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UA12/11/1 Recreational Value of the Dero Downing University Center to the Western Kentucky University Student

Bill Muller

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THE RECREATIONAL VALUE OF THE
DERO DOWNING UNIVERSITY CENTER TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Prepared for:

Field Experience in Recreation
Recreation 489
Dr. Fred Kirchner

Prepared by:

Bill Muller
Spring Semester, 1971

*Downing University Center Off
Mr. John Bishop*

THE RECREATIONAL VALUE OF THE
DERO DOWNING UNIVERSITY CENTER TO THE
WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY STUDENT

CHAPTER I

A. Introduction and Authorization

This questionnaire survey was assigned by Dr. Fred Kirchner for partial fulfillment of the requirements of his Field Experience in Recreation Class during the spring semester of 1971. The purpose of this questionnaire and report was to familiarize the student with a method of investigating some type of recreational problem and the evaluation of a recreational facility.

B. Statement of the Problem

The problem to be studied in this report is to what degree has the Downing University Center increased or decreased the on campus recreational activities for the students. Also some questions were asked the respondents to determine if any additional activities were desired in order to see if the Downing University Center has been providing maximum service to the students. I chose this topic because as a graduate assistant on the Downing University Center's recreation floor I feel that the entire Downing University Center facility has provided a service, wholesome on campus recreation, which was lacking from the campus life of the Western student before the Downing University Center was opened last fall.

C. Method of Collecting Data

The method of collecting data was the personal distribution of a 21-question questionnaire. This questionnaire consisted of five personal information questions, nine questions concerning recreational activities and participation, and seven general information questions. A copy of this questionnaire is included in Appendix A. Two-hundred respondents were administered the questionnaire. An attempt to gain valid results was made by obtaining fifty responses from the men's dormitories, fifty responses from the women's dormitories, fifty responses throughout the Downing University Center during the day, and fifty responses throughout the Downing University Center during the night. The results and analysis of this questionnaire will follow in Chapter II.

CHAPTER II

In this chapter a statement and analysis of the (A) personal information questions, (B) recreational activities and participation questions, and (C) the general information questions will be made to clarify the results of the questionnaire. The analysis will consider the respondents as a whole. No divisions or comparisons will be made in regards to class, age, or sex. The comparisons in section B of this chapter will be based on participation in on campus activities before the Downing University Center opened last fall and participation in on campus activities after the Downing University Center had opened.

A. Personal Information Questions

Eighty-six freshman respondents answered the questionnaire. Forty-three sophomore respondents answered the questionnaire. Forty juniors responded to the questionnaire. Twenty-seven seniors responded to the questionnaire. Three graduate students responded to the questionnaire. And no faculty members responded to the questionnaire.

There were fifty-three respondents in the age group of seventeen to eighteen. Ninety-two respondents were in the age group of nineteen to twenty. Forty-three were in the age group of twenty-one to twenty-two. And twelve respondents were in the group of twenty-two to twenty-three.

One hundred twenty-five males answered the questionnaire. Seventy-five females answered the questionnaire.

Twenty-five of the respondents were new students at Western this spring semester. One hundred seventy-five of the respondents were not new students at Western this spring semester.

Twenty-two of the respondents felt that the recreational facilities in their home city, town, or area were excellent. Seventy-five of the respondents felt that the recreational facilities in their home area were good. Sixty-five of the respondents felt that their recreational facilities in their home area were poor. And thirty-eight respondents felt that the recreational facilities in their home area were bad.

B. Recreational Activities and Participation

In response to question II-1 (How has the University Center provided recreation for you?) the following results were solicited from the 200 respondents: One hundred ninety-one respondents used the snack bar, one hundred seventy-seven went to the Downing University Center movie theater, seventy-five respondents used the reading room, one hundred fifty-one participated in lobby socializing, one hundred five used television rooms, one hundred forty-three used the bowling lanes, one hundred fifty-two played pool, ninety-seven played ping pong, thirty-six played table shuffleboard, ninety-two played foosball, and fifteen participated in some other type of recreational activity not included in question II-1.

