



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

May 30th, 2002.

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning and Budget Committee

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

Re: Project Committee for the Multi-faith Centre at the University of Toronto:
Update on the Multi-Faith Centre. Initial User Report developed in 2000.

Background

The remarkable diversity of the student population of the University of Toronto has added a new dimension to campus life. Many students today bring with them to the University not only the cultural traditions and expectations in which they were raised, but a set of spiritual beliefs that acts as an important part of a student's identity and further development.

At the same time, the study of religion and spirituality are being recognized in many academic disciplines as holding the answers to some of today's most complex problems. Within this context- a burgeoning interest among students and faculty in spiritual practice, dialogue and study- the University of Toronto will build the Multi-faith Centre, a new facility on the St. George Campus in downtown Toronto.

History

The University of Toronto is a secular institution. While some of its federated colleges have their roots in religious education and a particular Christian denomination, the University itself is a public institution with no direct connection to a religious institution or faith community.

Because of the historical relationships between churches and the institutions which pre-date the creation of the University of Toronto, Christian members of the community have long had places on campus in which to gather, pray and worship. With the increasing diversity of the city of Toronto, as well as the University's growing number of international students, has come a much greater and more pronounced diversity of religious and spiritual beliefs among members of the community. The university's Campus Chaplains' Association has grown to include spiritual leaders of more than 20 denominations, including all of the world's major religions. There are now well over 30 student groups on campus representing different faiths.

Throughout the 1990s, the University of Toronto took a number of steps to meet the needs of this increasingly spiritually diverse community:

- Hart House, the University's central cultural facility, has made changes to its chapel and opened it to all faith communities as an Interfaith Room.
- On Friday afternoons, the halls of the second floor of Hart House are lined with shoes as several hundred Muslim students gather for weekly Jumma prayers.
- At the International Student Centre, students use quiet rooms to meditate and pray.
- At the New College, the interim Multi-faith Room provides ablution facilities and is used by a variety of groups throughout the year.

Still, however, the demands exceed the amount of available space for these purposes. In February 1999, a University Task Force on Student Activity Space reported that the continued shortage of space available for spiritual religious observance “constitutes a real and serious barrier to full participation in campus community life”. The Task Force recommended the establishment of a permanent multi-faith facility.

The Multi-faith Centre has been established as a priority for the University’s current development campaign and a draft Users’ Committee for the project was prepared in November 2000. Led by the Office of Student Affairs, the Users’ Committee included students, staff and faculty representing a number of faith communities. Concurrently, a campaign to raise the necessary funds was initiated.

The Multi-faith Centre

The University of Toronto’s Multi-faith Centre will be a place of worship, of quiet contemplation, of celebration, of teaching and learning, and of tolerance and respect – for members of all faith communities. It will not only provide the physical facilities for students to practice their religious traditions but will provide an environment that encourages dialogue and understanding among members of different faith communities.

The Centre will be overseen by a Multi-faith Council made up of the faith communities it serves. Coordination of the Multi-faith Council will rest with the Campus Chaplains’ Association, which will have an office on-site. Administrative responsibility for the Centre will rest with the Office of Student Affairs, the division of the University responsible for life outside the classroom. Activities held within the Centre will include daily and weekly prayers and ceremonies, meditation and quiet reflection, religious ceremonies, guest lectures, classes and seminars, meetings, discussion groups and community service activities.

The design of the Centre will be a challenge to the most creative and sensitive team of architects. The facility must meet the practical and sometimes conflicting needs of many faith groups, yet convey to all of its visitors a sense of peace and openness. In other words, it must be beautiful in its simplicity.

The building’s principal feature will be its main Activity Hall where groups will regularly gather for worship and prayer. Here, both natural and artificial light will be used creatively to provide flexibility in the ambience. A view to an outdoor garden will give some faith groups the connection to nature they seek. Easily movable furniture and sliding panels within the walls will give the room the flexibility it needs to transform between functions. Because food is central to the traditions of many faiths, there will also be a kitchen and a Multipurpose Room where food can be served. A small library, offices, meeting rooms, ablutions facilities and ample storage will round out the facilities.

