

## The Wallace Center and Innovative Learning Complex

24 January 2017

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**Provost**

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**Overview:** Teaching, learning, and intellectual discovery are at the very heart of the RIT mission. Central to these activities are, of course, people – faculty, students and staff. But in this era of information, space and technology become differentiators to those institutions that excel and those that don't. This is why RIT has committed substantial effort to create a new complex, in the heart of campus, dedicated to teaching, learning, and discovery: The Wallace Center and Innovative Learning Complex. By renovating and creating adjacent, connected space to the existing Wallace Library building, RIT will invigorate its commitment to the very heart of its mission: teaching, learning and discovery.

[Note: The name 'The Wallace Center and Innovative Learning Complex' serves to describe proposed facilities. A permanent name should be reserved for development purposes and will likely emerge later.]

**Description:** The Wallace Center and Innovative Learning Complex (hereafter denoted as 'The Learning Complex') will be the result of a major renovation of the Wallace Center and the construction of an adjacent but connected structure (hereafter denoted the Innovative Learning Building) that will be dedicated to 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning spaces and methodologies, and allow for an expansion of Wallace Center activities. The Learning Complex will be dedicated to active learning, which is at the heart of discovery and which has been proven as an effective strategy for student engagement and learning.

The renovated and expanded Wallace Center will feature the RIT Libraries, the RIT Press, Faculty Career Development Services, and numerous learning areas including the Expressive Communication Center, the Digital Humanities/Social Sciences Laboratory, the Writing Commons, the Scholarship Hub, and the RIT ASL and Deaf Studies Community Center. We anticipate that there will be additional learning areas to support student learning in The Learning Complex such as the Adobe Creativity Maker Space and a new Center for Critical Thinking, Ethical Reasoning and Communication. To partially accommodate these changes, we anticipate creating a remote archive location for the storage of some of the RIT book and print collection.

The Innovative Learning Building will feature 21<sup>st</sup> century active learning spaces that will allow for both classroom and out-of-classroom learning to take place. Flexible, collaborative, technology-rich and learning-centric are just some of the descriptors for this building. While several rooms will be dedicated to classroom active learning activities, learning will also take place in transitional spaces – spaces that reinforce learning and allow students and faculty to work together in a collaborative setting. Examples include areas for collaborative project space

for student teams, faculty teaching development, student-staff training, and spaces that connect the RIT global campuses.

The Innovative Learning Building will include a sufficient number of new classrooms to accommodate the anticipated enrollment growth stemming from the RIT strategic plan ***Greatness Through Difference*** as well as new classrooms that will free up space currently in the academic college buildings so that student-centered research can take place. A special emphasis on classrooms that enable multicultural and international connections, especially to the RIT global campuses, are a must; for example, classrooms that are wired with the latest in communication technology allowing audio and video links to our global campuses.

While the active learning classrooms will likely be housed on the upper floors of the Innovative Learning Building, the lower floors will be dedicated to services and spaces that enhance and further allow out-of-the-classroom learning. These floors will allow for the expanded Wallace Center services as well as ample space for the Innovative Learning Institute.

**Taskforce:** To provide further enhancement to the vision of the Complex, a cross-divisional taskforce is needed. The provost will chair the taskforce with support from co-chairs Dr. Lynn Wild and Dr. Neil Hair. The taskforce members include:

Jeremy Haefner, Provost; chair	Joe Loffredo, Office of the Registrar
Lynn Wild, The Wallace Center; co-chair	Kelly Norris Martin, faculty, COLA
Neil Hair, Innovative Learning Institute; co-chair	Todd Pagano, faculty, NTID
Nana-Yaw Andoh, GIS	Sarah Passarelli, student
Bruce Austin, RIT Press	Rachel Peden, student
Anita Balaji, student	Susan Provenzano, Academic Affairs
Amar Bhatt, Student Government	Risa Robinson, faculty, KGCOE
Nicole Boulais, Student Affairs	Aditi Saini, Graduate student
Jon Budington, President's Roundtable	Andrea Shaver, Student Government
Chris Collison, Academic Senate	Carla Stebbins, CHST
Steven Galbraith, Cary Graphics Arts Collection	Marcia Trauernicht, RIT Libraries
Rob Garrick, faculty, CAST	John Trierweiler, Division of Marketing
Joe Geigel, faculty, GCCIS	Judy von Bucher, Board of Trustees
Mary Golden, faculty, CIAS	John Ward, faculty, SCB
Tom Hanney, faculty, SOIS	Jamie Winebrake, COLA
John Moore, Facility Management Services	
James Myers, Global Programs and International Education	

The taskforce is to supply a detailed proposal of the elaboration of the Wallace Center and Innovative Learning Complex. The elaboration will include specific programming such as those

mentioned above, classroom space in square feet and quantity, and descriptions of these spaces.

The taskforce will be enhanced with the work of two subcommittees. One will focus on the programming needs of the Wallace Center and another on the needs of Innovative and Active Learning at RIT. Members of the taskforce will be assigned to these subcommittees so as to achieve appropriate balance.

The report is due April 15, 2017.