



University of Toronto

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

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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

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DATE: May 2, 2008 for May 14, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 10

Report of the Senior Scholars Centre Project Planning Committee

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 Agreement between the Governing Council of the University of Toronto and the University of Toronto Faculty Association on Retirement Matters was approved by Governing Council on April 13, 2005. The Statement of Commitment to Retired Faculty and Librarians includes the commitment to establish Senior Scholars/Retiree Centres on all three campuses subject to the identification of appropriate space, resources for development and operation, and the approval of Governing Council. These Centres will develop and administer a range of programs and facilities to support retired Faculty Members and Librarians in continuing their intellectual activities and to retain their connection with the University.

HIGHLIGHTS:

In considering the most appropriate model for the Senior Scholars/Retiree Centres, the Project Planning Committee examined the experience of several US universities. In particular, the University of California with its multi-campus system, offers a strong model for the University of Toronto.

Through its Senior Scholar Centres, the University will welcome and encourage the participation of retired faculty and librarians in the intellectual and social life of the University community across all three campuses.

As set out in the Centres' mission statement: *the University of Toronto Senior Scholars Centres will develop services, facilitate participation and encourage the talents of retired faculty and librarians to enrich the broader University community and assist in the fulfillment of the University mission.*

The following activities and functions that have been identified by the Project Planning Committee may be accommodated in the Senior Scholars Centre:

- Support for the continued involvement of retired faculty and librarians who work towards the University's mission and commitment to the student experience.
- Pensions and benefits counselling
- Liaison with Centre for Community Partnerships to co-ordinate community outreach.
- Scheduled visits from Research Services, Information Commons, Library Services, etc.
- Academic and social programs

The space program identifies a total of 115 net assignable square metres that would be assigned to the Centre. In addition, classrooms and seminar rooms will be booked through the Office of Space Management for symposia, lectures and seminars.

The Committee explored a variety of options including New College, Hart House, the Faculty Club, and 256 McCaul Street. Of these options, 256 McCaul Street was selected as the St. George Centre. Work to renovate space for this purpose can begin immediately. A phased approach will be used to plan for Centres at UTSC and UTM, with Project Planning Committees being struck to begin planning for the Centres at the Mississauga and Scarborough campuses.

Accountability for the Senior Scholars Centre will be through the Office of the Vice-President and Provost. A Board of Management for the Senior Scholars Centre has been recommended and membership will include representatives from the University of Toronto Faculty Association, Retired Academics and Librarians at the University of Toronto, the Office of the Vice-President and Provost and retired and active faculty and librarians. The management structure is detailed in the planning report.

A review of the Centre will be undertaken every five years, and will include assessments by both internal and external assessors. An interim review will be conducted after the Centre has been in operation for three years to ensure that it is fulfilling its proposed functions.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Capital Cost Estimate

Renovation of space to accommodate the proposed space program recommended by the Project Planning Committee on the 4th floor of 256 McCaul St is estimated to cost approximately \$415,000.

Total occupancy costs within the renovated space are estimated to be \$36,000 per annum.

FUNDING SOURCES:

Funding for renovations to the 4th floor of 256 McCaul Street costing \$415,000 will be met by the University. Core funding for a 0.5 FTE Senior Staff person to carry out the duties and responsibilities outlined in the project planning report will be provided through the Office of the Vice-President and Provost. In-kind services will be provided by Research Services, Pensions & Benefits, and Information Commons. The Board of Management of the Senior Scholars Centre will develop a strategic plan to provide additional funding to support centre activities and operations, and to identify opportunities for development.

SCHEDULE:

Approvals will be obtained through the Accommodation and Facilities Directorate in accordance with the Policy for Implementation of Capital Projects for Projects under \$2 million.