

# WALKER MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT TEAM

MARCH 21, 2011

## MOTIVATION

Walker Memorial is a historic building on the MIT campus built in 1916, named after former MIT president Francis A. Walker and was designed to provide for a “student life distinctive of a college.” Walker Memorial houses offices for 36 student groups including the Muddy Charles Pub, a gym, a dance studio, the WMBR radio station and other service and storage spaces, and community spaces such as Morss Hall. The building has been serving a diverse set of needs on campus and has played an important role in building graduate community through the centrality of its location and the co-location of student groups. MIT is considering the repurposing of Walker Memorial for use by the Department of Music and Theater Arts (MTA). A team comprised of the Department of Facilities (DoF) and MTA is working with architects to evaluate the technical feasibility of this repurposing. Given the large number of student group residents and heavy use of Walker Memorial by students, there is a need for a mechanism of direct student engagement, input, and feedback into the process and, hence, a *Walker Memorial Assessment Team* has been assembled to serve this purpose.

## CHARGE

The charge of the Walker Memorial Assessment Team includes the following items:

- Catalog, assess and summarize the current student uses, needs and the historical, community and cultural value of Walker Memorial to the graduate and undergraduate student populations
  - Gather direct responses from members of the student community including but not limited to resident groups
  - Analyze data from the Campus Activities Complex (CAC) on bookings
  - Collect Registrar’s data on exams
- Consider, formulate, and evaluate options for the movement of current usage elsewhere on campus (both temporary and permanent)
- Communicate, exchange information and provide feedback to MTA/DoF team and the architects on a regular basis, and vice versa. This would include working with the architects and MTA to develop concepts for shared use of Walker Memorial
- Evaluate the costs and benefits to students associated with the repurposing of Walker Memorial for the various architectural scenarios; if possible, provide a recommendation for the preferred architectural scenario

## MEMBERSHIP

- Associate Provost Martin Schmidt (Chair), Dean for Student Life Chris Colombo, Dean for Graduate Education Christine Ortiz, three student representatives from the Graduate Student Council and the Undergraduate Association, Music and Theatre Arts faculty
- Staff Support: Phil Walsh (Director of the Campus Activities Complex and DSL Space Administrator), John Dunbar (Assistant to the Provost for Space Planning), James May (Department of Facilities)

## **DELIVERABLES**

A report that includes, but is not limited to: (a) a summary of current use by the student community; (b) scenarios for movement of current users; (c) evaluation of all architectural designs; and (d) commentary on cost-benefits for Walker Memorial stakeholders.

Prior to the final decision on Walker being made, the Assessment Team will generate a final report that will be delivered to the CRSP committee and other senior leaders at the Institute, and the Assessment Team will have the opportunity to discuss its findings at a CRSP meeting.