



The University of Vermont

**College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
Research Lab Space Guidelines
May, 2014**

Guiding Principles

Research lab space in CEMS is a critical, shared resource. No lab assignment is permanent, rather lab assignments are intended to serve current, demonstrable needs of faculty and students. Rationale for assignment, and reassignment, of research lab space should be transparent and clearly reflect these principles.

Purpose of Research Lab Space

Research lab space is intended to support research activity specifically. Research lab space should not be used as normal office space for faculty or students, nor should research lab space be primarily used to support other responsibilities such as teaching or service.

Justification of Need

Faculty with assigned lab space should be able to demonstrate their need through standard rubrics. This includes current grant funding, paper publication, patent applications, etc., relevant to lab activity. However, there is no "bottom line" favored method of need justification, since research lab space allocation must respect intellectual freedom.

Lab Usage Prioritization

In some cases research lab space assignment may be prioritized based on the type of intended usage. In particular, sharing and specific need will be prioritized.

- *Sharing*: shared space is more efficient and is in line with the guiding principle of maximizing space usage. Shared use, i.e. use by two or more faculty research teams, will generally be prioritized over single-use assignment, except in cases where concerns such as safety render sharing inadvisable.

- *Specific needs*: some types of research need certain types of equipment, e.g. wet labs. Research lab space with special equipment requires a heavier investment by CEMS, so it is essential that this sort of research space is assigned in a manner commensurate with user needs.

Arbitration and Transition

When research lab space is needed, faculty should first rely on the good citizenship of other faculty to fairly evaluate their own space needs, and offer space that is not needed by them. Beyond this, assigning research lab space is primarily the responsibility of unit heads. However, cooperation between unit heads to assign space in line with the above Guiding Principles is expected. In case unit heads are unable to arbitrate space conflicts, the Dean may be requested to resolve the conflict. However, in any case the Guiding Principles are to be respected. Furthermore, special care should be taken to ensure that the research needs of faculty and students being transitioned out of current space assignments are being met.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

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