

MES Funding Project Town Hall #1

Q = question, C = comment

Lounge Collaboration Space – Erik Korber and Francesca Altobelli

- Getting new lounge in Hatch, need to repurpose this one
- Turn BLUE into an engineering study space
- Can therefore optimize Hatch space for fun things and not academic things
- Goals:
 - o “quiet space to study and connect with MES services”
 - o Hole punch, stapler, printer, chargers, other tools
 - o SAAP office
 - o Whiteboards and chalk walls for collaboration
 - o Publication stand
 - o Study carols
- Uses:
 - o Space to be booked for club meetings
 - o Conference space for meetings
 - o Workshop-style events
 - o Textbook library and other academic services
- Next steps
 - o Layout?
 - o Electricity and conduits
 - o Plumbing?
 - o SAAP voucher distribution
- Q seems like a lot of redundancy between this and Hatch, what sets it uniquely apart?
 - o Yes there will be study space and conference space in Hatch, but this adds more space on top of that
 - o Also good for general meetings
 - o Key defining space to this is ability to access 24/7
- The space may be shared with Eng Grad Society
- Resources
 - o Francesca’s mom can help to interior design the space, help to optimize use of the space
 - o Francesca’s mom is ruthless and will be very objective
- C SAAP needs a lot more space because it doesn’t have enough right now, people need more clarity on how the system works and how to get vouchers
- Q Plan for SAAP office?
 - o Would either form a new wall or use existing Drain/MES Office as the new SAAP office
 - o Vouchers administered through similar system to Drain
- Q put library in new SAAP office?
 - o Want to have textbook library run like an actual library, MESCards can be used to take out textbooks and run by SAAP office people
- Q other conversations around this space with the Faculty?
 - o Could be the place for seminars

- Due to collab with EGS will have a much better chance of holding onto the space
- Sooner the money is put towards the space the better
- Q current lounge for chilling, what about this space?
 - Would not be for chilling, would be for academics
- Q financial idea for maintenance and reno costs?
 - No confirmed idea yet, still looking into it
 - Depends on scale of reno
- C since there's a lot of group space in Hatch, maybe leave this as quiet study for the day?
- Q what would happen if this space was not used?
 - Converted to grad labs by the Faculty
- C would the space still be used to stash things?
 - No, new Lounge will be used for that stuff
- Could make the space sustainable using replaceable carpet tiles etc.

Textbook Library – Liam McDermott

- Fancy schmancy textbook library macengsociety.ca/library
- Asking for ~\$1000
- Labels, buying books from publishers etc.
- Q if you had a budget you would buy these books from Amazon etc, why not go to Campus Store to buy the books from there after the initial rush for books?
 - Maybe enter an exclusive partnership with them to get books
- Q is this run like a normal library?
 - Not right now, no way to hold people accountable for borrowing books
 - Not enough space to store all the books right now where they would be under controlled access
 - Q if it eventually transitions into a real library, what are consequences of stealing a book?
 - Would know who signed it out via MESCARD or such
- Q there are a bunch of textbooks available at Thode right now, no?
 - How will the sign up system be differentiated from existing systems on campus?
 - Still open to suggestions on the system
- C re: MES Textbook Library advertisement
 - None of the money from this proposal going towards advertising the library
- C libraries on campus only have about one copy of each textbook, so useless for having so many students in need of books
- Q in the proposal for purchasing books, would you examine books that are used vs. those that aren't? i.e. track which books are taken out more often than others
 - Q would you take recommendations of which books to get?
 - Would probably take feedback in the prelim stages until a more direct system can be established

Walkie-talkies – Mike Williams and Francesca Altobelli

- Previously used in the past WW (\$1400 for just a rental)
- Hoping to buy a set for clubs, teams, groups, events etc.
 - i.e. WW, The Event

- Q do you think walkies would be useful for car teams?
 - o Baja for sure (have used them before)
 - o Good for trips to the US where people don't have cell coverage (or it's hella 'spensive)
 - o Musical may use them
 - Week in the theatre, good to communicate between crew, cast, band etc. to coordinate rehearsals and sound checks
- C even might be good for pub nights to coordinate between sober volunteers and event coordinator
- Price: after VERY limited research
 - o Go for about \$700 each new, \$300 refurbished
- Q by renting them out to teams, would it be similar to current tool rentals?
 - o Yes, deposit and contract would be signed
- Q are they waterproof?
 - o Yes, but normally depends on the model
- Q do you actually need 16? Maybe wouldn't need that many for just a car team
 - o At least that many useful for WW
 - o Could rent out to 2 groups at the same time, and also help to compensate for missing or lost ones
 - o Can collab with Eng Outreach to get the walkies rented out
- Q refurbished vs. new, what are the differences in warranties?
 - o Probably yes, new ones likely to last longer
- C walkies rented for DeltaHacks, made a massive difference
- Q looking at Motorolas only? Other cheaper alternatives?
 - o More research to be done, but the Motorola walkies were very good after using them
 - o Invest in quality, much better to invest in something that's less likely to break to avoid having to pay for stuff over and over again
 - o Motorolas were some of the few walkies that worked on campus (HUGE range), worked in buildings etc.
- Q strict radio regulations in Canada, would that be an issue?
 - o Will check, but probably not
- C were used at work in the Muskokas, have been seriously messed up and have never had problems
- Q big cost for these types of radios is extra batteries, can take a long time to charge if the batteries die, thinking of buying extra?
 - o Don't think that will be an issue in the short term, but will look more into it
 - o Can investigate different charging units
- Q maybe approach Motorola and see if we can get a deal with it? Companies want product placement?
 - o YES

