

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

SPONSOR: Elizabeth Sisam, Assistant Vice-President, Campus and Facilities Planning

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DATE: April 29th for May 7th, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Project Planning Report for Chemistry Research and Instructional Laboratory Revitalization in the Lash Miller Building

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

This project will renovate existing laboratory space in the Lash Miller Chemical Laboratories to create a suite of laboratories in Materials and Catalytic Chemistry. These facilities are required to meet increased numbers of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and accommodate these personnel and their research and will include a molecular imaging facility with clean room and related laboratories. This project has been submitted under the Federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program, identified as the St George Laboratory Revitalization for Physics and Chemistry.

Improvements will be made to upgrade and repair facilities including air handling, climate, and electrical systems in the Lash Miller building now over 45 years old. The renovations will be designed to create laboratories that respond to research initiatives in the 21st century.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Chemistry Department will renovate existing laboratory space in the Lash Miller Chemical Laboratories (circa 1963) in order to create a suite of research lab facilities that will substantially enhance the department's discovery, training, and innovation capacity. Specifically, Chemistry will create state-of-the-art research labs in Materials and Catalytic chemistry, to leverage the significant expansion in these areas. Recent success in high-level faculty recruitment has yielded substantial increases in industry support for this critical area of research. This has resulted in a burgeoning graduate student and postdoctoral fellow hiring necessitating renovation of “old labs” to house these personnel and their research.

The renovations will include removal of asbestos and new electrical and mechanical services for new fumehoods. Energy efficient engineering and initiatives will be undertaken where possible.

Finally, the Department will renovate and repair facilities directed at enhancing research operations, student training, and support. New graduate and PDF research desks/offices (within the research labs) will be created to house a growing complement of graduate students, and to allow for active and easy collaboration between students.

FINANCIAL AND PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

The total estimated project cost for the proposed renovations of the Chemistry research and instructional laboratory revitalization is \$8 million.

FUNDING SOURCES

This project has been submitted under the Federal Knowledge Infrastructure Program, identified as the St George Laboratory Revitalization for Physics and Chemistry. The Ontario government, in its budget of March 26, 2009, affirmed commitment to matching federal capital infrastructure investments in the Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

SCHEDULE

The project will proceed with implementation once funding commitments are in place. The project will be materially complete by December 31, 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. THAT the Project Planning Report for the Chemistry Research and Laboratory Revitalization Lash Miller Building be approved in principle.
2. THAT the project scope of 1,540 nasm of renovations be approved in principle at a cost of \$8 million, subject to the receipt of funding.