

April 24, 2017

<p>1. Over the past several years the physical space housing the School of Rehabilitation Therapy has been identified as inadequate. Of particular concern is the lack of any dedicated laboratory space to support clinical skills in the occupational therapy program. This laboratory deficit is impeding OT students' ability to prepare adequately for clinical placements because they lack the opportunity to have hands-on training in the techniques that will be required in those placements. If this and other space issues are not addressed, the academic quality of the programs offered by the School of Rehabilitation Therapy will be impacted. Therefore, it is recommended that the Faculty of Health Sciences develop a detailed strategy on how it plans to address the space deficits in both the short-term (over the next 6 months to a year) and the long-term (one to five years).</p>	<p>Develop detailed strategy; Consult with Schools of Medicine and</p>			
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The strategy for addressing the space deficits in the School of Rehabilitation Therapy has involved the investigation of two short-term options and four long-term options. The short term solutions investigated included:

1. *Renovation of a portion of the lower level of Bracken Library.* Meetings regarding this option occurred from May 2015 through to December 2015 and involved Dr. Finlayson, Dr. Medves (School of Nursing), Denis Bourguignon (FHS CAFO) and Kevin McKegney (FHS building management). The final conclusion was that making the space suitable for teaching labs would require significant renovations, including the construction of new entry ways into the space from the lower level by the cafeteria. Renovation work would require significant funds, and therefore the engagement of donors. Finding donors to support temporary space would be difficult. The School does not have adequate reserves to cover the renovation costs on its own. The presence of support columns throughout the space would be problematic for sight-lines for classroom work. As a result, even if donors could be engaged, the final product would not produce good quality teaching space. Therefore, the core problem of inadequate space would remain unresolved.
2. *Relocation of the Physical Therapy Clinic out of the LDA and into a rented community location off campus.* This option would allow renovation of the current clinic space into another teaching lab that could be dedicated to the occupational therapy program. The risks of this option revolve around the investments needed to find an affordable space for the clinic and the potential loss of revenue.



At the time of the QUQAPS review, the OT and PT programs were already large (72 students per cohort, per program). The numbers have increased by two students for each program, and are now at 74 students per cohort/per program.

We have used the QUQAPS recommendation to guide our decision to stop any further growth to our professional rehabilitation programs because of limitations of space and clinical placements. As already discussed, our space problems remain unresolved so growth would only create further space concerns. We have limited options for clinical placements for our students, and are facing increased competition for placements because of planned growth in programs at University of Toronto, Western University, and new programs planned for Laurentian University.

Because of these realities, the School of Rehabilitation Therapy has focused its growth in other areas, most notably the launch of the Aging and Health programs (GDip, MSc, PhD) and the development of the Doctor of Science in Rehabilitation and Health Leadership. These programs do not have on-campus space needs and will not compete for placements. The Aging and Health programs launched in the fall of 2015 and the DSc program was approved by Senate in April 2017. If approved by the Ministry, it will launch in May 2018.