

New STEM Building, Chemistry Addition, and Forum



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Post Occupancy Evaluation

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Introduction

A Post Occupancy Evaluation (POE) provides an opportunity for building occupants to provide feedback, which can be used to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the facility. This information can be used to make improvements in the building being evaluated, as well to inform future decision making.

The STEM Building and attached “Forum” assembly space has 89,000 gross square foot. It houses active learning teaching and research space primarily for Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Biomedical Engineering. Faculty and departmental offices for those programs are also included. The Forum includes a grab-n-go café and student-faculty commons. The building completes the built edge of the formal campus green, Quimby’s Prairie, and creates a new informal green space with patio, porches, and a sculptural outdoor classroom art installation open to the lake.

The Chemistry Addition has 26,300 gross square foot with about 8000 gross square foot at each of the 1st and 2nd floor academic levels. The first level includes a suite of two state-of-the-art Organic Chemistry teaching labs, with storage rooms and prep lab. The second level provides a Super Lab suite with Synthetic Lab / Multi-Purpose Lab / Instrumentation Lab, a dry lab, and special instrumentation and prep labs. Both levels have open study areas. The Chemistry Department gains an entrance on the Science Complex fountain plaza, and maintains an interior bridge to the Biology Building.

The College undertook a POE survey of the STEM Building, Chemistry Addition and Forum approximately 18 months after the building had been substantially completed. The survey contained multiple choice questions and open-ended questions, as well as demographic questions. The link to the survey was issued to the campus community via email. We received 311 total responses, in the following demographics:

125	Students with classes in the STEM Building or Chemistry Addition
87	Students without classes in the STEM Building or Chemistry Addition
36	School of Engineering or School of Science faculty
10	Faculty other than Engineering or Science
30	Staff, other than staff working in STEM or Chemistry, or Facilities & Administrative Services
10	Staff in Facilities & Administrative Services
3	Staff working in the STEM Building or Chemistry Addition
4	Alumni
1	Community member
5	Other

Approximately 3% of students, 9% of faculty, and 10% of staff responded to the survey. These response rates are not large enough to be statistically significant. This report provides a summary of the strengths and weaknesses identified by the survey responses; recommendations for the STEM Building, Chemistry Addition and Forum; and recommendations for future renovations and new construction.

Summary of Weaknesses

The weaknesses documented here include those indicated from the multiple choice questions and the open-ended questions. Among the open-ended questions, respondents were asked what they like least about the facilities and for any other comments.

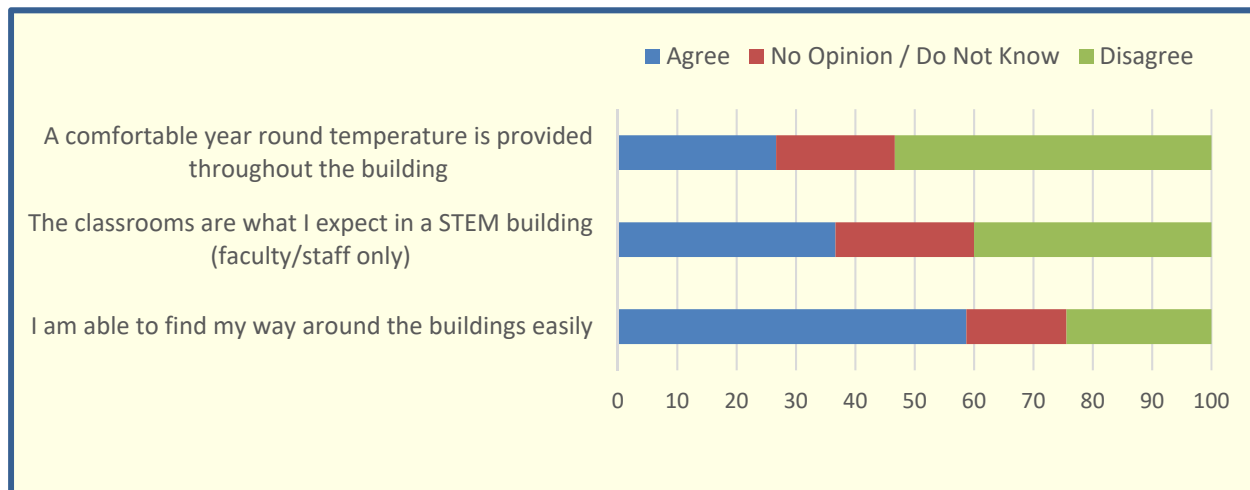


Table 1: Summary of Weaknesses from Multiple Choice Questions

In response to the open ended questions, respondents indicated the following weaknesses:

