 from alumni and friends so the building may be begun soon.

The drive has ~~been~~^{been} receiving ~~an~~^{ed} enthusiastic ~~reception~~^{ally}. All of us are gratified at the business-like way the fund is being handled, with an endowment committee taking care of the money and a separate building committee planning the biggest and best Student Union possible.

In the enclosed brochure you'll find some "specifics" about our Student Union project. The other enclosure is, of course, a subscription card. A good many of the alumni are dividing their subscriptions over a three-year pledge period. This spreads the burden, and also provides the maximum in income tax exemptions.

Sincerely

Ward Sullivan, General Chairman
Student Union Fund Drive

991-01-09

Feb. 25, 1954

Dear Fellow Fort Hays Stater:

My letter is the last in a series planned to enlist your support in making our Student Union Fund Campaign a success. If you have already mailed a pledge or contribution, we are extremely grateful. If not, won't you please consider the situation carefully before you give this project a "pocket veto."

Here briefly is the situation. Alumni committees voted to assume the responsibility for raising \$150,000 to put with the \$100,000 the students have already contributed. Those of us who have been asked to help carry out the campaign have put in many thousands of hours of work. It would certainly be an embarrassing thing to have to admit to the people of Kansas, as well as to the students, that we have failed. I am confident that you, as a loyal Fort Hays Stater, will do your part.

Certainly any contribution, large or small, which you are able to make to this project will help make it a success. Please do not hesitate to pledge because your gift is not as large as you wish it might be. But do give generously and help us put over this one project of an entire half-century. Surely it is not asking too much of our alumni when other colleges are able to do this sort of thing regularly.

Gratefully yours

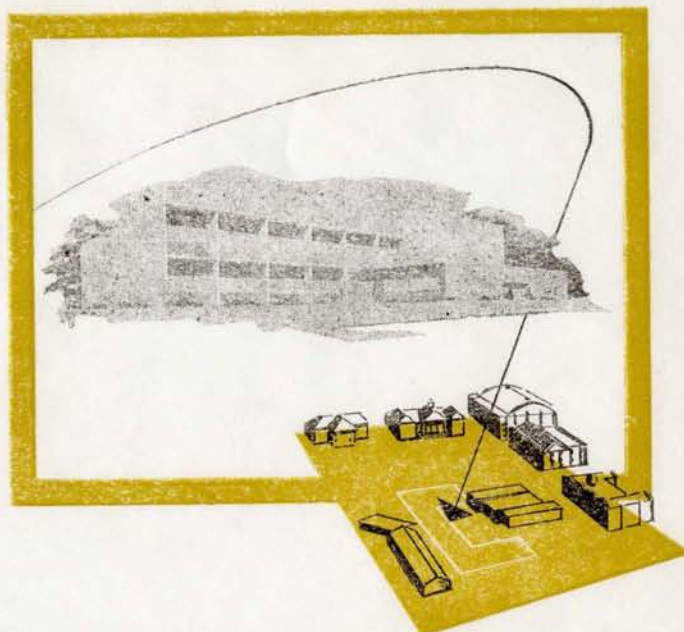
Vernon Meckel, Alumni Chairman
Student Union Fund Campaign

991-01-09

Fort Hays Kansas State College *Endowment Association*

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Ward Sullivan, Farmer, Hays
Mrs. Paul Ward, Homemaker, Hays
L. D. Wooster, President Emeritus, Fort Hays Kansas State College



March 22, 1954

Dear Hays Booster:

You have heard the fact-supported national predictions of doubled enrollments in the colleges of our nation by 1960. Startling as these figures are, it is entirely probable that Fort Hays State College's growth will be even more phenomenal, since it has already set a pace of growth far ahead of national averages.

For Fort Hays State and its alumni and friends, there can be but one implication--IF FORT HAYS STATE DOES NOT EXPAND NOW SUFFICIENTLY TO TAKE CARE OF THIS INCREASED ENROLLMENT, OTHER COLLEGES WILL SPRING UP IN THE WESTERN KANSAS AREA AND THE VALUABLE EDUCATIONAL MONOPOLY HAYS HAS ENJOYED FOR MORE THAN A HALF-CENTURY WILL BE FOREVER GONE.

