



Office of the Chair and Graduate Chair

DPES 2012-5 New building plans

From: William A. Gough, Chair and Graduate Chair, DPES

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As some of you may have heard, UTSC is planning to erect a new building on the North Campus, immediate northwest of the IC building. The foundational components were put in place when the IC was built. The building will be funded from existing UTSC resources and as such the type and occupants of the building is at our discretion (unlike the IC building and the AA building which were funded with specific usage constraints).

The senior administration has identified that the foremost need is a new Science building to enable better space for Science departments and to facilitate growth. A number of scenarios are being considered. In reviewing the amount of available space I have recommended that DPES (including P&A) should be considered as the sole occupant of this new building for its research and administrative operations. There however is not sufficient space to move the teaching laboratories. We do envision that there will be office space in the new building for teaching stream faculty and graduate students. Those whose work is intimately linked to the teaching laboratory and TRACES would remain close to these centres of activity. It is also likely that certain research facilities may remain in their current location for a number of practical reasons. These issues will be considered on an individual basis with those concerned.

The expected occupancy of the building is April 2015, thus there are some timing issues individual faculty members may wish to consider (such as the possibility of retirement). These too will be considered on an individual basis.

I have hesitated to write to you as there is no guarantee we are going in this direction and I am loathed to fan the flame of hope once again only to have our aspirations extinguished if the campus moves in another direction. Other ideas are on the table but substantial barriers have been identified for those. I realize change can be unsettling. I am more than happy to discuss this with you individually and to collect discussion points for broader consideration. If the DPES plans gain momentum, this will be a topic for our early May departmental meeting.