The following table will clarify these results:

<u># of Respondents Participating</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u># of Respondents Participating</u>	<u>Activity</u>
191	Snack Bar	97	Ping Pong
177	Movie	92	Foosball
152	Pool	75	Reading Room
151	Lobby Socializing	36	Shuffleboard
143	Bowling	15	Other
105	T. V. Room		

In the statement and analysis of questions II-2a through II-5b a comparison between the a and b section of each question will be attempted in order to derive some meaningful results from these questions. Question II-2a was - Approximately how often did you bowl before the Downing University Center opened? Question II-2b was - Approximately how often do you bowl now that the Downing University Center is open? The choices

each respondent had in answering these questions were: never, once a year, once every six months, once a month, once a week, and other.

Fifty-eight respondents had never bowled before the Downing University Center opened; thirty-one of the respondents had never bowled after the Downing University Center was opened. Forty-six respondents bowled once a year before the Downing University Center was open; fourteen respondents bowled once a year after the Downing University Center was opened. Fifty-two respondents bowled once every six months before the Downing University Center was open; twenty-six respondents bowled once every six months after the Downing University Center was opened. Thirty-eight respondents bowled once a month before the Downing University Center was open; seventy-eight respondents bowled once a month after the Downing University Center was opened. Six respondents bowled once a week before the Downing University Center was open; forty-five respondents bowled once a week after the Downing University Center was opened. One respondent bowled twice a week before the Downing University Center was open; five respondents bowled twice a week after the Downing University Center was opened.

The following table may help to clarify the above results:

<u>Participation in Bowling before the D. U. C. opened</u>		<u>Participation in Bowling after the D. U. C. opened</u>
58	Never	31
46	Once a Year	14
52	Once every 6 months	26
38	Once a month	78
6	Once a week	45
1	2 times a week	5

Questions II-3a (About how often did you play pool before the Downing University Center was open?) and II-3b (About how often do you play pool now that the Downing University Center has opened?) were asked the respondents. Seventy-two respondents had never played pool before the Downing University Center was open; thirty-six respondents had never played pool after the Downing University Center had opened. Twenty respondents played pool about once a year before the Downing University Center was open; seven respondents played pool about once a year after the Downing University Center had opened. Thirty respondents played pool once every six months before the Downing University Center was open; thirty respondents played pool about once every six months after the Downing University Center had opened. Forty-two respondents played pool once a month before the Downing University Center was open; forty-seven played pool once a month after the Downing University had opened. Thirty-one respondents played pool once a week before the Downing University Center was open; fifty-four respondents played pool once a week after the Downing University Center had opened. Three respondents played pool twice a week before the Downing University Center was open; five respondents played pool twice a week after the Downing University Center had opened. Four respondents played pool three times a week before the Downing University Center was open; thirteen respondents played pool three times a week after the Downing University Center had opened. There were no respondents who shot pool daily before the Downing University Center was open; eight respondents shot pool daily after the Downing University Center had opened.

The following table may help to clarify the results of questions II-3a and II-3b :

<u>Participation in Pool before the D. U. C. opened</u>		<u>Participation in Pool after the D. U. C. opened</u>
72	Never	36
20	Once a year	7
30	Once every 6 months	30
42	Once a month	47
31	Once a week	54
3	2 times a week	5
4	3 times a week	13
0	Daily	8

The next two questions the respondents were asked involved their ping pong participation. Question II-4a (Approximately how often did you play ping pong before the Downing University Center opened?) and question II-4b (Approximately how often do you play ping pong now that the Downing University Center is open?) were asked the respondents. Ninety-one respondents had never played ping pong before the Downing University Center was open; sixty-two respondents had never played ping pong after the Downing University Center was opened. Twenty-six respondents played ping pong about once a year before the Downing University Center was open; thirteen respondents played ping pong about once a year after the Downing University Center was opened. Thirty-one respondents played ping pong about once every six months before the Downing University Center was open; twenty respondents played ping pong once every six months after the Downing University Center was opened. Thirty respondents played ping pong once a month before the Downing University Center was open; fifty respondents played ping pong once a month after the Downing University

Center was opened. Fourteen respondents participated in ping pong once a week before the Downing University Center was open; forty-eight respondents participated in ping pong once a week after the Downing University Center was opened. None of the respondents played ping pong twice a week before the Downing University Center was open; two respondents played ping pong twice a week after the Downing University Center was opened. Four respondents played ping pong daily before the Downing University Center was open; eight respondents played ping pong daily after the Downing University Center was opened.

