



University Space Priorities Working Group
Highlights of Interview with
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Overview

Steinhardt's space needs are highly specialized and diverse, reflecting the school's wide-ranging departments and programs. Such specialized space includes physical therapy labs, music rooms, tech rooms, art studios, etc. Steinhardt does not control its own general classroom space, though some small classes are held in department seminar rooms.

Space requests are typically communicated by the department chairs or center/institute directors to the deans' group and are submitted to the office of Strategic Assessment, Planning and Design. Space discussions are one-on-one between the deans and the ULT.

Steinhardt's current needs for space reflect the expected growth in some undergraduate programs, and a dramatic increase in the need for research space often triggered by external grants, whether awarded to current faculty or to faculty we seek to recruit. In recent years, Steinhardt has been unable to retain or recruit some research-active faculty because space was unavailable to serve their research needs. Deferred maintenance on existing space renders some space to be barely adequate to serve student or faculty needs. In short, Steinhardt is squeezed for space. It uses every available square foot of space to maximum capacity, even though much of that space is in need of serious maintenance or full-scale renovation.

Academic Departments

In 2006-07 an external review of the Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions recommended that the Department's resources should be doubled in order to be eligible to meet NASM accreditation standards. Because of lack of adequate space, the program is not accredited. The Music and Performing Arts Professions (which includes dance than theatre education programs) has a desperate need for improved performance space to accommodate its orchestras, music ensembles, and dance and theatre education programs. Skirball itself, with its limited backstage and no fly space, is unable to meet these needs. The renovation plans currently in process will help meet some of these needs; we are relocating non-music Steinhardt programs. We believe that if the Education Building were to be solely occupied by Steinhardt Music (if Tisch and ITS were to vacate), much of the Music needs would be met within the current Steinhardt space envelope. This question is currently under investigation.

Studio Art is also in need of space. Because of growth in enrollment of Studio Art electives sought by students throughout the University, and because of major life/safety construction alterations, additional instructional space is need. Gallatin students and faculty use Steinhardt Art classrooms for some of their

classes. The MFA has become extremely competitive (we admit about 7% of applicants) and they need specialized studios.

Steinhardt's health-related departments, which are currently somewhat scattered, should be consolidated in or near the building that houses the Institute of Public Health. Furthermore, more graduate students could be admitted to OT and PT if we had more space for them to develop their clinical skills. In addition, Communicative Sciences and Disorders could expand its clinic and extend collaborations with the Medical School if they had additional space. Steinhardt unmet space needs in the health professions are significant. Co-location of health related programs would help to solidify Steinhardt as a leader in these clinical care areas.

Steinhardt's gaming initiative has been moved to Brooklyn, freeing up some space on the Square.

Proprietary Space

Proprietary space mostly consists of seminar rooms. There is a 70 -person classroom in the Barney bldg, which goes to general pool when not in use. Steinhardt needs access to large classroom space, especially because of the expansion of its undergraduate programs. Steinhardt's largest undergraduate class is currently housed in Tischman Auditorium in the Law School, a less than ideal venue.

Efficient Use of Classroom Space: Scheduling

Steinhardt has already reduced contact hours for undergraduate classes so that it could adopt the FAS schedule of classes. Steinhardt faculty accepted this reduction with some concern about its impact on the school's pedagogical priorities. Harmonizing Steinhardt's classroom scheduling with FAS has helped to improve the efficient use of general classroom space, though Steinhardt still finds itself short of general-purpose classrooms.

Steinhardt's studio and performance spaces are used to capacity around the clock, often until 10 pm, including Fridays. In addition, Steinhardt runs special Saturday programs in teacher education and technical education for professional populations. In the past, Steinhardt has offered a Weekend-Intensive Program for graduate students but the weekend schedule proved unappealing and the program was cancelled.

Research Space

Retention and recruitment of top faculty is in jeopardy given the critical shortage of space for research projects. Steinhardt is close to the point where grants will have to be turned down because of space consideration. At this moment there is no additional space for new sponsored research.

Student Study Space

There is a critical shortage of student study space across the board. Doctoral student study space is in very short supply.

Housing

Faculty housing is currently of higher priority than student housing. The lack of adequate faculty housing, especially multi-bedroom apartments, has adversely affected recruitment and retention.

Health and Safety Concerns: General Maintenance

The Education Building is currently without a fire sprinkler service on most of the floors and studios on a number of floors are unventilated. Steinhardt and NYU have worked together to update the 75 year old

mechanical infrastructure of the Education Building, however there are still many building facilities that have never been updated or upgraded.