



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Office of the Vice-Provost, Space & Facilities Planning

27 King's College Circle, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5S 1A1 Tel: (416) 978-5515 Fax: (416) 978-3939 E-mail: ron.venter@utoronto.ca

March 7th, 2001.

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Budget Committee

From: Ron Venter, Vice-Provost, Space and Facilities Planning

Re: Refurbishment and Renovation of the Council Chamber and Board Room, Simcoe Hall.

Item Identification

Allocation from the University Infrastructure Investment Fund [UIIF] to address the refurbishment and renovation of the Council Chamber and Board Room at Simcoe Hall.

Sponsor

Ron Venter, Vice-Provost, Space and Facilities Planning

Jurisdictional Information

The Planning and Budget Committee recommends approval of expenditures from the Operating Budget Special Funds, specifically the UIIF for this project. Given that the total project cost is less than \$2 million, this project, consistent with the Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects, is to be considered for approval by the Accommodation and Facilities Directorate [AFD].

Highlights

The Council Chamber and Board Room within Simcoe Hall are well used facilities that have served the University community exceptionally well over the years. Both rooms are historically and architecturally significant. They reflect the character and commitment of the University and provide the centre stage for much of what is discussed and planned by all members of the University and the community at large. These rooms play a central role in major University events – not only for meetings of the Governing Council, its Boards and Committees, some divisional meetings, and gatherings of senior administrative groups, but also for major announcements, press conferences, and receptions that mark milestones for the University. The rooms therefore frequently serve as the public face of the University to many within the University community, and to guests and television audiences beyond. We need to care for these rooms since more than any other location they reflect what we are and what and how we might achieve the goals of the University. The rooms have not likely been renovated since the construction of Simcoe Hall in 1926 and even a quick examination will reveal numerous deficiencies within both. They need refurbishing and upgrading to better accommodate and facilitate both audio-visual presentations and audio/video conferencing, consistent with current standards in meeting spaces. Additionally, both rooms are to be air-conditioned to help preserve the furnishings and paintings and to facilitate the use of the rooms year-round. Also, the President's Office is not adequately air-conditioned; it would be timely and economical to include this suite of offices when the air-conditioning is added to the Board Room. The interior

décor, furnishings, painting and lighting of the rooms will also be addressed. In both rooms, the drapery is in tatters, the furniture in urgent need of repair and refinishing, and the inadequate lighting in need of attention. The total project cost is less than \$2 million and as such this project requires, and has received, formal approval of the Accommodation and Facilities Directorate [AFD].

It is proposed that the renovation will commence in the summer so that both rooms will be available in the fall of 2002.

Resource Implications

The total project cost for the Council Chambers is \$863,000 while the cost of the Board Room is \$730,000. The total project cost is therefore estimated to be \$1,593,000. It is not inexpensive, however, in upgrading these rooms it is essential to introduce current technology whilst maintaining the architectural detail and character of these wonderful heritage rooms of which we all should be proud.

Recommendations

That the Planning and Budget Committee recommend to the Academic Board:

THAT an allocation of \$1,593,000 from the University Infrastructure Investment Fund [UIIF] for the complete cost of the refurbishing and renovation of the Council Chamber and the Board Room in Simcoe Hall be approved.

(19021)