The following table may help to clarify the above results:

<u>Participation in Ping Pong before the D. U. C. opened</u>		<u>Participation in Ping Pong after the D. U. C. opened</u>
91	Never	62
26	Once a year	13
31	Once every 6 months	20
30	Once a month	50
14	Once a week	48
0	Twice a week	2
4	Daily	8

The final two participation questions which the respondents were asked involved the movie theater in the Downing University Center. Question II-5a (Approximately how often did you go to the movies before the Downing University Center was opened?) and question II-5b (Approximately how often do you go to the movies on campus now that the Downing University Center is open?) were asked the respondents. Thirteen respondents never went to the movies before the Downing University Center was open; ten respondents had never gone to the movies after the Downing University Center was opened.

Six respondents went to the movies once a year before the Downing University Center was open; one respondent went to the movies once a year after the Downing University Center was opened. Seventeen respondents went to the movies about once every six months before the Downing University Center was open; eleven respondents went to the movies once every six months after the Downing University Center was opened. Ninety-four respondents attended a movie about once a month before the Downing University Center was open; sixty-nine respondents attended the movies about once a month after the Downing University Center had opened. Sixty-nine respondents attended the movies once a week before the Downing University Center opened; one hundred respondents attended the movies once a week after the Downing University Center had opened. One respondent attended the movies twice a week before the Downing University Center was open; five respondents attended the movies twice a week after the Downing University Center was opened.

The following table may help to clarify the results of questions II-5a and II-5b:

<u>Participation in Movie Attendance before the D. U. C. opened</u>		<u>Participation in Movie Attendance after the D. U. C. opened</u>
13	Never	10
6	Once a year	1
17	Once every 6 months	11
94	Once a month	69
69	Once a week	100
1	Twice a week	5

C. General Information Questions

The purpose of the general information question section of the questionnaire was to solicit some personal opinions regarding the operation of the Downing University Center.

In response to question III-1 (How many hours a day do you feel the Downing University Center should be open?) there were no respondents who felt the Downing University Center should be open eight hours a day. Twenty respondents felt the Downing University Center should be open twelve hours a day. Sixty-three respondents felt that the Downing University Center should be open sixteen hours a day. Sixty respondents felt that the Downing University Center should be open twenty hours a day. Thirty-seven respondents felt that the Downing University Center should be open twenty-four hours a day. And three respondents felt that the Downing University Center should be open eighteen hours a day.

Question III-2 (How many days a week do you feel the Downing University Center should be open?) showed a nearly 100% support of a seven day week operation of the Downing University Center. No respondents were in favor of a five day week operation. Six respondents were in favor of a six day week operation of the Downing University Center. And one hundred ninety-four respondents were in favor of a seven day week operation of the Downing University Center.

Question III-3 (How late do you think the Downing University Center should be open on weekends?) seemed to show the respondents in favor

of staying open until 1:00 a. m. Five respondents thought the Downing University Center should close at 11:00 p. m. Forty-two respondents thought that the Downing University Center should close at 12:00 a. m. Eighty-four respondents thought that the Downing University Center should be open until 1:00 a. m. Thirty-two respondents thought that the Downing University Center should be open until 2:00 a. m. And thirty-five respondents thought that the Downing University Center should be open all night.

In response to question III-4 (What kind of schedule do you feel the Downing University Center should have during school holidays?) there was a decisive majority in favor of partial operation. Thirty-one respondents felt that the Downing University Center should be closed during school holidays. Twenty-two respondents felt that the Downing University Center should be on a full-time operation basis during school holidays. And one hundred twenty-nine respondents felt that the Downing University Center should be on a partial operation basis during school holidays.

