

**Facilities
NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION**

Facilities: Programs should list no more than three facility or renovation items. Identify the area in need of physical renovation, maintenance and/or repair. Requests for additional space should also be listed here. *Requests listed in this category will be forwarded to the Facilities Committee to evaluate through their own processes.* Provide a thorough rationale to help the Facilities Committee evaluate your request. List the approximate cost of your request.

Name of Person Submitting Request:	David Bastedo
Program or Service Area:	Biology Department
Division:	Science
When was the last Program Efficacy document completed?	2009
What rating was given?	Expansion

1. Renovation Request

Replace and reconfigure air handling units in most of the second floor of the HLS building.

The second floor of the HLS building houses the laboratory spaces for the Biology department. The air-handling units have been a constant problem and have never functioned properly. Of particular need is the replacement of the air-handling units in HLS 222 and HLS 230. These rooms have inadequate ventilation for dissecting activities. Mitigation measures to compensate for dissection chemicals have included purchasing specimens with less offensive preservatives. This does not solve the problem. It just reduces the risk.

It has been 5 years and 9 months since the department moved into the HLS building and in all that time nothing has been done although repeated requests have been made through the administration as well as the facilities committee. Dissection is also an activity in several other labs (HLS 235 and 245) and we have the potential as we grow for it to expand to HLS 207 and 211. An additional problem caused by the air units is the noise levels in HLS 218, 222, and 230. In these rooms, the original designs called for evacuating the air in the room and continually replacing it with fresh air. In a cost saving measure, circulating air units replaced the units of the original design. Inferior replacement units were cobbled inside the rooms rather than on the roof so that the noise from these units reverberates throughout the room. Instruction is difficult because of the noise, and hearing may be in jeopardy for instructor and staff who spend many hours in these noisy spaces. Other lab rooms have less air circulation, but units are at a distance from the rooms so that noise is not a problem.

Other rooms have ventilation problems. The room designed for specimen storage, HLS 228, needs to be kept cool. It has an air unit that is also connected to the lab technician's office. It is impossible to find a happy medium between the general comfort of the lab technician and the temperature required to maintain specimens at a cool temperature. The air handling to these lab-support spaces needs to be reconfigured. HLS 244 is a room that is used for chemical storage. The space was not designed properly and summer temperatures intrude on this room. Chemicals could deteriorate in an unanticipated manner at these temperatures. The department views all of these issues as ones related to the health and safety of students, staff, and faculty. It is surprising

that no plans are in place to address any of these issues.

Approximate Cost: Tens of thousands of dollars!?! (Measure M?)

2. Renovation Request

A drop ceiling in HLS 218, the Microbiology laboratory.

The HLS lab spaces were all built with exposed utilities in the ceiling spaces. The utility ducting is very architectural, but problematic in the microbiology lab. Contaminants will rest on the structures and from time to time drop and contaminate lab activities and experiments. The noise issue of the air-handling units is also a problem in this space. A drop ceiling would insulate the student workspace from ceiling recesses that trap and release contaminants. It would also muffle the excess noise from the air-handling units. Contaminants are a real challenge to the learning experience for students in Microbiology.

Approximate Cost: \$5,000

3. Renovation Request

Remediate instructional difficulties associated with the design of the building.

The instructor presentation space in HLS 207 is basically unusable during certain weeks of the Spring semester and Fall semester. Due to building design, sunlight shines directly onto the white board making projection impossible and the viewing of writing on the board problematic. This situation has also existed for 5+ years. Window coverings are needed so that the instructor is not handicapped during these weeks of each semester.

Another set of blinds or window coverings are needed between HLS 231 and 232. These two rooms, a lecture space and a computer lab, are separated only by windows. There are significant distractions for a lecture class when an active computer class is in session next door.

In HLS 135 more white board space is needed and in several labs, projection screens cover white boards and reduce the flexibility of faculty to present their subject matter easily. White boards and screens need to be realigned to allow an ease of use for both resources.

Approximate Cost: \$3,000 for window coverings and \$2,000 labor and materials for presentation spaces.

4. Renovation Request

The purchase of benches and tables for the second floor common spaces of the HLS building would facilitate learning. The lab rooms of the second floor are not available to students before or after class due to the security needs of lab setups and expensive equipment. Students gather without anywhere to rest or study. Students sit on staircases and often on the outside floors. The students of the biology Department would be well served by furniture designed to facilitate study and seating. The first floor courtyard of the HLS building has several tables for student use. The second floor should also have outdoor furniture for gathering and study.

Approximate Cost: 4 benches and two tables, \$4,000

Needs Assessment Applications due to Committee by 10/15/10

5. Renovation Request

The Biology Department needs the roof access ladders of the HLS building changed to full length ladders. There are two access ports with half ladders, both of which are in different lab preparation spaces of the building. The half-length ladders that currently provide access require that the HVAC staff bring in extension ladders and prop them against the wall while they service rooftop units. The extension ladders are unwieldy and pose a safety hazard for both the maintenance staff and for the biology staff. The lab technicians and sometimes faculty members then have to move around the ladders as they go about their own tasks. One member of the Biology department was already injured by one of the ladders. Permanent full-length ladders would pose little hazard to staff and would not increase unwanted rooftop access since the ladders are in private areas. Staff who use the ladders would not need to carry awkward extension ladders. Everyone would be more safe and the building more functional with full-length ladders.

Approximate Cost: 2 ladders plus installation, \$6,000