- Not enough classrooms / my classes aren't held in the STEM Building (21 respondents)
- Stairs are needed in the Forum (15 respondents)
- The Forum cannot be booked for events (10 respondents)
- There are no hot food options in the café (8 respondents)

Selected comments from the open ended questions "What I like least about the STEM Building, Chemistry Addition, and Forum is" and "Other Comments":

- "There is no way to navigate the first and second floors of the Forum without going to the Biology or STEM building and going outside."
- "All of my classes are not in the building."
- "The Forum is merely a pleasant place for eating and socializing. It cannot even be used for small academic events, much less for significant events like poster sessions or invited speakers."

Summary of Strengths

The strengths documented here include those indicated from the multiple choice questions and the open-ended questions. Among the open-ended questions, respondents were asked what they like about the facility and for any other comments.

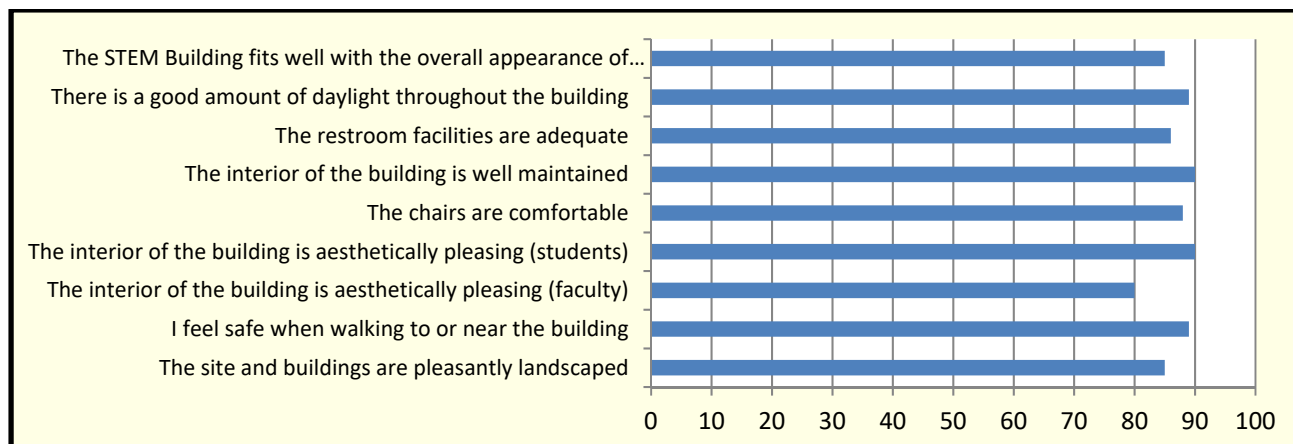


Table 2: Summary of Strengths from Multiple Choice Questions

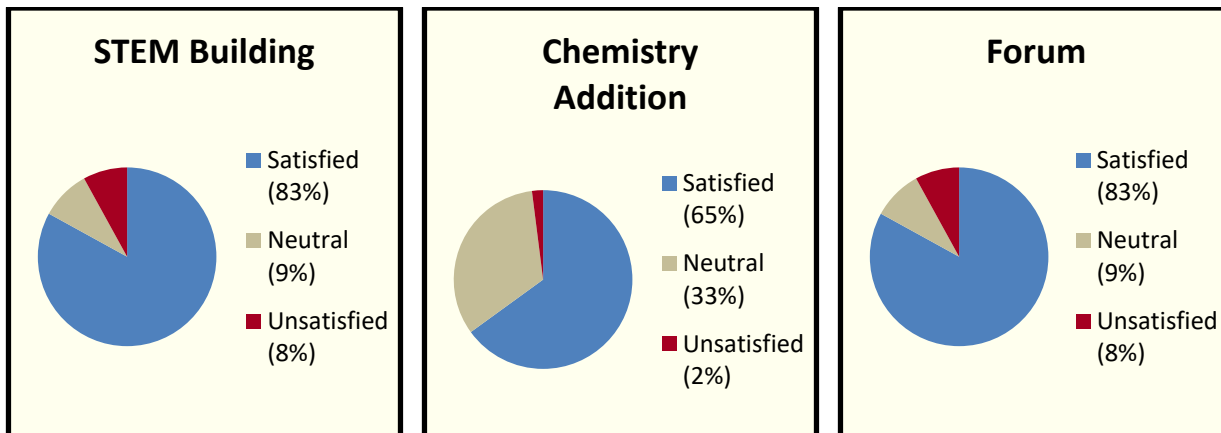
In response to the open-ended questions, respondents indicated the following strengths:

- The building has a modern appearance inside, but the exterior fits with the existing campus (30 respondents)
- There are places for work/study/interaction (24 respondents)
