



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE**  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## **BRENNAN HALL PROJECT FAQ**

### **What is this project?**

- Renewal of parts of Brennan Hall;
- A renovation project to be undertaken in two phases.

### **Why are we doing this?**

The decision to launch this project was informed by a number of factors, including:

- A student services survey undertaken by the Kelly Library in 2015, in which Registrarial Services was ranked #1 in importance to students and the USMC Office of Student Life ranked #2;
- A review of the Registrar's Office in 2016 conducted by the Principal in collaboration with the Office of the Registrar of the Faculty of Arts and Science, which compared USMC services to current best practices in service delivery at other University settings with similar student counts. This review identified a need to improve access to the services and modernize service delivery (Including increased use of technology).

### Overall Goals are:

- To make it easier for students to access the services they require, and at the same time, improve upon those services to better meet their needs;
- To enhance student spaces and support and build the sense of community and belonging.

### **What are specific project objectives:**

To create a hub, a "one-stop shop", for students by:

- Centralizing and refreshing space for St Michael's College Student Union, student clubs and Commuter Dons;
- Enhancing and expanding study space, lounges, event and meeting spaces in consultation with students;
- Re-locating the Registrar's Office from Alumni Hall to an accessible, redesigned, centrally-located space integrating modern technology;
- Refurbishing offices and spaces for Student Life and Campus Ministry.

**How are we approaching this project?**

- We have engaged Gow Hastings Architects, a collaborative and creative firm with extensive experience in designing student-focused settings including Ryerson University Student Service Hub; UofT OISE Office of the Registrar; UofT Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation;
- Gow Hastings' lead architects studied the opportunities and limitations in the existing space;
- They consulted with students, faculty and staff during the early stages of planning;
- While some structural decisions have been made (e.g., based on which walls can and cannot be removed, square footage required to house the Registrar's Office) plans regarding use of and layout of student spaces, furnishings, lighting etc., are not yet confirmed;
- All students received a brief project update on January 3, and an invitation to participate in a survey and Town Hall (held January 11) to provide suggestions for how spaces and furnishings can best meet their needs. This feedback will influence and shape design decisions going forward.

**When will this project happen?**

- Phase One is beginning in late January 2018 with preparation of space for the Registrar's Office;
- Phase Two to follow in late spring 2018- will include the Dodig Family Coop and surrounding offices and lobby spaces.

**What is the Budget for this project and how is it being funded?**

- The Budget of \$4M includes planning, construction, architectural services and contingencies: furniture and fixtures, related capital upgrades;
- The project will be funded through a \$2M fundraising campaign, which is already attracting donations from St. Mike's alumni and friends, and through a \$2M fund, designated to support capital projects and approved for this purpose by the Collegium (the governing board of USMC) in December 2017.

**Where will students be able to study or hang out during renovations?**

- During the renovations, some areas of Brennan Hall will not be available. SMCSU and other clubs will be temporarily relocated. The Dodig Family Coop will be accessible and reserved as a student lounge in addition to other student spaces in the Kelly Library, the Kelly Café and Teefy Hall. We will provide regular updates as the renovation progresses.