



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: April 23 for May 5, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Faculty of Medicine: Proposal to establish the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research (DCCBR) as an Extra-Departmental Unit:A

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee recommends to the Academic Board on plans and proposals to establish, disestablish, or significantly restructure academic units and resulting planning and resource implications.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The development of the Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research (CCBR) was approved by Governing Council in February 2001 as a building project. It was officially opened as the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research (DCCBR) in 2005.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Faculty of Medicine proposes the establishment of the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research (Donnelly Centre) as an Extra-Departmental Unit A (EDU:A) that would allow the Centre to have primary faculty appointments and offer programs. The attached proposal outlines the rationale for the establishment of the interdisciplinary unit. The Donnelly Centre opened in 2005 at 160 College St. It currently houses 32 cross-appointed principal investigators and their research groups (~400 staff) including graduate students.

The Donnelly Centre represents an opportunity for the Faculty of Medicine to lead in biological research for the next decades. It exists at the nexus of biological research in the Faculties of Arts & Science, Applied Science and Engineering, Medicine and Pharmacy and has emerged as truly interdisciplinary research and teaching unit. A 2009 external review of the Donnelly Centre highlighted that it is one of, if not the top-ranked research institute of its kind. The reviewers strongly recommended the Faculty of Medicine establish the centre as an EDU-A in order for primary appointments to the Centre and teaching programs to evolve, further enabling it to carry on its unique mandate.

There has been extensive consultation regarding the proposal within the Faculty of Medicine and with the Deans of the Faculty of Arts and Science, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, and Lesley Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. The proposal for the Donnelly Centre establishment as an EDU:A was approved by the Faculty Medicine Council on March 8, 2010.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The original Memorandum of Understanding among the Faculties of Medicine, Applied Science and Engineering and Pharmacy was signed in 2007. It addressed issues of governance and administration for the Centre. Agreements have been revised to reflect the active participation of the Faculty of Arts & Science (as Associate Partner) and a reduced role for the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy which has identified other priorities. The overall financial plans for operation and maintenance of the Centre have been discussed and agreed to by all participating units. Funding for salary and benefit costs of occupants (i.e., faculty members and their staff) will be the direct responsibilities of the respective Faculties. Other costs such as administrative compensation and overhead will be apportioned as agreed upon by participating units.

There are no resource implications for the University's operating budget resulting from this proposal.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research (DCCBR) be established as an EDU:A teaching and research entity, effective July 1, 2010.