When completed, the Multi-faith Centre will serve as a showpiece – a place designed to accommodate an unprecedented diversity of religious and spiritual practices within an environment dedicated to respect and tolerance.

Update to Background Information

In April 2000, a Users’ Committee to investigate a Centre for Interfaith Study and Worship was approved by the Planning and Budget Committee. This Committee was ably chaired by Ms. Susan Addario and produced a draft report in November, 2000. A copy of this report is attached which identifies the full membership of the Users’ Committee, the terms of reference as well as the elements of what is required with the proposed Multi-faith Centre.

This report could not be submitted to Planning & Budget as no suitable site for the establishment of the Multi-faith Centre had been established. During the last two years considerable effort has certainly been directed to identifying a suitable site within a conflicting set of constraints. Serious possibilities that were investigated included the Bloor Street United Church and the Koffler Student Centre on St. George Street at College. Furthermore, student members of the original Users' Committee have since departed so that it is appropriate to re-establish a Project Committee for the Multi-faith Centre with the terms of reference suitably revised to specifically address the real possibility that the Koffler Institute of Pharmacy Management Building would house the Multi-faith Centre.

In recent weeks numerous meetings have been held with various parties to assess the merits of this proposed location. The terms of reference have been suitably adjusted to anticipate that a final Project Planning Report could be tabled at the September meeting of Planning & Budget.

Membership

Susan Addario, Director, Student Affairs (chair)
Shireen Ahmed, Muslim Students' Association
Jagtar Singh Badyal, Sikh Students' Association
Yoshani De Silva, Buddhist Community at the University of Toronto
Vasan Persad, Hindu Students' Association
Imam Abdul Hai Patel, Campus Chaplains' Association
Guru Fatha Singh Khalsa, Campus Chaplains' Association
Pandit Suraj Persad, Campus Chaplains' Association
Geoff Wichert, Campus Chaplains' Association
Lisa Isen, Campus Chaplains' Association
Ben Yang, International Student Centre
Laney Marshall, Hart House
Nouman Ashraf, Family Care Office
Deanne Fisher, Student Affairs
Bill Yasui, Campus and Facilities Planning
Elizabeth Sisam, Campus and Facilities Planning
Julian Binks, Facilities & Services

Terms of Reference

The draft entitled: *Multi-faith Centre for Spiritual Practice and Study* report essentially identifies all elements of the Multi-faith Centre and should be extensively used in the development of the Project Planning Report, subject to the following terms of reference:

1. Confirm and identify the space elements identified within the draft Users' Committee Report.
2. Identify the equipment and movable furnishings necessary for the Centre
3. Identify any particular construction features (such as separate air exchange to allow for burning of offerings, orientation of the worship space, lighting).
4. Identify staging costs associated with the project.
5. Identify all resource implications, including a detailed estimate of the capital costs, and operating costs of the Multi-faith Centre
6. Identify a funding plan for capital costs and operating costs
7. Report no later than October 30th, 2002.

Given the previous difficulty with the appropriate selection of a site, it is recommended that the two upper floors of the Koffler Institute of Pharmacy Building be examined as the preferred site for the Multi-faith Centre. All secondary effects, which must include the identification of space to house the current occupants of the Koffler Institute of Pharmacy Management Building, must be addressed as well as the associated costs. Furthermore, it is not the expectation that the Multi-

faith Centre will occupy the ground floor of the Koffler Institute of Pharmacy Management Building, so that the building is not entirely dedicated to the Multi-faith Centre. It is envisaged that the name of the building will be changed so that the Multi-Faith Centre will be located within, for example, the Murray Koffler Building. The Murray Koffler name is to be maintained.

8. Identify and report on the timing issues to fully establish the Multi-faith Centre within the Murray Koffler Building.
9. All capital costs should be specific to the Koffler Institute of Pharmacy Management Building renovation to ensure an accurate assessment of the costs.
10. Identify all possible sources of revenue and prepare information materials that can be used to attract potential benefactors.