The results of question III-5 (Please recommend any additional activities you would like to have in the Downing University Center.) and III-6 (Please give any suggestions or constructive criticism about the way the Downing University Center is now being managed.) can be found in Appendix B.

Question III-7 (In your opinion, to what extent has the Downing University Center increased on campus recreation for the students?) resulted in the 200 respondents feeling that the average increase of the

on campus recreation due to the Downing University Center was 50.8%.

CHAPTER III

A. Limitations of the Study

The possibility of a lack of randomness of the sample taken may exist because no questionnaires were directed specifically to the off campus students. It was felt that the respondents from the Downing University Center would include a good percentage of off campus students. It might have been advisable to include an on or off campus residence question within the questionnaire attempting to determine the use of the Downing University Center by the on campus respondents as compared to the off campus students.

B. Conclusions

In conclusion to this report it seems obvious from the number participating and the frequency of participation, as cited in Chapter II, Section B, in the activities of the Downing University Center that this facility seems to have increased on campus recreation significantly. I can feel safe in saying that the Downing University Center has reached, if not surpassed, the majority of the students expectations regarding this facility. In the conversation while handing out the questionnaires to the respondents the majority of the respondents seemed to have a favorable attitude toward the Downing University Center. There were

a few respondents who complained mostly about the music selection and the cafeteria food, but nearly all the respondents felt that the recreational aspects of the Downing University Center were very good. A final thought might be that a sincere effort should be made by the management and University officials to inspect and evaluate the Downing University Center activities. Then change and improve, if necessary, in order to continue to serve the Western Kentucky University student as fully as the Downing University Center is at the present.

APPENDIX A

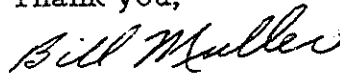
THE RECREATIONAL VALUE OF THE DERO DOWNING
UNIVERSITY CENTER TO THE WESTERN KENTUCKY
UNIVERSITY STUDENT

QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is being administered as a project for Dr. Fred Kirchner's Recreation 489 Field Experience class. The purpose of this survey is to determine the increased usage of the recreational facilities which are now available in the Dero Downing University Center. Your answering this questionnaire will in no way be held against you for any reason.

I sincerely appreciate your cooperation and assistance in the completion of this project.

Thank you,



Bill Muller

RESPONDENT NUMBER _____

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

I-1. What is your present classification academically?

_____ Freshman _____ Junior _____ Graduate
_____ Sophomore _____ Senior _____ Faculty

I-2. What is your age?

_____ 17-18 _____ 21-22 _____ Other
_____ 19-20 _____ 22-23 _____

I-3. Are you _____ Male, or _____ Female?

I-4. Is this your first semester at Western? _____ Yes _____ No

I-5. In your opinion, the recreational facilities in your home city, town, or area were:

_____ Excellent _____ Poor
_____ Good _____ Bad

II. RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION

II-1. How has the University Center provided recreation for you?
(Please check all in which you have participated.)

_____ Snack Bar _____ Bowling
_____ Movie _____ Pool
_____ Reading Room _____ Ping Pong
_____ Lobby Socializing _____ Schuffleboard
_____ T. V. Rooms _____ Foosball
_____ Other

II-2.a Approximately how often did you bowle before the Downing University Center opened?

_____ Never _____ Once a month
_____ Once a year _____ Once a week
_____ Once every 6 months _____ Other - _____

II-2. b Approximately how often do you bowl now that the Downing University Center is open?

_____	Never	_____	Once a month
_____	Once a year	_____	Once a week
_____	Once every 6 months	_____	Other - _____

II-3. a About how often did you play pool before the University Center was open?

_____	Never	_____	Once a month
_____	Once a year	_____	Once a week
_____	Once every 6 months	_____	Other - _____

II-3. b About how often do you play pool now that the University Center has opened?

_____	Never	_____	Once a month
_____	Once a year	_____	Once a week
_____	Once every 6 months	_____	Other - _____

II-4. a Approximately how often did you play ping pong before the University Center opened?

_____	Never	_____	Once a month
_____	Once a year	_____	Once a week
_____	Once every 6 months	_____	Other - _____

II-4. b Approximately how often do you play ping pong now that the University Center is open?

