History of the FHSU Memorial Union

1939	Interest in a Union building was expressed by a faculty-alumni group at homecoming, with student interest soon following.
1942	The old Gymnasium-Woman's Building was converted into a Social Building and began serving as a student center.
1945	Permission granted by the Board of Regents to collect student union fees at \$5 a semester and \$2 a summer session.
1957	Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on February 12, 1957.
1958	The first unit of the Memorial Union was competed and was dedicated on October 18, 1958. Cody Commons was remodeled and incorporated into the new building as the food service center built at no cost to Kansas taxpayers at \$851,600.
1960	To provide an addition to the building, the Union fees were increased to \$7.50 a semester and \$3 a summer session, beginning September 1, 1960.
1970	Annex to the Memorial Union was completed, which added a 12-lane bowling alley, billiards, snack bar, booths and lounge, bookstore, theatre-television lounge, art gallery, a large ballroom and several new meeting rooms.
1992	Major renovation to the Union Cafeteria, Grab 'n Go and TV Lounge
1995	President Hammond appoints a committee to study the Memorial Union and to make recommendations for a facility capable of serving FHSU well into the next century.
2003	A student referendum was passed to assess students an additional \$6.00 per credit hour fee to finance a renovation of the Memorial Union.
2004	The architectural firm of Howard and Helmer Architects from Wichita, KS are selected to develop renovation plans, and a Union Renovation Committee is formed to meet with the architects.
2005	In November, construction begins on the \$8.5 million dollar Union renovation by Paul-Wertenberger Construction from Hays, KS. The Memorial Union remains open and is renovated in phases.

2007

The Memorial Union renovation is complete, and grand opening celebration activities take place in August and September.