



University of Toronto

Office of the Assistant Vice-President, Campus and Facilities Planning

FOR INFORMATION:

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: October 9, 2009 for October 28, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Project Planning Report for the South Campus Data Centre at the University of Toronto Scarborough.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under the Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects, the Planning & Budget Committee reviews Project Planning Reports prepared for a capital project and recommends to the Academic Board approval in principle of the project.

BACKGROUND:

The current Information and Instructional Technology Services (IITS) Data Centre at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), built in 1997, requires more space, better security, power and cooling and cannot be easily upgraded. It no longer meets industry standards. No major expansion or significant upgrades have occurred in the 12 years since it was built, yet the campus has changed dramatically during the same period. Since that time UTSC has added 38% more academic and residence space, the undergraduate student population has grown by 97%, and there has been a massive migration of paper-based business process onto IT infrastructure. Presently, all University core administrative and academic business processes (AMS, ROSI, LMS, etc.) fully rely on IT. These changes combined have stretched the UTSC information technology infrastructure to the limit making it very difficult to improve existing and impossible to implement new IT services and placing its operations at risk. Limitations imposed by the current UTSC data centre prevent IITS from building the required information technology infrastructure and services needed to support growing academic and administrative demands.

HIGHLIGHTS

The proposed South Campus Data Centre will address the existing electrical, cooling, security and maintenance issues, allow for the improvement of existing services and introduction of new services, and lay the foundation for future development of connectivity and IT services redundancy which does not currently exist on the UTSC campus or at UofT.

The proposed South Campus Data Centre will be the first step towards the creation of a data centre cluster at UTSC that will be fully realized with the opening, in 2011, of the North Campus Data Centre in the new Instructional and Laboratory Centre, currently under construction. The UTSC data centre cluster will provide fail-over capacity, which is an essential business continuity requirement.

The project has been developed in coordination with the Office of the Chief Information Officer. It will be large enough to potentially house backups for University-wide IT systems (such as AMS, ROSI, Exchange, Blackboard) and could be used to house IT appliances from other divisions and from UTM. However, at this stage it is considered only as a potential facility for offsite data storage and the replication of central IT services. No additional costs are included in the project for power, cooling or computing equipment required for any non-UTSC IT systems.

The Report of the Project Planning Committee for the UTSC South Campus Data Centre is the culmination of an application that was submitted to, and approved by, the Accommodations and Facilities Directorate (AFD) in April, 2009 to retain consultants for the review of scope and budget for the proposed construction of the centre.

FINANCIAL AND PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

The project (182 square meters) is to be constructed on the roof of the ARC (Academic Resources Centre) with infrastructure sufficient to accommodate at least 16 racks of computing equipment and is estimated to have a Total Project Cost of \$3,904,000.

The additional 182 gross square meters will increase the operating costs of UTSC by \$20,000 annually. Space released by the relocation will be assigned for other use at UTSC.

FUNDING SOURCES

The proposed UTSC South Campus Data Centre will be fully funded by the University of Toronto Scarborough. No borrowing is required.

SCHEDULE

The project is to be completed by January 30, 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Planning and Budget Committee recommend to the Academic Board:

1. That the Project Planning Report for the University of Toronto Scarborough Data Centre be approved in principle.
2. That the project scope, comprising new construction of 182 square meters on the roof of the Academic Resources Centre at a total project cost of \$3,904,000.00 be approved with the full funding from the University of Toronto Scarborough.