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**From:** Ben Polak, Provost <provost@yale.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 07, 2013 4:40 PM  
**To:** The Yale Community  
**Subject:** Update on campus building projects II

Last month I wrote to you to give an update on three building projects taking place on campus. Many of you wrote with questions and even to correct a misspelling or two. I am grateful for the feedback.

In that message I promised to send updates on our longer-term plan for building projects. You know from President Salovey's announcement last week that we have received the largest gift commitment in Yale history: \$250 million from Charles B. Johnson to support the expansion of Yale College. His gift, combined with the generosity of other donors, means that the new residential colleges are now in sight, although we still have additional funds to raise. And as the president wrote to you, we also plan to get started soon with other major projects that have been delayed due to the recession; in particular, the construction of the Yale Biology Building on Science Hill and the renovation of the Hall of Graduate Studies. I am writing today to tell you about these projects and our planned timeline to get them done.

The Hall of Graduate Studies, built in 1932 in the heart of the Great Depression, was designed by the great Yale architect James Gamble Rogers, one of the central figures in American 20th century Gothic architecture. The new residential colleges were designed by the current dean of the architecture school, Robert A.M. Stern, in the heart of the Great Recession and are a modern take on the same American collegiate Gothic. The Yale Biology Building is designed by Cesar Pelli, a former dean of the architecture school who is perhaps most famous for some of the world's tallest buildings. And one of YBB's purposes is to allow us to move science labs out of Yale's tallest building, Kline Biology Tower (built in 1966), designed by Philip Johnson, another central figure in American 20th century architecture.

**The two new residential colleges** will allow us to admit about 200 more undergraduates each year and extend a Yale College education to a greater number of deserving students. We are committed to having these buildings be fully gift funded. This means that we need to raise the remaining \$80 million or reduce the cost of the buildings. We are working on both approaches with a goal to break ground on the new colleges in February 2015 and complete them by August 2017. Dean Mary Miller and I will be asking a faculty committee to look at student life and education and what will need to be done to accommodate the increased number of students when this project is complete.

**The Yale Biology Building** will allow us not only to replace facilities currently in KBT but also to reimagine more broadly the way that we do science at Yale. We do not expect YBB to be gift funded which means that we will have to borrow the money to build it. Because the new colleges will be donor funded, we will have the debt capacity to do so. The major constraint will instead be in operating costs. When completed, YBB will add roughly \$26 million of costs to the annual operating budget, and that is before paying for any new science that the building will contain. We need to be careful with our budget over the next few years precisely so that we can create room for initiatives like YBB. We will work to create this room with a goal to break ground on YBB in February 2017 and open the building in August 2019. I know that many in our science community have waited long for this building, some for decades, and were hoping for an earlier start date. But I would rather set a goal I believe we can achieve than set ourselves up for further disappointment and delay. I am in the process of appointing a committee of faculty to advise us on YBB.

**The Hall of Graduate Studies** houses the graduate school and the McDougal Center, it houses (literally)

graduate students, and it is home to several humanities departments. The building is in critical need of repair, and we are developing a renovation plan that dovetails with our other major projects. The HGS renovation will have multiple phases that can be spread out or condensed into a shorter time frame depending on our budget situation, and we aim to have it completed by late 2019. This project also connects to the issue of graduate and professional student housing more generally. Vice President and Secretary Kim Goff-Crews will be putting together a committee of students to discuss long-term strategy for graduate housing on and off campus.

I will send updates on these and other projects as more details become available. In the meantime I hope that you will continue to share your feedback.

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