SU Building Drive Fails; Lacks 5,000 Signatures

By VINCENT CURULLI

The concerted drive by a faculty-student committee to net sufficient petition votes for the erection of a Brooklyn College Student Activities Building has ended in failure.

Termination of the Fall semester marked the deadline for the campaign to gain 10,000 signatures favoring construction. Over 400 petitions were circulated among BC Day Session and School of General Studies (Evening Session) students, but the drive still fell short by approximately 5,000 names.

Professor Edwin Spengler, of the Faculty-Student Committee for a Student Activities Building, stated that results of the petition were below what was anticipated. Citing possible reasons for the failure to gain the needed votes, he blamed "student apathy" as a leading factor.

Beside the "don't care" attitude, Professor Spengler believes that the Building Fund fee, which the students would have incurred ($7.50 plus the $5.00 General Fee), also contributed to the negative response.

Other undergraduates, Professor Spengler continued, had a "selfish" viewpoint, and felt that by the time the Building was completed, they would be graduated and, therefore, unable to benefit from it.

He asserted that opposition to the project also came from students opposing the method of petition and favoring a yes or no vote, instead. These persons and

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others felt that the college administration was trying "to put something over on them." In reality, Professor Spengler stated, the proposed building was not an administration idea but a sincere, beneficent undertaking started by certain students and faculty members.

The indecisive attitude of House Plan Association may have slowed up the drive for signatures, Professor Spengler added, referring to the Association's refusal to pledge support until the Faculty finally agreed to give the undergraduates some voice in the Building's administration.

Now that the campaign has failed, there is mixed reaction among interested groups as to the possibility of organizing another drive. Professor Spengler expressed himself as believing that only "round one" has been lost and announced that an unofficial faculty-student committee is meeting February 21 to possibly mount a new campaign. Others, however, are not very optimistic.