



# University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PROVOST, SPACE AND FACILITIES PLANNING

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TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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

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DATE: November 30, 2004 for December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

AGENDA ITEM: 6

## **ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Project Planning Committee for the Department of Mathematics, Phase 1.

## **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

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

## **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

At the Planning and & Budget meeting held on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Committee approved an interim Project Planning Report for the Department of Mathematics Phase I subject to a review of the final Project Planning Report by the Planning and Budget Committee at its meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The interim approval was necessary to ensure that the project could also be considered and reviewed by the Academic Board on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and the Business Board on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and advance to Governing Council for final approval on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004. This project is supported by the Faculty of Arts and Science; there is some urgency for it to be completed since it will provide the staging space necessary to accommodate the Department of Economics during the renovation of the Economics Building at 150 St. George Street. Once the Economics Building is completed the space will be vacated and become the new home for the Department of Mathematics.

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Department of Mathematics presently occupies approximately 2000 net assignable square metres scattered in six locations across campus. The departmental home is within Sidney Smith Hall with program activities at 1 Spadina Crescent, Whitney Hall, the Earth Sciences Centre, Wetmore Hall and University College.

Most of the space allocated to the Department is in Sidney Smith Hall, a building that is severely overcrowded housing almost twice the number of occupants for which it was designed. Problems related to space in Sidney Smith Hall for this Department and others within the Faculty of Arts &

Science have been the focus of discussions for many years. Other issues that limited the ability to resolve space problems are the lack of capacity for increased infrastructure, consistent with emerging standards, and the presence of asbestos, making even the most minor of changes very expensive undertakings. Consolidation and necessary expansion of the all Department of Mathematics activities to Sidney Smith Hall is therefore impossible.

Recent reviews of the Department by the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies have also expressed serious concern about the operating space that is available to the unit and need to be addressed.

The Phase I plan for the Department of Mathematics is to outfit the previously shelled-in 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Bahen Centre for Information Technology. This relocation for the Department of Mathematics is particularly advantageous as it positions the Department of Mathematics into an academic precinct in close proximity to the Departments of Computer Science, and Electrical & Computer Engineering both major occupants of the Bahen Centre for Information Technology [BCIT] and the Fields Institute which is immediately adjacent to the BCIT. It is envisaged that synergy between the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Sciences and additional services will be possible as a result of this relocation.

The phased-in plan requires the completion of these new accommodations on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the BCIT by July, 2005. This will allow the newly renovated facilities to be used on a temporary basis to house the Department of Economics during the period of renovation/ construction of their facilities commencing September 2005. Only when the Economics Building is complete, projected for September 2006, will the entire 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the BCIT be available for the Department of Mathematics. Phase I is but the first stage in the road to the consolidation of the Department of Mathematics, the second stage of the plan is to link the BCIT to the upper floors of 215 Huron Street and to plan for the expansion of Mathematics through the BCIT into selected floors of 215 Huron Street. The end objective is to consolidate all activities of the Department of Mathematics into the BCIT, predominantly the sixth floor, plus the upper floors of 215 Huron Street. It may also be necessary to assess the relative merits of accommodations in other buildings within the precinct, specifically the Hughes Building.

Under the Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects, the Project Planning Committee will continue through the implementation phase. The Working Executive of the Project Committee will comprise the lead User, a Planner and Implementer all of whom have been intimately associated with the project definition since its inception; this membership is:

**User:** Prof. J. Quastel

**Planner:** Elizabeth Sisam

**Implementer:** Julian Binks

This Working Executive will be expanded to include a Project Manager to be appointed by the Chief Capital Projects Officer. Consideration will also be given for the design and implementation of this project to be undertaken by staff internal to the University provided these services are available to be able to complete the project in a timely manner.

The total project cost [TPC] is estimated at \$5,680,000 in 2005 dollars. The work of the existing Project Planning Committee will continue to explore the full consolidation of the Department of Mathematics.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

It is very important that this project be initiated as soon as possible to accommodate the interim space needs of the Department of Economics in the short term, for September 2005, to not delay the construction schedule, and by September 2006 for the Department of Mathematics.

The total funding for this project will be provided by the Department of Mathematics and the Faculty of Arts and Science. As a result, there is no impact on the level of borrowing to be provided through the University. The operating costs for the 6<sup>th</sup> floor will be assessed upon completion of the project and will be the responsibility of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That, following its review of the final Project Planning Report, the Planning and Budget Committee confirm its recommendation to the Academic Board

1. THAT the Project Planning Report for the Department of Mathematics, Phase I at the University of Toronto be approved in principle.
2. THAT the project scope as identified in the Project Planning Report which requires the outfitting of the entire sixth floor of the Bahen Centre for Information Technology be approved at a revised cost of \$5,680,000, with full funding for this project provided from the operating budget within the Faculty of Arts and Science.