During the past five years, Fort Hays State has made these expansions:

1. Enrollment increase of 33 percent.
2. Expanded course offerings at both undergraduate and graduate levels.
3. Addition of terminal programs in business, agriculture, and industrial arts to meet the needs of the youth of Western Kansas.
4. Addition of a top-notch program of nurse education.
5. Marked increase in preparation and experience of faculty members.
6. A bold assumption of educational leadership for the western half of the state.
7. Improvement of the physical plant through the completion of three major building projects, sidewalks, paving, and general renovation.

The Endowment Association hopes you will keep these facts in mind in planning a financial gift for the proposed Student Union Building, a much-needed recreational center for which the legislature cannot provide money.

Sincerely yours,

Norbert Dreiling

Norbert Dreiling, Hays Chairman

Fort Hays Kansas State College Student Union Fund Campaign

991-01-09

Student Union Committee

M. C. Cunningham
W. E. Keating
Mrs. Paul Ward
Vernon Meckel
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Al Billinger
W. D. Moreland
Alice Beesley
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Jerry Driscoll, Russell

General Chairman

Ward Sullivan, Hays

Alumni Committee

Vernon Meckel, Chairman, Hays
John Woelk, Russell
Valis Rockwell, Hays
Mrs. Paul Ward, Hays

Business and Industry. Outside of Kansas

Ralph Archer, Chairman, Chicago

Kansas Business and Industry

Ross Beach, Jr., Chairman, Hays
William H. Vernon, Larned
H. B. Lamer, Hays
Vivian Meckel, Hays
L. J. Chittenden, Phillipsburg

Kansas Agriculture

A. G. Schneider, Jr., Chairman, Norton

Western Kansas Development Ass'n.

Joe Berkley, Dodge City

Student Union

FORT HAYS
KANSAS STATE COLLEGE
HAYS, KANSAS

March 23, 1954

*Civil Service staff
M + D*

Of course you have heard of the plans under way to secure funds for the construction of a Memorial Union building on our campus. You may not have heard a great deal about this project, so I am taking this method of giving you a little more information.

The state legislature appropriates money for other types of buildings, but they do not appropriate money for Memorial Unions, therefore we must secure the necessary funds in some other way,

Since 1944 the students at this college have been paying a Student Union fee of \$5.00 each semester, and all of this money has been allowed to accumulate in a fund for the purpose of constructing a building. The time has come when we should begin that construction. There is more than \$105,000 on hand, but we need to raise \$150,000 more. The alumni of the college are now being solicited; the faculty and townspeople will be solicited before the end of this month.

I feel that every member of the Fort Hays Kansas State College staff, no matter what his job, has an interest in the college. This letter is merely for the purpose of offering you the opportunity to make a contribution, of whatever amount you wish, to this project. If you would like to do something please fill in the enclosed card for the amount you want to give, indicate the dates you would like to make payments, and return it to me. You need not be concerned with the scale of giving printed on the back of the card. If you wish your pledge to be paid in monthly installments that can be done. If you wish to make a three year pledge that can be taken care of, also.

I want to assure you of the appreciation of the students at Fort Hays State for any gift you can make to the Memorial Union building.

Most sincerely,

M. C. Cunningham, President

991-01-09

Faculty
Student Union
March 19, 1954

March 19, 1954

Eugene Craine
Mary Perry
Ruth Sevy
E. C. Almquist
Verna Parish
Doyle Brooks

Dear Miss Stroup:

You do not need to tell me how hard you are pinching the pennies as this year on leave of absence draws near an end, and how much you are hoping you will be able to make it some way.

You probably have heard all about the campaign for raising funds and building the first unit of the Fort Hays Student Union. This letter is not for the purpose of asking you to make a contribution—but rather for the purpose of giving you the opportunity to be included in the participation on the part of the faculty.

You are to make the decision as to how much you would like to give to this project and when you think you can make the payments (within the three year period if possible). Payments may be made monthly or any way that is least painful to you. Whatever you feel you can do will indicate that you have an interest and want to share with your colleagues in helping to bring the plans to fruition.

Best wishes to you as you continue your study.

Most sincerely,

M. C. Cunningham, President

MCC:sjt

encl.

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