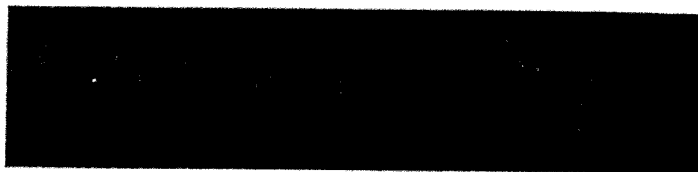


University of Toronto

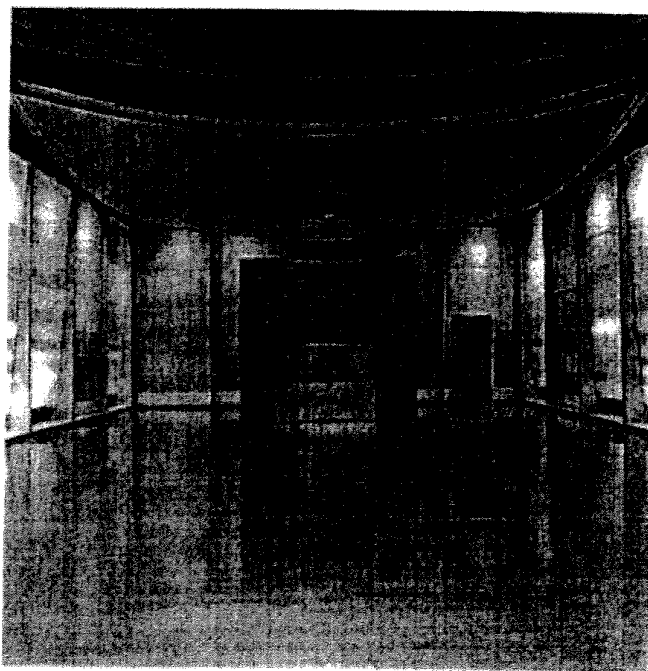


Multifaith Centre

for Spiritual Practice & Study



Draft: November 2000



CONTENTS

I. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	1
II. TERMS OF REFERENCE	1
III. CONTEXT & BACKGROUND	2
IV. VISION	4
V. SPACE PROGRAM.....	5
VI. FUNCTIONAL PLAN & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	9
VII. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	11
XI. APPENDICES:	13

I. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In April 2000 a Users' Committee for a Centre for Interfaith Study and Worship¹ was struck by the Planning and Budget Committee of the Governing Council of the University of Toronto with the following membership:

Susan Addario, Director, Student Affairs (Chair)
Rev. Bob Shantz, Campus Chaplain
Rev. Karen Bach, Campus Chaplain
Vasan Persad, Hindu Students' Association
Shireen Ahmed, Muslim Students' Association
Sesath Hewapathirane, University of Toronto Buddhist Community
Ravinder Minhas, Sikh Students' Association
Paul McCann, Hart House Interfaith Dialogue
Ben Yang, Coordinator, International Student Centre
Urooj Khan, Faculty of Arts and Science
Mrs. Elizabeth Sisam, Director, Campus and Facilities Planning
Ray Cheung, Facilities and Services
Prof. Jack Miller, OISE

II. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Identify the space elements and the space amounts required for a Multifaith Centre (this could include: a main worship space, a smaller meditation room,; a library; an office for campus chaplains; a cloakroom; a large meeting room; a small kitchen area; an ablutions area; washrooms).
- Identify the equipment and movable furnishings necessary for the Centre.
- Identify any special construction features (such as separate air exchange to allow for burning of offerings; orientation of the worship space, lighting).
- Identify the types of University buildings which would be appropriate to serve as a site.
- Identify any staging costs and transition costs associated with the project.
- Identify all resource implications, including a preliminary estimate of capital costs, and projected increases to the operating costs of the University.
- Identify a funding plan for capital costs and operating costs.
- Report by June 30, 2000.

¹ After discussion, the Users' Committee agreed to change the name of the project to the Multifaith Centre for Spiritual Practice and Study. It is referred to as such for the remainder of this document.

III. CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

Introduction

The remarkable diversity of the student population of the University of Toronto has added a new dimension to campus life. Many students today bring with them to the University not only the cultural traditions and expectations in which they were raised, but a set of spiritual beliefs that acts as an important part of a student's identity and further development. At the same time, the study of religion and spirituality are being recognized in many academic disciplines as holding the answers to some of today's most complex problems.

The University of Toronto is, of course, a secular institution. Its students and staff, however, are not necessarily easily defined as secular members. Institutions across North America have been grappling with the issue of how to accommodate the spiritual needs of their students and create opportunities for interfaith dialogue and exploration, while remaining true to their secular mandates.

It has been suggested that to dismiss the spiritual needs of students and to push religion to the margins of campus life not only wastes a valuable educational opportunity, but may alienate students from the institution.² For students from communities outside of the traditional Judeo-Christian spectrum, the absence of space and scheduling accommodations which acknowledge their spiritual practices means their disaffection is even more acute. Further, members of many religious groups point to a link between spiritual development and academic success for students; this relationship is only fully realized when students' spiritual needs are recognized and respected in the academic context.

The solution to accommodating burgeoning diversity and interest in spirituality at many North American universities has been to create so-called multifaith spaces – facilities dedicated to no one faith or religion, but designed to both accommodate spiritual practice and to facilitate dialogue.

Spiritual Diversity at the University of Toronto

Perhaps nowhere has spiritual pluralism been more pronounced than at the University of Toronto. For a decade or more, members of this community have drawn attention to the need for facilities and initiatives to address inequities in the way religious needs and practices are accommodated.

In 1999-2000, the University recognized some 35 different student clubs dedicated to religious and spiritual practice. The Campus Chaplains' Association has grown to include spiritual leaders of more than 20 denominations, including all of the world's major religions, and is believed to be the most diverse organization of its kind.

Given the historical relationships between the U of T's federated colleges and Christian churches, there has emerged, quite naturally, some concern for equity among non-Christian groups. This has taken the form, primarily, of the demand for prayer and worship space on campus. Throughout the 1990s, the University of Toronto has taken a number of steps to accommodate the spiritual needs of the community:

- Hart House, the University's central cultural facility, has made changes to its chapel and opened it to all faith communities as an Interfaith Room.

² "Pluralism and Prayer Under One Roof", from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Dec.3, 1999.

- More than 400 Muslims gather in the Hart House debates room every Friday afternoon for Jummah prayers.
- At the International Student Centre, students use quiet rooms to meditate and pray.
- In 1999, a temporary Multifaith Room was opened in the basement of New College, equipped with an ablutions facility. This room is used by a number of groups throughout the year.

In February 1999, a University Task Force on Student Activity Space reported that the continued shortage of space available for spiritual or religious observance “constitutes a real and serious barrier to full participation in campus community life”. The Task Force recommended the establishment of a permanent multi-faith facility.

Consultation & Research

During the 1999-2000 academic year, the Office of Student Affairs served as the host for a Multifaith Working Group, which grew in numbers throughout the year to meetings of 20-25 people representing at least eight different religions and various divisions of the University. What unified these students, faculty and staff members – some of whom represented religions historically in conflict with each other – was a vision of a place on campus that respects their faith and provides peaceful spaces in which to pray, worship, celebrate, meditate, contemplate, and learn from each other.

The Users’ Committee built on the information and perspectives gathered through the Working Group process and through a decade of discussion of this project within the Campus Chaplain’s Association. In addition, the Committee’s work was informed by:

- A site visit to the Scott Religious Centre, York University.
- A site visit to the Sacred Space, Northeastern University, Massachusetts.
- Material collected from the Religious Activities Centre, M.I.T.
- “Creating Multi-Faith Spaces on College and University Campuses”, a collection of case studies published by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and Wellesley College, MA.
- Guidelines for the Architectural Design of Multifaith Worship Space, from the Ontario Provincial Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy.
- Written and oral submissions from the U of T Buddhist Community, Hindu Students’ Association, Muslim Students Association and Sikh Students Association.

