UBC Engineering Student Centre (ESC) Project – Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

1. Why doesn't UBC simply pay for the new ESC from its own capital funds?

UBC is a publicly-funded institution, and money for capital projects comes from the BC Government. Current budgetary restraints mean UBC's wish list for buildings has to compete with the BC Government's many other priorities. This means that money isn't always available for every project on campus. As a result, alumni support is crucial for these projects to move ahead.

2. Do other engineering schools in Canada have space for their undergraduate engineering students?

This new space is an important first step in ensuring that UBC's provision of student space matches its excellence in education and research. Many other Canadian universities, such as the University of Alberta and the University of Waterloo, have created student space from a combination of university capital budgets along with alumni and corporate giving – just as UBC is doing. The ESC will hopefully just be the beginning of efforts in this area. Alumni support is crucial to provide excellent engineering student space and augment the overall student experience.

3. How did other UBC students get their space?

The most recent student space constructed on campus was for students in the Faculty of Science. The Abdul Ladha Science Student Centre was spearheaded by students and the Faculty, and funded in part through generous contributions from Science alumni.

4. What are UBC and the Faculty of Applied Science contributing?

The Dean of Applied Science has made this project a priority and has committed to raising the remaining 2.5 million dollars needed for construction. In addition to this major fundraising appeal, the Faculty is investing considerable resources from the development team, the buildings manager, the responsible Associate Dean and the Dean to shepherd the building through UBC approval.

The building has received \$250,000 from UBC's Learning Space Fund. UBC Properties Trust and UBC Campus Planning are also involved in ensuring appropriate planning and development of the site and the building, so that the building meets current needs and the needs of the campus in future. The building and the development also have the approval and the endorsement of the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President, Students.

In short, the building has the full backing and support of all of UBC! All that is needed is the support of alumni to ensure the building's success.

5. Why don't the students just increase their own fees to cover the entire cost of the phase one project?

UBC Engineering students have increased fees by \$50 per student per year. This is on top of tuition and students fees that have increased from under \$600 per year in 1970 to \$6,500 per year this year, a more than tenfold increase. Through this fee increase, students are contributing \$2,500,000 – half of the building cost – and are hoping that alumni will match their contribution with another \$2,500,000 to fund the building.

6. You've included study space in the list of student activities that will take place in the new ESC. Why can't the students study in the UBC Library or SUB?

Not only have student numbers in Engineering expanded, but student numbers have increased all over campus to more than 45,000 students today! With such an expansion, study space in the library and SUB is at a premium. Moreover, the Engineering precinct on campus has migrated to the south end of campus, and both the library and SUB are far from Engineering facilities, including classrooms and labs. This project will provide students with dedicated space that is close to the other facilities that they use on a daily basis.

7. What other activities will take place in the building?

Students will use much of the space for individual and group study, but the building will also include a student-run computer lab, common areas for socializing and Club events as well as storage and administration space for the Engineering Undergraduate Society and other student groups.

8. What will the building cost?

The total project cost is \$5 million. The construction cost is \$365 per gross square foot, which is comparable to all current and recently completed projects at UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan.

9. Will I get a tax receipt for my donation?

Yes! All contributions towards the building will be eligible for a tax receipt for charitable donations. You can also contribute with gifts of securities or shares.

10. Are there naming opportunities in the building? Can I name a space for myself / a friend / a prof / our class?

Yes! All grad class and individual contributions over \$25,000 will be publicly recognized in the new building, and room-naming opportunities start at \$100,000. There are lots of other opportunities to have your support celebrated. Please contact us for more details!

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

At UBC, there are many giving options available. You may choose to consider an outright gift of **cash**, **securities**, **property**, or a **gift-in-kind**. You may choose to make a pledge, payable over a period of time, or you may prefer to honour UBC with a gift through your will. Many planned-giving vehicles – such as annuities, charitable remainder trusts, insurance policies, remainder interest in real property, gifts of RRSPs and RRIFs at death, and gifts of appreciated publicly traded securities – offer donors excellent tax advantages.

All donations made to UBC during your lifetime receive a charitable tax receipt. Your charitable tax receipt may be applied against your taxable income and any unused portion may be carried forward for up to five years. Gifts made through your will also receive a charitable tax receipt. This receipt can be applied against taxable income reported in the year of death. Any unused portion can be carried back and applied to taxable income reported in the year immediately preceding the year of death. To ensure maximum charitable tax benefits for our US and international donors, UBC has established foundations in the US, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom.

For more information, please contact:
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