



University of Toronto

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

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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

CONTACT INFORMATION: 416-978-5515; avp.space@utoronto.ca

DATE: October 15 for October 24, 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Project Planning Committee for Robarts Library Renewal and Expansion Plan

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under the Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects, section 5.A, the membership and terms of reference of Project Committees shall be reported to the Planning and Budget Committee.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Carole Moore, Chief Librarian, UTL
Alfred Cheng, CAO, UTL
Prof. Linda Hutcheon, Department of English
Prof. John Scherk, Department of Mathematics
Gina Trubiani, Graduate Student Representative
Peter Lawiaw-Bahan, Undergraduate Student Representative
Jasmina Djikic, Undergraduate Student Representative
Julian Binks, Manager Capital Project Planning
Jennifer Adams Peffer, Campus and Facilities Planning
Ron Swail, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities and Services

BACKGROUND

The Robarts Library stands today as the premier humanities and social sciences collection of the University of Toronto and a highly valued provincial resource. Scholars from all over the world have visited the library to make use of its wonderful and unique resources. Students have flocked to this intellectual “heart” of the University to learn, discuss, and meet their friends.

While it was originally designed as a research facility with limited access, it was made accessible to the undergraduate student population shortly after it first opened. It now provides a significant number of study spaces on the St. George Campus.

The library must continue to evolve in response to rapid changes in the way students learn and access materials. Thirty years of heavy use have taken their toll on this facility, and the limitations and critical need to improve and enhance the student experience must be addressed.

This Project Committee is charged with addressing the immediate and longer-term space requirements of the Robarts Library, in public access areas and, in particular, to increase student study space.

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1. Propose a plan for the renewal and expansion of the Robarts Library, within specific areas, to increase the existing 3500 study spaces by 50 per cent, improve the use of existing space and create a stimulating work atmosphere for learning and research.
2. Propose a phased approach for the implementation of the plan.
3. Plan to realize maximum flexibility of space to permit future allocations as program needs change.
4. Address campus-wide planning directives as set out in the campus master plan, open space plan, urban design criteria, and site conditions that respond to the broader University community.
5. Identify equipment and moveable furnishings necessary to the project phases and their estimated costs.
6. Identify all resource implications, including a preliminary estimate of capital costs and projected increases to the annual operating costs for the Robarts Library as a result of the phased plan.
7. Identify any costs associated with transition during construction and secondary effects resulting from the project.
8. Identify a funding plan for capital and operating costs.
9. Report by January 09, 2008.