

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE SPACE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Which guiding principles should be used to help us manage space in Blusson Hall?

Context:

The new Faculty of Health Sciences supports research and teaching programs that bridge natural and social sciences at laboratory, policy, and practice levels. The core mission of FHS is therefore one of an interdisciplinary faculty focused on population and public health. The FHS perspective on population and public health is that it embraces an overarching, ecological approach that recognizes the interactions and relationships among multiple determinants of health. Public health necessarily represents a consortium of disciplines, straddling molecular and cellular processes, field-based investigation, intervention and evaluation, as well as policy processes, that together address issues relating to the health of communities through instruction, research and service. It is important to note that we are striving to create an integrative approach to the health sciences that is ideally greater than the sum of the approaches represented by each of the constituent disciplines. SFU's remarkable architectural style and relatively compact campus is designed to promote transdisciplinary work. FHS in Blusson Hall should continue and extend this tradition with flexibility in its use of space and trans-disciplinarity in the occupation of space.

These fundamental principles were incorporated into the building of Blusson Hall. To a large extent at the design stage, research activities had to be imagined as the entire range of faculty interests and activities were unknown at the time. The present occupation of space is not completely reflective of future space uses or needs. For example, we are not currently using all the space in the building, but once all planned recruitments are made we may face shortages of office and research space. We are only now experiencing using the space and have found that configurations of educational programs are not working and that our intention to integrate faculty may create tensions with time-space research functions and/or the formation of collaborations. We have to manage several domains of space use: research, faculty offices (including visitors, PDFs, emeriti, sessionals, research associates), staff offices (including staff functions not imagined when the building was planned), administrative functions (including lounges and spaces for social events), educational functions, equipment, and common meeting space.

Principles:

- Some functions should be higher priority (research, full-time faculty and staff, education support) than others (visitors, social space, faculty with more than one office). This may need to be considered relative to function of a given space (lab vs. office, portable equipment vs. permanent equipment, etc.).
- Research space allocation, including offices, will be discussed with Principal Investigators of projects. Junior faculty (<2 years at FHS and early in career) will be given high priority for preferred space.

- Offices of PIs, particularly wet-lab, would be assigned such to maximize work efficiency and interaction with the project staff/personnel.
- Space assigned for research should be commensurate with need based on projected levels of activity and type of activity and funding.
- Space assignment must accommodate all domains of faculty activity (research, teaching and educational support, IT, staff needs, etc.)
- People assigned space temporarily should be told in writing that space has been temporarily assigned and a start and end date for occupancy will be provided.
- FHS supports a flexible/communal model of space use which seeks minimum disruption and maximum accommodation in light of the collective needs of FHS. Flexible space sharing will be promoted to avoid having a single type of people in only one space; e.g., research personnel from a given PI should share the same space instead of placing all PDFs on one floor, RAs on another.
- Long-term research support personnel (1 + years) should be accommodated in dedicated work stations close to their labs wherever possible with lockable file storage for lab records. Research support personnel should be as close to lab space/relevant research space as possible, ideally on the same floor.
- Short-term research personnel (projected less than 1-year of work) may be accommodated in 'open plan' shared space if appropriate and practical with access to private space if required by the research function (e.g., enclosed interview rooms for conducting surveys by phone).