

**SENATE ACADEMIC BUILDING NEEDS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday 16 November 2021 2-3:30 p.m. via Zoom

Attendees

Senators

Laia Shpeller (Chair)
Anisha Sandhu (Vice-Chair)
Adlai Fisher
Alex Scott

Ex Officio

Pam Ratner

Regrets

Ben Fischer
Andre Ivanov
Jaclyn Stewart
Kate Ross
Richard Topping
Austin Uzama

Senate Staff

Michael Jud

Guests

Jodi Scott

Call to Order

The meeting of the Senate Academic Building Needs Committee (the "Committee") was called to order at 2:05 p.m. on 16 November 2021 by L. Shpeller, Chair.

Agenda

THAT THE Senate Academic Building Needs Committee adopt the 16 November 2021 agenda as presented.

Carried by general consent.

Meeting Minutes

THAT THE Senate Academic Building Needs Committee approve the meeting minutes of 16 October, 2021 as presented.

Carried by general consent.

Presentation: UBC Learning Spaces Team

Guest: Jodi Scott, Senior Learning Space Planner

J. Scott presented an overview of the history, organization and present role of the Learning Spaces Team (LST) within UBC. The presentation also discussed each of the Committee's three pillar topics for 2021-22, providing examples of how the Team's work relates to each pillar (for more information on pillar topics, see meeting minutes of October 21).

- A. Scott asked what value the Committee can potentially bring to the process of learning space design. J. Scott answered that the Committee has the ability to take a broad look at issues of concern in this area and advance recommendations. The Committee has in the past played an important role in supporting specific initiatives via, for example, letters of support. It may also be worthwhile for the Committee to consider reviewing the guidelines developed by the LST.
- A. Scott asked whether the LST is involved in UBC's activities in the area of distributed learning, i.e. class involving learners at multiple sites. J. Scott responded in the affirmative, adding that the LST is generally involved in supporting teaching activities with a technical audio/visual element.

- A. Fisher asked for more information on the university's process for projecting physical space needs. Where do these projections come from and how does the projection/planning process interact with the work of the LST? J. Scott responded that one of the biggest shifts underway concerns UBC's scheduling model. With the implementation of a new scheduling model on the horizon, efforts will be made to identify bottlenecks and similar issues. P. Ratner added that budgets play a key role in this process, and that the university is keen to find ways to use existing space more efficiently.
- A. Fisher stated that it would be helpful for the Committee to receive an update on the implications of the new scheduling system. L. Shpeller undertook to arrange such an update.

Action: L. Shpeller to arrange for Committee to receive an update on new course scheduling system

- A. Sandhu asked about the LST's process for understanding needs and prioritizing projects. S. Scott explained that the process involves consultation with the faculties and the individual academic units to understand their particular needs and concerns. The faculties may also request on their own initiative work to improve their spaces.

Discussion: Chair's Memo and Project Report: Learning and Teaching Beyond COVID

A memo from the Chair was distributed to Committee members in advance along with a copy of the document titled *Project Report: Learning and Teaching Beyond COVID*. The Chair's memo provided an update on recent work directed at the Committee's three pillar topics for 2021-22. L. Shpeller invited members of the Committee to respond to the memo's contents.

- A. Scott raised the issue of lecture streaming and capture. Several Committee members noted that this is an important issue, and an example of an area where students and faculty members may have divergent hopes and expectations. For example, some faculty members are concerned about their lectures being recorded and made available online, as they consider this a potential threat to their intellectual property. It was suggested that there is a higher order discussion which needs to happen on campus with respect to this issue, and that it would be prudent to engage the full Senate.
- L. Shpeller provided an update on her recent discussions with UBC Library officials. Library staff have been working to understand student concerns and preferences for study spaces. Students have expressed a preference for dedicated study spaces which can be booked/reserved in advance. P. Ratner cited the example of UC Berkley's Multicultural Centre, suggesting that there may be a need for a flexible facility with space for a variety of different student uses.
- L. Shpeller stated that she has been in conversation with Margaret Moss, Director of the First Nations House of Learning, to discuss the needs of Indigenous students. One of the needs identified was for an expanded collegium, or an additional collegium to shorten travel times. Discussion followed on a number of different issues concerning the needs of Indigenous students.

- Following the above-noted discussions, L. Shpeller proposed three action items:
 - 1) Explore the possibility of bringing the lecture recording and capture issue to the full Senate for discussion.
 - 2) Continue the discussion with Margaret Moss and staff regarding the needs of Indigenous students with respect to collegium expansion and other matters.
 - 3) Confer with the Learning Spaces Team and CFA on the accessible learning guidelines.

Next Meeting The date of the Committee's next meeting was advanced one week by general consent and will be held on Tuesday December 14, 2021 at 2:00pm – 3:30pm.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.