Daily Texan

October 31, 2013

Cockrell Hall repairs to reduce energy loss and save University money

The ECJ building is currently undergoing renovations that could potentially save the University $40,000 in energy loss per year. The brick on the side of the building will be replaced with a light-weight metal pane.

Photo Credit: Helen Fernandez | Daily Texan Staff

Published on October 31, 2013 at 12:39 am Last update on October 31, 2013 at 7:09 am
By Reanna Zuniga

Ongoing repairs to the Ernest Cockrell Jr. Hall engineering building, located on Dean Keaton Street, will potentially save the University approximately $40,000 in energy loss expenses per year.

The plan started in July as a safety project to remove hazardous bricks from the outside wall of the building, but through the demolition process, the contractors found places in the brick where air-conditioned air was escaping from the building. Tony Guzman, project manager from Project Management and Construction Services, said the discovery of the leaked air was unexpected, but they're addressing the problem with the current construction project.

“We’re stopping the air from inside of the building by identifying the places to install the air barrier to seal,” Guzman said. “These repairs added to the cost of the project.”

Guzman said in approximately one and a half years the project will pay for itself in conserved energy savings.

In 1972, when the 10 story building was designed, bricks were suspended from above the windows and over time the brick began to split, making it a hazard to people.

“ECJ is a well-built, strong building, but there were a couple of design details that worked really well for the first 40 years and then we started understanding that there were long-term problems,” Guzman said. “We identified the problem well before anything fell. And as soon as we understood there was a problem here, the University took immediate action to stabilize the conditions that were found.”