

32. Increase and Improve Quality of Faculty Office Spaces on all Campuses.

Goal A26

A26. Provide Adequate Amounts of Faculty Office Space, in Configurations that Meet Departmental Operational Goals.

Problem Statement

The need for more and better faculty office space has persisted as a primary faculty concern through both the 1997 and 2003 master planning processes. The shortage of faculty offices, combined with the small size and lack of windows in most spaces severely affects the quality of student-teacher contact that is so central to collegiate learning. The crowded offices are a disincentive for faculty members to spend more time on campus and contribute to a lively collegiate environment. Offices opening directly off of public corridors do not work well, and will not be considered as a model for future faculty office development.

Proposed Solution

The ideal goal would be to provide each full-time faculty member with private office space on campus and provide comfortable shared space for part-time faculty. Resources do not exist to achieve this goal in the short-term, but steps can and will be taken in both the short and long-term to alleviate the problem.

- Open Plan Offices - One solution, recently implemented in the new Center for Business and Industry building uses a large open area for faculty office space. Lockable landscape partitions are used instead of full-height walls between spaces. Other amenities, including a faculty lounge and conference rooms, are built into the space. This solution allows a more efficient use of faculty office space, while the open plan makes the overall space seem less confined. This solution may work for some departments, but will not be successful for departments where a high degree of privacy is required for faculty - student interactions.
- Convert classrooms to Faculty Offices - This solution, first proposed in 1997 entails converting some less desirable classroom spaces to faculty office space. The benefit to this solution is that the spaces can be made to fit the more traditional private office model. Drawbacks include the fact that classroom space is already at a premium, and further reducing the number of instructional spaces is not a prudent investment for College resources. Because most classrooms are in the interior of buildings, access to windows in faculty office suites will typically not be possible.

New Construction - Several new buildings have been proposed for the Main Campus and for the Regional Centers as part of this Master Plan document. The long-term solution to the problem of faculty office space will be for the College to make it a policy to create new faculty office spaces as part of any new construction on campus. This could be accomplished either by creating entirely new faculty office space in new buildings, or by appropriating and re-programming spaces in existing buildings as departments are relocated from existing to new buildings.

Planning for solutions to the faculty office shortage will reflect individual departmental goals and objectives. At the time that additional faculty office space development is contemplated, dialogue about needs will occur between College Administration and Departmental Heads and faculty.

Cost Estimate

Estimated costs for improvements to faculty office space will be determined on a case-by-case basis.