



MEMO

From the office of the...

Vice-President Finance

TO:	Executive Board
FROM:	Daniel D'Angela
SUBJECT:	Student Space Capacity Study Allocation
DATE:	November 10, 2015

Dear Members of the Executive Board,

Student space is something, which, I believe, we can all agree is an issue on campus. Just walk around MUSC around lunch time to understand that this is a problem, and clearly it's a problem which is greatly impacting the students we represent. Solving this problem is something which I have prioritized in my term. However before we can do anything substantive, we need to investigate the problem and understand what is needed to solve it. To do this, we are employing two strategies to garner both qualitative and quantitative data on student space. First, we are getting student feedback from a new survey, which can be found at msumcmaster.ca/space. This survey's goal is to better understand what types of spaces students want, as well as how they use our current space.

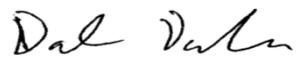
However, while understanding what students want is critical to addressing this issue, it won't provide us the complete picture to solve this issue. To do this we need to understand space, and space utilization from metrics and hard data, and comparing it to our peers. This is where a campus capacity is an effective next step. This process investigates, based on comparison to our peers, if we have surpluses or deficits for different types of space. It would also incorporate garnering student feedback as well as investigating different options to solve this problem. To see the potential outcome of this study, review the 2011 McMaster Campus Capacity Study, which identified student spaces (study space, student lounge space and recreation space) as the largest space deficits on campus.

An essential process like this necessitates a fairly high cost to ensure its done effectively. Based on similar studies done by other campus partners, it is estimated to cost around \$50,000-\$60,000. We currently have commitments for \$35,000; \$25,000 from SLEF and \$10,000 from two other campus partners, and are actively seeking funding from other campus partners. I am requesting that the MSU match these campus partners at a \$5000

contribution. I believe that on such an issue, which is directly affecting students, the MSU should take an active role in leading this process, and make a financial commitment. This is because it needs to be made clear that student space is something students prioritize and want to invest in. By voting yes to this allocation, you are ensuring that we can get the metrics and data needed to create solid plans, and subsequently act to ensure no student ever feels that their campus doesn't have enough space for them.

Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan D'Angela".

Daniel D'Angela
Vice President (Finance)
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