



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

10 March 2014

Professor Sioban Nelson  
Vice-Provost Academic Programs  
University of Toronto

Dear Sioban,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December 2013, requesting a one-year follow-up report to the May 2012 external review of the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations (Undergraduate and Graduate Programs). Your letter requests information on the Department's current physical space.

In general, I can report that we have had very constructive discussions with the Department and progress has been made to address their space needs. The Faculty takes the reviewers' recommendation seriously and is working to ensure that resolutions are found quickly and efficiently.

The Vice Dean, Research & Infrastructure met with the Chair and visited the Department, touring the Bancroft Hall Building to gain a better understanding of the space issues. The Chair was requested to identify key projects that would have the most impact on the Department.

The first project currently being developed is the expansion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting space. Plans for an expansion of the current meeting room to encompass an open concept, multi-function common room, meeting area and undergraduate/graduate lounge have been prepared. The re-purposing of this space will allow the Department to centralize large events, receptions and meetings. A physical investigation of the space by the Building Manager (to ensure construction can begin), will be undertaken shortly. The project is slated to be completed by June 2014.

Additional projects currently in discussion include the revision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classroom and office space. The current configuration of storage/computer space, seminar room and classrooms does not address the needs of the Department and better use of the space can be found. The 4<sup>th</sup> floor, which houses the archaeology lab, is greatly used, but requires upgrades to maintain the quality of the archaeological collections. These renovations are currently in the discussion stage with hopes to move to the development phase in the near future.

Sincerely,

David Cameron  
Dean and Professor of Political Science

cc: Professor Tim Harrison, Chair and Graduate Chair, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations