



Office of the Chair and Graduate Chair

DPES 2010-35 DPES Space Update

From: William Gough, Chair, DPES

Date: December 20, 2010

In July I wrote to you, in part,

“The new Instructional Building is scheduled to open Spring 2011. The CMS and Management Departments will move to this building. The Social Sciences Department will move into the current “Management” Building. These moves will open up space in the S wing, H wing and the Bladen Building. A Secondary Space Committee was struck some months ago chaired by the Vice-Principal Research Malcolm Campbell to work out the allocation of the vacated space. Each remaining department was asked to create a space plan to reflect current needs and anticipated needs. Our department and the two new departments (English and Philosophy) do not have current space plans.”

I can report how the space negotiations have progressed. In October I submitted a detailed plan of DPES’s current and future space needs. In November two potential space allocation plans were presented to the departments. These plans did have DPES gain total amount of space but the gains were largely in portable space which, although useful (and cleaner) in many respects, it was not considered the most desirable space. I worked with the Associate Chairs in reviewing the plans. Although pleased we were getting more space, we did have concerns about the quality and contiguous nature of the space. The plans included that the vacated space on the sixth floor of the S wing be assigned to other non-science departments. After some discussion with other departments the three Science Chairs (DPES, Psychology, and Biological Sciences) unified in requesting that the sixth floor of the S wing remain as “Science” space. This has been accepted.

In broad strokes the following will take place. All vacated CMS space in the fifth floor core (near the Physics Labs) will go to DPES. This will provide the P&A group with the requisite space for this group for current and some future needs in a neatly contiguous space adjacent to the Physics Labs. P&A faculty currently on the 4th and 6th floors of the S wing will move to this space. We will lose the contiguous space we now have on the

4th floor (below the Physics Labs). Faculty currently on the 4th floor will move to either the 5th or 6th floors. The Arhonditsis Lab, currently on the 4th floor, will likely move to the sixth floor of the S wing. Newly available space in the portables will be used to house graduate students in closer proximity to the SRB labs and the Kerman/Zhang/Bio-inorganic labs. I am committed to providing more space for our Masters of Environmental Science students, although this detail has not been fully worked out yet. In addition to this, we may also be involved in some space swapping with Psychology and Biological Sciences to achieve more contiguity in the location of faculty offices. Such changes will only be done in consultation with current office occupants.

I realize these changes may be unsettling and individual detail is highly desired. It is my understanding that full details of our allocated real estate will be clear in early January. At that point we can begin the process of specific assignments of new space for those who are required to move. Charles Dyer, the Associate Chair Physics and Astrophysics, will manage the move for the P&A group. I anticipate that we will have a fulsome discussion of space at the next departmental meeting on Wednesday January 19th, 2011.

Finally a note on timelines. At present the construction of the new Instructional Building is on schedule with an opening date in April. At that point the CMS office space will be vacated, so moves to fill vacated CMS space that requires no renovations can be accomplished promptly at that time. Other moves will have to be staged if renovations are required. This may be more of an issue for other departments who need to reconfigure space for their needs.