



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Business Board

SPONSORS: Ron Venter, Vice-Provost, Space and Facilities Planning
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DATE: October 25th, 2004 for November 8th, 2004.

AGENDA ITEM: 6(d)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Capital Project: Department of Mathematics, Phase I

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under the Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects, Business Board is required to approve the allocation of funds in support of a capital project.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Department of Mathematics presently occupies approximately 2000 net assignable square metres scattered in six locations across campus. The departmental home is within Sidney Smith and has program activities at 1 Spadina Crescent, Whitney Hall, the Earth Science Centre, Wetmore Hall and University College.

Most of the space allocated to the Department is in Sidney Smith Hall, a building that is severely overcrowded and houses almost twice the number of occupants for which it was designed. Problems related to space in Sidney Smith Hall for this Department and others within the Faculty of Arts & Science have been the focus of discussions for many years. Other problems that limited the ability to resolve space problems are the lack of capacity for increased infrastructure, consistent with emerging standards, and the presence of asbestos, making even the most minor of changes very expensive undertakings. Consolidation and necessary expansion of the all Department of Mathematics activities to Sidney Smith Hall is therefore impossible.

Recent reviews of the Department by Ontario Council of Graduate Studies have also expressed serious concern about the operating space that is available to the unit and need to be addressed.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Phase I plan for the Department of Mathematics is to outfit the previously shelled-in 6th floor of the Bahen Centre for Information Technology. This relocation for the Department of Mathematics is particularly advantageous as it positions the Department of Mathematics into an academic precinct in close proximity to the Departments of Computer Science, and Electrical & Computer Engineering both major occupants of the Bahen Centre for Information Technology [BCIT] and the Fields Institute which is immediately adjacent to the BCIT. It is envisaged that additional synergies and services within the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Sciences will be possible as a result of this relocation.

The phased-in plan requires the completion of these new accommodations on the 6th floor of the BCIT by July, 2005. This will allow the newly renovated facilities to be used on a temporary basis to house the Department of Economics during the period of renovation/construction of their facilities commencing September 2005. Only when the Economics Building is complete, projected for September 2006, will the entire 6th floor of the BCIT be available for the Department of Mathematics. Phase I is but the first stage in the road to the consolidation of the Department of Mathematics, the second stage of the plan is to link the BCIT to the upper floors of 215 Huron Street and to plan for the expansion of Mathematics through the BCIT into selected floors of 215 Huron Street.

Under the Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects, the Project Planning Committee will continue through the implementation phase. The Working Executive of the Project Committee will comprise the lead User, a Planner and Implementer all of whom have been intimately associated with the project definition since its inception; this membership is:

User: Prof. J. Quastel

Planner: Elizabeth Sisam

Implementer: Julian Binks

This Working Executive will be expanded to include a Project Manager to be appointed by the Chief Capital Projects Officer. Consideration will also be given for the design of this project to be undertaken by staff internal to the University.

The total project cost [TPC] is estimated at \$5,500,000 in 2005 dollars. The work of the existing Project Planning Committee will continue to explore the full consolidation of the Department of Mathematics.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

It is very important that this project be initiated as soon as possible to accommodate the interim space needs of the Department of Economics in the short term and thereafter, possibly by September 2006, the Department of Mathematics. Accordingly, the recommendation is to

secure authorization for the Vice-President - Business Affairs to expend up to \$800,000 to initiate the process for the selection of consultants subject to Governing Council approval of the project on December 16th, 2004.

In 2005 the Business Board will be requested to approve the full funding for the Department of Mathematics, Phase I project. The complete funding for this project will be provided by the Faculty of Arts and Science. As a result there is no impact on the level of borrowing to be provided through the University.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT subject to Governing Council approval in principle to undertake the Department of Mathematics, Phase I project within the Bahen Centre for Information Technology [BCIT] on the St. George Campus.

Be it Resolved

THAT the Vice-President, Business Affairs be authorized to expend up to \$800,000 to allow for the selection of the consultants for the design and outfitting of the 6th floor of the BCIT to accommodate the Department of Mathematics, Phase I project with funding from the Faculty of Arts and Science.