IV. VISION

The purpose of the Multifaith Centre is to support the spiritual well-being of students, staff and faculty and to increase our understanding of and respect for religious beliefs and practices. It does so by providing opportunities for members of the community to reflect, worship, contemplate, teach and learn, read and study, celebrate, mourn, engage in dialogue and interact on a daily basis.

Objectives

- a) To provide facilities and related services to support the religious and spiritual practices of faith communities represented at the University of Toronto
- b) To nurture spiritual development through the provision of counselling and guidance, resources and an environment that values spirituality
- c) To further our understanding of the role faith and religion play in a number of academic disciplines
- d) To celebrate the diversity of the University of Toronto community and to benefit from the richness of our differences; and
- e) To contribute to an end to religious conflict worldwide by providing opportunities for members of different faiths to interact, learn from and respect each other.

Activities

These objectives will be achieved through the day-to-day activities of the Centre, including:

- Prayer, worship and other spiritual practices
- Educational events, such as conferences, panel discussions, forums, and guest speakers
- On-site chaplaincy, including spiritual counselling and guidance
- Social events, including those involving food
- Quiet, solitary contemplation and reflection
- Research, reading, teaching and learning.
- Community service opportunities.

Governance

The Centre's policies and programs will be developed and overseen by a Multifaith Council made up of the faith communities served by the Centre.

Staff Resources

Coordination of the Multifaith Council will rest with the Campus Chaplains Association, which will have an office on-site. Administrative responsibility for the Centre will rest with the Office of Student Affairs. Additional staffing needs may be identified at a later date.

V. SPACE PROGRAM

a) Foyer

It is anticipated that the Centre will accommodate large gatherings, sometimes several in a day. A large foyer will act as a transition area for incoming and outgoing groups. The design of this foyer should also take into account its function as a transition zone from the outside to a place of relative calm and peace, and as a social space for people entering or leaving a function.

Ideally, there should be an opportunity for the foyer to act as an extension to the Main Activity Hall (see below), thereby expanding the capacity of the Centre for a very large gathering. It is anticipated that during such an event (example, Friday afternoon Jumaah prayers) other users of the building would be required to use another entrance.

When separated, no sound should carry from the foyer to the Main Activity Hall where a prayer or service may be in session.

b) Main Activity Hall

The Main Activity Hall must be simple yet versatile. It will be used for a wide range of activities, including:

- Congregational prayers
- Religious and cultural celebrations
- Rituals, including weddings and memorials, ceremonies of co-commitment and rites of passage
- Lectures
- Group meditation

At its largest capacity, the Main Activity Hall should be able to accommodate 300 comfortably in chairs, 400 without, on a flat floor. However, it must also constrict to accommodate smaller groups – of up to 150. This could be achieved in different ways, such as:

- The Hall in its usual state would accommodate 150 and could expand onto the spacious lobby, thereby doubling its capacity.
- The Hall could have a removable divider wall separating it in to two rooms of 150 capacity.

The Main Activity Hall should be round, octagonal or square in shape. If it is rectangular in shape, the East and West walls should be the “short” walls, to accommodate Muslim prayers.

The Main Activity Hall should have direct access to:

- The Foyer
- The Anterooms
- The Ablutions Facility
- The “Crying” Room
- The Patio
- The Washrooms

There should be at least two entrances to the Main Activity Hall, and it should have windows or other openings for natural light.

c) Anterooms off Main Activity Hall

The challenge in designing a Multifaith facility is to ensure it reflects no particular faith, yet to allow religious or faith groups to adapt it quickly and easily to suit their purpose. The Users Committee believes the best way to do so is to incorporate into the design small anterooms off the Main Activity Hall. Two to three such anterooms should be “hidden” behind sliding wall panels of the Main Activity Hall, but should also have separate entrances. They should be large enough to accommodate 10 people and could be used for small groups without opening the panels to the larger Hall. The anterooms will be assigned to particular faiths in which icons or religious artifacts can be stored with respect.