- Laboratories (11 respondents)
- Exterior windows let in natural light (8 respondents)
- The interior glass and openness of the interior (8 respondents)

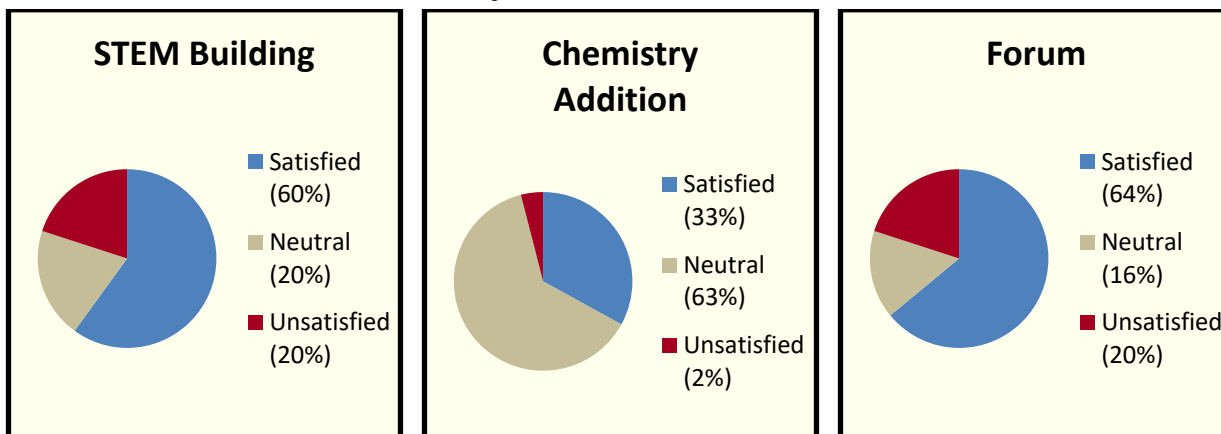
Selected comments from the open ended questions “What I like most about the STEM Building, Chemistry Addition and Forum is” and “Other Comments”:

- “That it is very nice looking, builds a sense of pride in the community and is attractive to incoming students.”
- “It’s a great looking complex and an overall excellent addition to campus. It adds much needed, updated, office space and student space, and looks like it belongs there.”
- “The STEM Building is bright, open, and has great sources of light. The equipment and spaces are much upgraded. The Chemistry addition provides lab groups to have their own hoods and feel safe when running their experiments. In addition, the new study spaces promote a more social environment.”

Overall Satisfaction of Students:



Overall Satisfaction of Faculty:



Recommendations for the STEM Building, Chemistry Addition and Forum:

- Provide extended hour access to the Forum beyond.
- Unlock left-hand exterior door in double door pairs.
- Provide additional food options at cafe.
- Improve Wi-Fi at Forum and at Chemistry Addition 1st floor open commons.
- Improve HVAC temperature controls.
- Adjust the lighting occupancy sensor at women's restroom



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