

Project Statements 2017/18

Project Name: Makerspace

Project Leads: Andrew Colgoni, Chris McAllister

Project Team: Makerspace Coordinator (Hassan Abdulhussain; until April 2018); Anne Pottier; Colin McDonald (Engineering One)

Project Goals: Develop and launch a rich set of services and programs. Add new equipment, based on student feedback. Seek out new funding for Phase 2. Embed the MakerSpace into the larger Forge network.

Linked to the following Strategic Directions:

#1 Research Acceleration, #4 Learning, #6 Community Engagement

Scope (work the project will include and will not include; end results):

Initial work on this project focuses on developing policies, training, culture and norms. Workshops and outreach will start by focusing on new or beginning users. Does not include non-university users, the public, or alumni at this time.

Time Frame: Over the next year (2017/18)

Risks (circumstances or events outside of the project team's control that will have a high adverse impact on the project if they occur):

Loss of funding for the Makerspace Coordinator co-op position

Major equipment failures

Obstacles/Constraints:

The Coordinator position is critical to the development of the Makerspace, since much of the work of planning and outreach falls within their role. The position is, however, a student co-op, and therefore we are constrained by the skills and talents of the undergraduate students that we hire for this work. Outreach and marketing is contingent on having completed safety training in place and available to use. Engineering students are the natural users of this space, and we have had considerable use from first year students needing to create particular devices for course work. More work will need to be done to make the space attractive for students from other faculties.

Critical Milestones:

Having a complete equipment safety training solution in place

Founding a student governance body

Running workshops and introductory session on an ongoing basis

Assessment plan (how will the project and its outcomes be evaluated?):

Student feedback; Data about use of the room; Data about number of workshops; Data about number of students completing training

Update #1 (Feb 2018):

What have you accomplished to date?

Regular workshops are scheduled for Feb 28th, Mar 7th and 14th

Invitations have gone out to particular student councils and groups to participate on the student governance body. An initial meeting has been scheduled in March.

A new laser cutter was installed in Fall 2017.

The McMaster Engineering Society has allocated funding for new equipment purchases; work is ongoing to determine how best to disperse these funds.

What do you hope to accomplish in the next 3 months?

Establish membership and set regular meetings of the student governance body.

Hire a coordinator for 2018/19 term.

Develop Forge partnership.

What obstacles/constraints have you encountered (not noted above)?

Update #2 (April 2018):