_____	Never	_____	Once a month
_____	Once a year	_____	Once a week
_____	Once every 6 months	_____	Other - _____

II-5. a Approximately how often did you go to the movies before the University Center was opened?

_____	Never	_____	Once a month
_____	Once a year	_____	Once a week
_____	Once every 6 months	_____	Other - _____

II-5. b Approximately how often do you go to the movies on campus now that the University Center is open?

_____	Never	_____	Once a month
_____	Once a year	_____	Once a week
_____	Once every 6 months	_____	Other - _____

III. GENERAL INFORMATION QUESTIONS

III-1. How many hours a day do you feel the University Center should be open?

_____ 8 hours	_____ 20 hours
_____ 12 hours	_____ 24 hours
_____ 16 hours	_____ Other

III-2. How many days a week do you feel the University Center should be open?

_____ 5 days a week	_____ 7 days a week
_____ 6 days a week	_____ Other

III-3. How late do you think the University Center should be open on weekends?

_____ 11:00 p. m.	_____ 1:00 a. m.
_____ 12:00 a. m.	_____ Other - _____

III-4. What kind of schedule do you feel the University Center should have during school holidays?

_____ Closed	_____ Partial operation
_____ Full-time operation	_____ Other - _____

III-5. Please recommend any additional activities you would like to have in the University Center.

a) _____
b) _____
c) _____
d) _____

III-6. Please give any suggestions or constructive criticism about the way the University Center is now being managed.

III-7. In your opinion, to what extent has the University Center increased on campus recreation for the students?

_____ 10%	_____ 40%
_____ 20%	_____ 50%
_____ 30%	_____ Other - _____

APPENDIX B

Results from Questions III-5 and III-6

III-5 Please recommend any additional activities you would like to have in the Downing University Center.

(A few responses have been omitted from the following results because the absurdity of these responses made them of no value to the conclusions of this survey.)

<u>No. of Respondents Recommending</u>	<u>Activity or Suggestion Desired</u>
11	Dancing floor or jam room
11	Pool room open on Sundays
7	Center, Bookstore open on weekends
7	Bar, for student of age
5	Grocery store
5	Swimming Pool (outside)
4	Stereo listening room
3	More bowling lanes
3	More ping pong tables
3	Sun decks should be open
3	Pin ball machines
3	Post office
3	Juke box in snack bar
3	Bicycles to be checked out on student I. D.
2	Dress shop
2	Roller skating
2	More tournament organized (pool, ping pong, bowling, chess, etc.)
2	Campus phone
1	Darts
1	Piano for practice
1	Discount drugstore
1	Minature car race track
1	More movies
1	Outside summer activities
1	Practice putting green
1	Magazine selection in bookstore
1	Lockers in bowling area
1	More pool tables
1	Exercise facilities
1	Craft shops
1	Larger T. V. rooms

III-6 Please give any suggestions or constructive criticism about the way the Downing University Center is now being managed.

(A few responses have been omitted from the following results because the absurdity of these responses made them of no value to the conclusions of this survey.)

<u>No. of Respondents</u>	<u>Suggestion or Criticism Made</u>
14	Music selection should be better, youth-oriented, albums played, and selection by the students
6	Cafeteria food portions are not fair in size and the cost is too high
6	Grill food is bad
5	Better movies
2	Refreshments allowed in movie
2	Activities close too early
1	Price of pool
1	Cokes should be served instead of R. C.
1	Downing University Center is not open enough
1	Cafeteria should be open on Sunday
1	League bowling should be announced
1	High school students should not be allowed to participate in activities
1	Shows are not held long enough
1	Later hours on weekends
1	Bowling approaches stick
1	Downing University Center should be open 24-hours a day, 7 days a week
1	Do away with reading room
1	Make conference rooms more easily available to students
1	Make Downing University Center more of a student center than a faculty center
1	Closed Downing University Center during vacations

of Respondents

Suggestion or Criticism Made

1

Center store prices too high

1

Bowling prices too high

1

Make students more aware of
available facilities