

May 25, 2011 Senate Question Period

Questions submitted by

Question submitted by Senator Morelli to Provost Silverman (submitted at April 28, 2011 Senate Meeting)

According to the 2010-2011 Budget Report Capital Projects spending has increased by 5.4 million dollars over the 2009-2010 level, an increase of over 900%.

Furthermore, this exceeds the projected 3.8 million dollar deficit for-2010.

1. At a time when Academic Units are being forced to continue to cut their operating budgets, why is it that Capital Projects being funded by the Operating Budget and not by the Capital Budget at the detriment of the overall academic environment?

Response from Provost Silverman

The one specific budget line item referenced in this question is for the School of Kinesiology and the Queen's Centre, and 2010 is the first full year of operation for these facilities. These projects were only partially funded by a student fee and donations, requiring an allocation from the operating budget to service the debt to fund the project. Unfortunately for some time now the province has only partially funded capital projects and does not fund athletic buildings.

Therefore universities must use operating funds to complete capital projects if donations do not make up the shortfall. Queen's is not alone. There are currently charges to the operating budget for a number of previous capital projects including Chernoff Hall and the Biosciences building. Given our financial situation, any future capital projects must be fully funded before proceeding.