

The Future Use of Keller Hall  
by  
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The construction of new space for ITS and its planned move in 2013 out of most (though not all) of the space it occupies in Keller Hall means we have some decisions to make about the future use of the building. Right now, the building is an awkward compromise between two quite different uses: the top two floors are devoted to offices for the College of Natural Sciences, almost entirely for Math, as well as general purpose classrooms that, in practice, mostly house math classes. These floors are cooled naturally, mostly have a fairly open floor plan, and are actually a livable green space that the department apparently likes. However, the classrooms haven't been modified since the building was built and certainly do not constitute modern environments for teaching and learning. The bottom two floors are ITS spaces, including a large server room, and rooms and rooms of Dilbert-like cubicles. The rooms are air conditioned, in some cases walled off from natural light, and rather cave-like (or perhaps even bomb-shelter like, as there are mattresses, food, and a lot of stuff in a generally appalling state of disrepair).

The analysis that needs to be conducted is of the major mechanical systems in order to ascertain whether a total remodel of the building is recommended or not. If so, then proceeding on the plan outlined here becomes more complex and almost certainly delayed. But I don't think that would change my sense of a desirable use of the building.

Basically, my suggestion is that we extend the concept behind the upper floors to the rest of the building while at the same time upgrading the quality of the space. Across time, we have lost the use of a number of classrooms on the top two floors as they have been converted to other uses, primarily offices. Any space which can be used as a classroom should be, and we may be able to gain as many as 15 general purpose classrooms in Keller. Any space which is best used as office space should be. My assumption is that Math can probably use all or nearly all of the office space in Keller once we reconvert some of the converted classrooms back to classrooms. This would also improve airflow in the building and, while the ground floor is tricky given ITS's retention of almost half the floor for server storage, the second floor could certainly be reconverted into a green mode as the bomb shelters are turned back into the larger, more open spaces originally in the building. We also need to improve the quality of the instructional spaces in a way that is compatible with the Math Department's approach to instruction but not totally determined by that approach. We will need Math to develop a coherent and reasonable space allocation policy which will allow us to assess whether they need all of the potential office space in the building; we will also need them to develop a wish list for classroom design which we will need to test against the larger campus's sense of what classrooms should look like today; and we will need an analysis from the Scheduler of what adding 15 classrooms in Keller does to our classroom inventory. Specifically, matching that supply against Math department needs will enable a sharper sense than we have now of the range of teaching which might take place in the building. My strong preference is that

all of the classrooms be general purpose classrooms under the control of the Scheduler, though the principle that she gives preference to faculty with offices in a given building means essentially preferential access for Math to these spaces. Conversely, I am comfortable with all the office space in the building being under the control of CNS (once we reconvert offices in former classrooms back into classrooms).

Floor by floor comments follow, and if a total overhaul is not needed, this can probably be done in phases from CRDM funding, with a relatively small outlay for an initial phase on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

4<sup>th</sup> floor: There are three spaces where classrooms have been converted into offices for GAs, with 6 cubicles to a classroom. We could move these 18 GAs down into some of the Dilbertized spaces on the bottom two floors before any renovation commences there, which would allow the restoration of three new classrooms. We should strongly consider improvements to the existing classrooms (furniture, some work on the rooms themselves, technology) at the same time.

3<sup>rd</sup> floor: There are offices, as well as research spaces, used by Microbiology and Zoology, ICS, and Math. We should investigate whether these functions could be moved elsewhere, which would provide three spaces on this floor that could be converted into classrooms. Here too, we should strongly consider improvements to classrooms at the same time.

2<sup>nd</sup> floor: This floor needs something close to a total remodel. There is a row of offices (Makai/Diamond Head side/end) that could be reallocated (presumably to Math) without much work, but the rest of the space needs to be de-Dilbertized, with many non-structural walls and partitions removed, and the add-on air conditioning taken out. If the floor plans from the top two floors were followed, we could create nine additional classrooms on this floor.

1<sup>st</sup> floor: This is the most problematic area given that ITS occupies about half the floor and given that it is quite a mess. I think Dean Ditto needs to analyze possible uses of this space and come up with a proposal for us to consider that meets the needs of the college. Possible uses include some research space in which equipment that is vibration-sensitive could be located at ground level, computer labs without need for natural light, or spaces for academic programs. I assume that a total remodel will be needed here, and this will be more complex given the interface with ITS. If we go floor by floor, work on this area would probably come last, in which case much of the floor can be used as surge space or office space for current occupants of the upper floors.