Blue Lounge to makerspace – Lin Rodriguez

- Turn the Lounge into a 3D printer lab, but not just for 1st years
- Use the office space as a sort of manager's booth
- Have coordinators to oversee and help book the lab

- Would have to submit ideas ahead of time for approval
- Would need to invest in a certain number of 3D printers, as well as printing material
- Q if we just think of 3D printers maybe we could go bigger?
 - o Tron lab, Lyons media lab have 3D printers already
 - Tron lab accessible only by \$10 membership
 - Lyons media centre has a full time employee to facilitate everything
- Q maybe could work with the PCB Assembly idea?
- C Make it into a full-out Makerspace!
- C Collab with HackIt
 - o HackIt has already been talking to the Faculty about establishing a makerspace, but one that's available to all McMaster students
 - o Want to put that one in Thode
 - o Currently in the discussions stage for this
 - o May be able to move this idea to Thode basement or such
- C having just 3D printers would be very one-note, and would have to hire a technician to oversee the lab especially if moving to the Makerspace idea
- C MES would be willing to support this, but would need some kind of Engineering preference (even if open to all students), but would probably need to tweak and move to a different location due to conflicts with EGS-shared Lounge space
- C at Troitsky the school had a makerspace that was open to the community
 - o May be able to find enough volunteers to replace a full time tech
- Doesn't necessarily have to be in the Lounge but it would be great to have one regardless
- Q maybe even put it in Hatch?
 - o Possibly
- Q potential costs
 - o \$5000-\$7000 per printer, \$50-\$20 per material spool
- Q how many printers were you thinking about?
 - o Roughly 10, maybe more, maybe less depending on demand
- C thinking about tweaking the idea, definitely consider the cost of the material

Brainstorming session – led by Ryan Rogers

- Vanessa Raponi: maybe have a rainbow flag visibly present somewhere on campus or around the Engineering parts?
 - o Can take that from current budget, not surplus
- Marc Peters: buy a massive tarp with Fireball things
 - o Maybe take this from special projects
- Meshael: VR lab
 - o A lot of companies working on VR, especially at conferences like CES
 - o Could be open for students to experiment with
 - o Maybe combine this with the makerspace idea?
 - o Meshael knows a guy for Oculus Rifts
- Rebecca Lariviere: Make the BLUE Lounge a quiet space for thinking
 - o Maybe soundproof a section of Erik and Francesca's idea
- Spencer: re: Makerspace

- A lot of first years want some kind of electronics lab
- Probably need a tech to make sure that everything is being done safely
- If the Faculty gets the makerspace done would have a tech anyways
- Nicholas Loomes: something philanthropic? Some way to give back to the Hamilton community
 - Maybe help to fund high school science initiatives
 - As a student society it is financially immoral to give student money to charities because it is the job of the MES to support the students first (fundraising for charity is different)
- Ian MacArthur: set up some kind of scholarship or high school graduating award
 - Would be funded off of interest from the money
 - Some problems with keeping it restricted to Hamilton schools
- Sebastien Mendez: numeric keypad for Drain lock so that we don't need keys
 - Take from long term?
- Sebastien Mendez: get a water fountain for the Lounge or for Hatch
- Haleigh Longo: MES sweatshop
 - Patch and shirt fabrication
- Jason Dales: some kind of commemoration for the surplus?
 - Ian and Max Guan are working on this
- Aaron Pataracchia: get a torch as a mascot
 - Talk to the Dean about this
- Lucas Doyle: get a dedicated wi-fi?
 - UTS doesn't want us to do that
- Francesca Altobelli: invest money into fixing the gear clock in ETB and Iron ring clock in MUSC
- Rebecca Lariviere: get a clock for the blue lounge
- Incorporation: tough to do due to costs and potential legal consequences
 - Maybe get a Drunk Tank like Queen's has in order to make inc. easier
- Nicholas Loomes: set money aside for Kipling pranks
- Ian MacArthur: set money aside for general school supplies
 - Potentially combine with Erik and Francesca's idea