Report for FI Council

On the Space Planning Working Group Fall 2011
Re “RE-PATRIATION”, Summer 2012

The Working Group was formed and met formally three times in the fall of 2011 between October and December. There was much additional exchange and collection of information by email.

Members of the Group were: Susan Brown, (Chair) Assistant Dean, Administration; Barbara Craig, Professor Emeritus; Joe Cox, Director Information Services; Michael Dick, doctoral student; Glen Menzies, (Secretary), Facilities Coordinator; David Phillips, Professor; Brian Cantwell Smith, Professor; Bruce Stewart, Director iSchool Institute; Alison Stirling, Alumni Association; Amy Weir, professional masters student. Each member of the group consulted others in their respective constituencies to get their view of questions under consideration, and/or matters of special interest. Professors Ratto and Ferenbok were consulted regarding IDI and KMDI plans and interests respectively.

Background:
We must vacate our space in 45 Willcocks by August 1, 2012, and the Rotman Faculty of Management will be required to vacate their space in Bissell by May 15, 2012. Between these two dates we can make some relatively minor renovations and refurbishments to Bissell and must then move everyone from Willcocks back to Bissell. We have permission to draw upon our graduate expansion capital fund to pay for this process, so it would be financially advantageous to include some other desired renovations in the financial package at this time; but those projects could overlap the time frame specified above.

Purpose: The Working Group was asked to produce and recommend to the Dean a coherent and complete plan for meeting all current Faculty space needs in Bissell, including allocation of offices for all current residents of iSouth and any shifts within Bissell, which can be implemented in a move in summer 2012. Consideration was also given to the location of copier/printer plants, a new office supplies operation, and consolidation of mail boxes and staff lounges. The Dean was advised on preferences in general principals of allocation, e.g. should groups with common interests, function, or constituency by deliberately grouped together or deliberately scattered, and is there a practical way to match frequency of use to more desirable offices? The Committee reported on the needs of each special interest group, all the above questions, and produced three complete alternative allocation proposals.

In so doing, the Working Group had access to complete scaled floor plans of the Bissell building, dimensions of every room, documentation on COU standards and University policy on space allocation to ensure compliance, the 6 June 2007 Discussion Paper produced by a “FIS Space Task Group” at that time, a list of future research laboratory spaces required as set out in the Academic Plan, future target numbers for doctoral student enrolment and faculty expansion, usage data for existing classroom/lab spaces, and of course a list of everyone currently housed at 45 Willcocks.