d) “Crying Room” off Main Activity Hall

There should be a small soundproof room at the back of the Main Activity Hall for parents and young children to go during a service or prayer. It should be separated from the Main Activity Hall by glass.

e) Meditation or Quiet Space

A room that accommodates 15-20 people (without chairs) will be used for group meditation, yoga and other such practices. It will also have “open access” hours in which individuals looking for silence may come and go.

f) Multipurpose Room

A room that accommodates up to 40 people should be located near the kitchen and Main Activity Hall. This room will be used for receptions, the serving of food and drink and can serve as a nursery during large events in the Main Activity Hall.

g) Offices

There should be 6-8 offices. The office of the co-ordinator of the Campus Chaplains Association will be relocated to the Multifaith Centre. The other offices will be used for individual campus chaplains. There should be a small reception or lounge area for these offices.

h) Meeting/Study Room

A meeting room will be used by groups planning events, for seminars and small lectures, for study groups and other purposes. It should be located near the offices.

i) Counselling Room

A small private counselling room should be located near the offices of the Campus Chaplains Association.

j) Kitchen

The Kitchen should be located on the same floor as the Multipurpose Room and should be large enough to accommodate up to five people preparing food. Separate counter and storage space should be identified for vegetarian and non-vegetarian use. Alternatively, two small kitchens could be incorporated.

k) Library/Resource Centre

A small library will be shared by several faith groups. It should be located near the offices and the small meeting room and should accommodate two to three carrels.

l) Ablution Facilities

Separate men's and women's ablution facilities should be located near the Main Activity Hall. The location of these facilities should accommodate some groups' desire to have men and women enter the Main Activity Hall from separate entrances. The need for privacy during ablutions should be integrated into the design.

m) Storage

A number of storage facilities are required:

- A large storage room (for chairs when not in use, podiums, and other furniture) should be located near the Main Activity Hall.
- A smaller storage room should be located near the Multipurpose Room for equipment, tables, etc.
- Shoe Storage – cubbies for shoes should be located near the ablutions facilities and Main Activity Hall.
- Prayer Mat & Cushion Storage – cubbies or closets should be located near the Main Activity Hall.
- Storage closets for groups – approximately 20 cabinets (approx. 1' x 3', stacked) should be located near the offices, library or meeting room.

n) Ground Floor Patio

The Main Activity Room and/or Multipurpose Room should have direct access to a covered exterior patio area and garden. The patio will serve two functions – it provides a connection to nature which is central to many faiths; it also allows for some functions and rituals to be held out of doors.

o) Cloak Room in the Foyer

p) Washrooms on each floor

q) Elevator

r) Custodial closets and office

VI. FUNCTIONAL PLAN & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Versatility is critical to the success of the Multifaith Centre. It must accommodate virtually any religious or spiritual activity – including large congregations prostrate on the floor, rituals involving the burning of a offering, a traditional student-teacher relationship or a solitary meditation or contemplation.

On a day-to-day basis, a number of the rooms will be used in combination. Some examples:

- During Ramadan, 40-50 Muslim members of the community will enter via the Foyer, prepare food for the breaking of fast in the kitchen, and eat and socialize in the Multipurpose Room.
- A memorial service would see 100 or more individuals enter via the foyer, use the cloak room and washrooms prior to entering the Main Activity Hall, and could include post-service refreshments in the Multipurpose Room or on the patio and grief counselling in the counselling room and/or offices.
- Friday Jumaah prayers for the Muslim Community would see up to 400 men and women enter the building, remove their shoes in the storage area, use separate men's and women's ablution facilities and enter separately the Main Activity Hall, where they would traditionally face East, men in front, women in back.
- A traditional Hindu worship would see approximately 200 participants enter via the Foyer and into the Main Activity Hall. The group would be oriented to face one of the anterooms, would be opened to reveal the permanently installed *murtis*. The burning of offerings would take place, generating a significant amount of smoke.
- A Buddhist meditation session would see approximately 10-15 students enter via the main or another entry, remove coats and shoes, place cushions on the floor of the Meditation Room. Alternatively, they could use an anteroom off the Main Activity Hall.

