

Overview: This process is envisioned to address the permanent allocation of space for both Academic, Student support, research, administrative, and institutional support. It is not necessary that first there must be vacant space, though if requested space is not already vacant, significant priority will be assigned to the continuing tenant if the proposal involves involuntary relocation. One-time space use allocation decisions will continue to be made on a first-come-first served, space available basis.

Title of Request: Reallocation of vacated laboratory space by PAS Department

Date of Request: December 5, 2018 **Division/Department making Request:** Dept. of Biology and Biotechnology, and Dept. of Environmental Science

- **General Description of space request:**

(Briefly identify the nature of the space request proposal, what space is being requested, and the operational requirement of the request)

The request is for the reassignment of vacated laboratory space on the 3rd floor of the Bayou Bldg. to Biology, Biotechnology and Environmental Science programs. The following laboratories in the Bayou building are requested to be reassigned: B3123, B3212, B3214, B3216, B3218, B3304, B3331, B3333, B3506, B3515, B3517, B3520, B3526, B3528, and B3602. These laboratories will be used for teaching labs (B3506 and B3520), Research labs (B3123, B3218, B3216, B3526 and B3528) and support labs for teaching and research (B3212, B3214, B3304, B3333, B3331, B3517 and B3602). Additional information on operational use of the labs is included in supplemental documentation.

- **Current space use:**

(Briefly outline current space allocated to the program, function, etc. If the Program is new, attach program approval supporting documents)

The current space allocated to the programs include teaching labs and research labs. These labs are used to teach the different sections of lab courses taught by the programs. The research labs are used for faculty research and training undergraduate and graduate students to conduct research and apply the knowledge they learn in formal didactic courses to current independent study research projects and thesis research.

- **Challenges from current space use:**

(Briefly identify why/how the current space allocation inhibits the success of the program)

The downward expansion initiative has resulted in a large increase the number of students taking the lab courses taught by the Biology and Environmental Science programs. For example, the Biology Program has steadily increased from 311 majors in Fall of 2014 to 530 majors in the Fall of 2018. The current teaching lab space is inadequate, both in terms of scheduling and physical space, to meet the increased enrollment demands for lab sections. Furthermore, the available lab preparation space is inadequate to meet the needs of the increased number of lab sections. This has resulted in the preparation of materials needed for the lab courses to occur in several of the research labs and then the materials transported to the teaching labs. Additionally, the limited number of research labs has required some faculty to be assigned inadequate space to perform their research that is required for their evaluation for tenure and promotion.

- **Alternate solutions not requested:**

(Briefly identify alternative solutions to the challenges identified above and why those solutions are not being sought)

An alternative solution is to convert non-laboratory classrooms or other space into laboratory space. We are not pursuing this solution because reassigning current lab space is more efficient and cost effective than converting non-laboratory space into laboratory space. Another alternative solution would be to offer fewer lab course sections; however, this alternative would not meet the student demand and would likely result in the loss of enrollment as students decide to pursue their education at other institutions that are able to meet their educational needs.

- Proposal Metrics if applicable:

(Identify what metrics can be used to measure success of the program if this space request is approved, compare to current metrics)

The increase of students' ability to enroll in courses required to complete their degrees and enhanced educational experiences in the courses that are not overcrowded. The increase in research capacity and productivity.

- Alignment with Strategic Plan:

(Briefly identify how this proposal aligns with the strategic plan for the University, Division, or Department)

The reallocation of the proposed laboratory space will enhance the ability of the Biology, Biotechnology, and Environmental Science programs to provide sufficient lab course sections that allow students to stay on their course maps and to graduate in four years. The proposed lab spaces will also allow these programs to continue to grow in enrollment and potentially expand their curriculum.

Endorsement:

Requestor: Department and Program Chairs of Biology, Biotechnology and Environmental Science

Name: Brian Stephens

Email: stephensb@uhcl.edu

Date: Dec 6, 2018

Phone: ext. 3798

Alternate: Rick Puzdrowski, Cindy Howard, Lory Santiago

Division/Department: Dept. of Biology and Biotechnology, and Dept. of Environmental Science

Dean
Vice President: College of Science & Engineering Signature: 
Approve this request: Y / N (circle one)  12/6/18
PROVOST YES

Shared Governance Space Utilization and Allocation Committee Comments:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SUAC Co-Chair: Rebecca L. Huss-Keeler Signature: _____

SUAC Co-Chair: Mark Denney Signature:  12/11/18

FSSC Chair Chris Ward  1/30/19