

To: Dr. Steven Wolfman, Director of BCS Program  
From: Yingying Wu  
Date: January 29, 2018  
Subject: Proposal for Expanding and Enriching the BCS Study Room

### **Introduction**

Approved by the Ministry of Education in September 2004, the Bachelor of Computer Science program (BCS) is a unique, 20-month, second degree program. Although relatively new, the program has received unprecedented success ever since. In 2017 alone, over 400 applicants applied for the 90 planned seats.

The BCS study room, located in ICICS X330, is a place strictly reserved for BCS undergraduates. The room is small in size and can only comfortably seat 12 people. It is comprised of 2 four-person desks, 2 lab computers, 1 two-person couch, a microwave and a mini fridge. The current use of the room is for individual study or group project (if space allows). The BCS tutor office hours are also hosted in the room.

### **Statement of Problem**

Due to the small size of the study room, it is often hard to find an empty spot during regular school days. The major implications of this problem are two: first, the current study room space does not meet the demand of a growing student group; second, the lack of activities hosted in the study room fail to promote the sense of belonging among BCS students.

### **Proposed Solution**

One possible solution to expand the BCS study room is to move it to any of the bigger lab rooms on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (X351, X350, or X360) or the basement (005, 008, 011, 014, or 015) of the same building. With a bigger study room, it is easier to host various activities that will benefit fellow students in the program. I would like to propose more seating area, a board game shelf, a mentor corner (currently with no sign or designated area), and activity nights to enrich the study room. With all of the above modifications, the BCS program will benefit greatly with a much more engaged student group.

### **Scope**

To assess the feasibility of a new BCS study room, I plan to pursue six areas of inquiry:

1. What is the demand for a bigger BCS study room?
2. What are the approximate costs to the project?
3. What exactly needs to be done?
4. How do we get funding for the project?
5. How can BCS students contribute?
6. Which specific features BCS students would like in a new study room?

### **Methods**

My primary data source will be a survey specifically targeting current BCS students. In the survey, I will examine the demand for a bigger study room. I will gather feedback of the

potential new activities to be hosted in the room. I will also evaluate the interest of a fundraiser and volunteer opportunities for the project.

Secondary sources will include photographs and on-site observations of another comparable club room.

### **My Qualifications**

I have been a BCS student since September, 2017 and have been enjoying the curriculum at UBC. However, I do not feel a sense of belonging with my program and would like to change that. My association with the program and my passion for connecting with other BCS students give me the opportunities for an in-depth casual study.

### **Conclusion**

With 576 active members in the official UBC BCS Facebook group, there is no doubt that the student population has outgrown the 12-seat BCS study room. By addressing the six areas of inquiry mentioned earlier, I can determine the interest and costs to an expanded and enriched BCS study room. I would like to get your approval to start my casual study.

### **References**

*BCS Program (Second Degree)*; 2018;  
<https://www.cs.ubc.ca/students/undergrad/programs/second-degree?page=1>; 29 Jan 2018.