



Gund Moves to Farrell Hall

July 26, 2019

Dear Gund Community,

I am excited to announce some important news. The Gund Institute for Environment will move to Farrell Hall this Fall. Our moving date is still TBA, but I wanted to give everyone a heads up.

With double the space, moving to Farrell Hall will enable us to house more Faculty Fellows, students, and postdocs together. Farrell is also better designed for collaboration, with conference rooms, information corners, couches, and white boards aplenty. This is needed to accommodate our growing community, unlock greater collaboration, and advance our mission of transdisciplinary scholarship and real-world impact.

As many of you know, Gund is in a serious space crunch. While we are fond of Johnson House, we have clearly outgrown it. Collaboration is challenging here, and we can no longer convene our community. Without action, our next step was to start relocating people out of Johnson House in August. By next year, we were projected to be 150% over capacity.

There are tradeoffs, as in any decision. Farrell is a bit farther for some people, including those in Aiken and Jeffords. But the benefits of moving – greater capacity and better space for collaboration – far outweigh the costs.

For fun, we walked the routes and did some math. The average increase in walking time from Fellows' offices to our new home is roughly 3 mins (median=5 mins, mode=5 mins). From Aiken and Jeffords, Farrell is approx. 10 minutes longer by foot (4 mins longer by bike). For others, Farrell is actually closer than Johnson House. There are cafés, woods, trails, transit and parking nearby.

We expect the move to happen sometime this Fall semester. We will be in touch ASAP with more details as we learn more.

Thanks for bearing with us during this exciting transition. I'm very grateful to UVM leadership for making this fantastic space available to us. And thanks to everyone who shared their smart thinking on short notice. We consulted with as many folks as possible in the time provided – and appreciate everyone's ideas.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please email me directly. And if you are interested in offering grad classes in Farrell Hall this Spring, let's chat.

Taylor Ricketts

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