

Combs Renovation

Plans Finally Approved

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After initial rejection of the \$6.5 million plans in May to reopen Combs Hall in the fall of 2001, the state approved the plan on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

The plans call for a newly renovated Combs Hall which will house the departments of modern foreign languages, historic preservation and English, linguistics and speech. Combs Hall is currently sitting empty on the north end of campus beside Jefferson Hall.

The original working drawings, which were submitted to the Bureau of Capital Outlay Management

in Richmond, Va. last spring, did not receive approval. The bureau, an agency that monitors and manages construction projects throughout the state, did not feel completely satisfied with the drawings and decided that they must be resubmitted. The problems most commonly noted by the bureau were architectural issues

such as fire safety routes and mechanical problems.

Les Harcum, review architect at the bureau, said that safety was one of the largest concerns.

"We cannot issue a building permit that we are not sure will comply with statewide building code rules because all buildings in the state have to comply with building codes that measure the safety of the occupants within the buildings," Harcum said. "When you deal with old building renovations, it is hard because the building code assumes that the



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Combs Hall has sat idle since its closing in 1998.

building will be brought up to today's standards."

The architectural firm Einhorn Yaffee Prescott out of Richmond worked closely with the college to assure that the resubmission of plans would be approved by the