There are a number of design considerations which must be taken into account to ensure the Centre's multifaith mandate and to create a sense of sanctuary or retreat.

a) Use of Light

In all of the facilities visited by members of the Users Committee, light – both natural and artificial – was used creatively. A flexible system of artificial light, for example, can provide different “moods” to different events. Above all, the lighting should connote a sense of peace.

b) Access to Nature

The natural world is fundamental to many faiths. The Multifaith Centre's patio should include a garden designed for contemplation and a connection to nature. Elements of nature – natural light, a small waterfall, or plants – should be incorporated into the interior of the facility as well.

c) Ceiling Height

Ceilings in the Main Activity Hall should be higher than that of the surrounding space, to emphasize the transcendent dimension of one's faith or deity.

d) Furnishings

All furnishings in the Main Activity Hall and Multipurpose Room should be easily movable and stackable. The Meditation Room should be unfurnished.

e) Flooring

The Main Activity Hall and Meditation Room should be carpeted. The carpet should be durable and of sufficient depth to make kneeling comfortable. The design of the carpet should have a pattern or stripes; this helps groups to form straight lines while praying. The Multipurpose Room should not be carpeted as it will be used for food service.

f) Walls

There should be no permanently affixed wall decorations in either the Main Activity Hall, Multipurpose Room or Meditation Room. However, all rooms should be affixed with hooks for the hanging of objects by particular groups. The Foyer should include a bulletin board for notices and should allow for the possibility of art. The waiting area near the offices should include mailboxes for student and other groups. The colour scheme of the walls should be relatively neutral.

VII. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

a) Accessibility

All floors and rooms must be barrier-free. There should be barrier-free men's and women's washrooms.

b) Computing and Communications

The offices, library and meeting room should be fully wired for computer and telephone connections.

c) Security Issues

Careful attention should be paid to security throughout the building, given the sensitive nature of many of the activities it is expected will occur there. Lockable storage lockers should be provided to key groups. The design of the Main Activity Hall, Multipurpose Room and Meditation Room should maintain the privacy of the groups inside but should provide some level of visibility from the foyer and halls.

d) Ventilation

The Main Activity Hall and Multipurpose Room should be equipped with a separate air exchange to allow for the burning of candles, incense, and offerings.

e) Parking

As the Multifaith Centre is drawing mainly from people who are already on campus, it is not anticipated to have a major effect on parking. However, there should be parking within walking distance to accommodate the possible rental of the facility on weekends.

f) Family-friendly Features

Design of the Centre should anticipate use of the main facilities by children and should therefore keep child safety in mind. Washrooms should be equipped with diaper-changing facilities and, in the women's washrooms, a comfortable area for breastfeeding.

g) Site

A site has not yet been identified for the Multifaith Centre, though several are being investigated. The Centre is envisioned as a one or two story facility within a larger project, such as a residence or other locus of student activity. Although the Committee is generally resistant to placing the Centre below grade, it acknowledges that certain portions of the building could be placed below grade, as long as this is done creatively and natural light still permeates both levels.

The primary considerations in choosing a site are:

- Proximity to major student traffic areas of the campus and/or public transit
- Suitability of the surrounding building/partnering division
- Ability to incorporate a quiet garden space within the design
- Ability to incorporate a separate air exchange system
- Access to natural light.

Since many of the religious and spiritual student groups will have offices in 21 Sussex (Huron & Sussex), locating the Multifaith Centre near that facility is also viewed positively.

Several sites have been considered by the Committee; those preferred are:

- Bloor Street United Church – a redevelopment partnership with the congregation at Bloor & Huron.
- Two sites (vacant lots) on the west side of Huron Street, between Harbord and Sussex.
- The parkette on the north side of Bloor between OISE/UT and the Faculty of Social Work.
- Residences within the Bloor-Devonshire area.

VIII. APPENDICES:

1. Space Inventory
2. Utilization Analyses
3. Equipment
4. Furnishings
5. Computing
6. Capital Cost Estimate
7. Room Specification Sheets