

Biological Sciences Building

Among-unit principles for allocation and use of research space

The new Biological Sciences Building (BSB) provides a rare opportunity for the participating academic units to re-envision how comprehensive excellence in biological research can best be attained as we progress through the 21st century. The BSB will provide manifold intellectual benefits, bringing together scientists who collectively pursue nearly the full range of enquiry into life on Earth and facilitating opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration. It will also offer new efficiencies in terms of shared laboratory space, facilities, and equipment. To realize these intellectual and operational benefits, it will be necessary to create an inclusive climate of goodwill within the new BSB community. This entails developing a comprehensive perspective on the overall discipline that recognizes the value of scholarly diversity in the biological sciences. It also requires a consensus that space should be used to maximize the quality and efficiency of research and learning across all of the diverse research programs housed within BSB, many of which have highly distinctive requirements. The following principles will guide the assignment and use of research space in the BSB.

Principles

1. The research space in the BSB was designed by EEB, MCDB and UMMP faculty and staff to accommodate a range of technical approaches and needs.
2. Space issues should be resolved at the most local scale possible, i.e., within neighborhoods, then among similar neighborhoods, then among units, recognizing that administrative ties to units do not necessarily align with neighborhood affiliations.
3. Allocation of space will be based on research needs, rather than history, seniority, or grant funds *per se*. The definition of “research needs” varies among, and in some cases within, units and is articulated within the unit policy documents on teaching assignments and space survey.
4. Where faculty from different units are assigned space in the same neighborhood, differences in intra-unit space allocation and usage policies will be resolved in a common policy appropriate for that neighborhood. The BSB RIC and the Associate Chairs/Director for Space and Facilities will work to facilitate an agreement as needed.
5. Space will be managed so as to satisfy continuing, emergent, and temporary needs. At the same time, care will be taken to avoid unnecessary disruption associated with shifts in space allocations and to ensure that any reallocation of space considers the needs of all researchers involved. Within each neighborhood, we will identify “surge space” to allow for expansion of research groups within the neighborhood.
6. Tenured or tenure-track faculty will have priority for all research space assignments.
7. As appropriate, start-up funds for new faculty will be used to enhance shared research infrastructure (including cost of purchase, repair, and maintenance). Unnecessary duplication of available facilities – including those managed by BSB units but located elsewhere on campus – will be avoided.
8. When assigning faculty to a neighborhood (or neighborhoods), a guiding principle will be to maintain an intellectually productive milieu and the shared culture of workflow and

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equipment usage within a given neighborhood, regardless of the formal unit affiliation of the faculty member.

Implementation Processes

1. The unit chairpersons and the chairs of the BSB habitation committees will jointly review the initial plans for space assignments and will seek input from the respective BSB habitation committees as necessary before finalizing assignments.
2. A building-wide committee on space allocation and usage (BSB Research Infrastructure Committee; BSB RIC) will be formed at move-in and will include the Associate Chairs/Director for Space and Facilities in MCDB, EEB, and UMMP who will co-chair the committee, and one faculty member each from MCDB and EEB appointed by the department chairs for a two year term. The BSB RIC will meet at least once per academic term and will be responsible for addressing any issues arising from the implementation of the principles described in this document.
3. A building-wide list of shared facilities and equipment will be established and managed following a common policy (if used by multiple units) or following the salient unit's policy (if used predominately by one unit). These policies will be articulated in separate documents.
4. A building-wide reservation system will be established for classrooms, seminar rooms, and meeting rooms, and for plant growth chambers within the plant growth facility.