

## Mountain Lake Biological Station (MLBS) Phase I Re-opening Guidelines

### General Statement regarding Phase I

Critical research activity allowed during Phase I will be limited to maintenance of long term (multi-year) research projects that would be severely impacted without immediate intervention. No new projects, studies or experiments will be initiated at this time. Researchers include both UVA and external personnel including NEON contractors (National Ecological Observatory Network). No individuals can work during Phase I until a Research Ramp-Up Plan ([mlbs.org/Research-Ramp-Up](https://mlbs.org/Research-Ramp-Up)) has been prepared by the Research Team Leader/PI and approved by the Station Director and Associate Dean for Research.

MLBS is a residential field station, where researchers both live and work. Much of the research is outdoors, but also includes access to laboratories, workshops and other indoor facilities. Work space and usage is described below separately from residential housing considerations.

### Indoor Space Policies

Use of any indoor research support spaces, including Lewis Hall, Wilbur Lab, the Greenhouse, and the Barn, falls under the same general guidelines:

- **Health Check** - Daily online health screening must be done by all individuals before entering the buildings.
- **Indoor access** - Any work that can be done outside or in residences (e.g. meetings, reading, writing, etc.) must be occur there. Time in research buildings should be minimized.
- **Masks/PPE** - Masks must be worn at all times indoors. Wear masks into and out of buildings. Other PPE (gowns, shields, gloves) will be supplied by individual labs.
- **Distancing** - A minimum distance of 6 feet must be maintained at all times, including in hallways. Lab facilities are old and some passageways are tight, so communication and coordination of movement within labs will be critical to maintain safe distances. Sometimes waiting for a person to clear the hallway will be necessary. When working at a bench or other static position, a minimum distance of 9 feet apart must be maintained.
- **Hierarchical isolation** - Field staff should establish protocols to maintain hierarchically isolated social groups that are maintained throughout indoor and field activities rather than mixing among groups. When other spaces must be shared (e.g. sleeping quarters, dining areas, vehicles), mixing group membership should be minimized so that pairs or small groups that must share one sort of space limit commingling with others. Individuals should not visit other groups' lab or residential spaces.
- **Check in/Check out** - An online form ([mlbs.org/access](https://mlbs.org/access)) must be used to sign in and out upon entrance to and exit from the general grounds, Wilbur Lab, or Lewis Hall. Time stamps are automatically applied, and users will enter their UVA Computing ID, or name and contact information. QR codes are posted on all entrance doors, the parking area, and Murray Hall to facilitate sign in. Associate Director Eric Nagy ([enagy@virginia.edu](mailto:enagy@virginia.edu)) will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring the log. Director Edmund Brodie ([bbrodie@virginia.edu](mailto:bbrodie@virginia.edu)) will act as back up monitor.

- **Disinfecting** - Sanitizing stations will be available in hallways outside of labs and public spaces. Hands must be washed frequently with soap and water. Before initiation of work, worksites will be cleaned and disinfected with 70% ethanol spray or 0.5% bleach solution. This is particularly important when using shared equipment or benches. Upon completion of work, worksite should be cleaned and disinfected as above.
- **Lab schedules** - Each individual lab will keep their own electronic record of lab occupancy, shared research spaces, and scheduling for their lab members. Anyone entering a lab space must sign in before entering that space. Lab leader will send copies of these logs to Associate Director Eric Nagy ([enagy@virginia.edu](mailto:enagy@virginia.edu)) weekly.
- **Reporting** - Violations or concerns of unsafe practices should be reported to the PI or the Director ([bbrodie@virginia.edu](mailto:bbrodie@virginia.edu)). Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms must report immediately to their PI, who will then report to the Director. The station community will be informed if there are any confirmed cases (without identification of the individual infected). The station will make all reasonable effort to inform individuals who may have been exposed. The University will assist in a thorough cleaning of any research spaces.

### Outdoor Activity Policies

MLBS includes roughly 260 ha of forested land and access to another 1000 ha conservancy and federally owned land used for research. Guidelines below should be followed by any MLBS-associated researcher when accessing any of these lands.

**Any access to MLBS core property (including any area accessed from Salt Pond Circle road, or any outdoor feature within 150 m of any MLBS building) requires formal approval of a Phase I *Research Ramp-Up Plan*.** Access to outlying property will not be monitored, but researchers accessing remote plots are strongly encouraged to abide by the guidelines here.

- **Masks/PPE** - Outdoors, face masks must be worn whenever < 12 feet away from other people, or when movement during procedures may bring individuals within 12 feet of one another.
- **Travel** – Access to field sites sometimes requires vehicle sharing. Personnel must wear masks while sharing vehicles, and vehicle occupation will be limited to 2 persons each. Vehicle high-touch surfaces (steering wheels, door handles, seatbelts, etc.) should be disinfected with 70% ethanol spray or bleach wipes before and after each use.
- **Isolation** -Working alone in the field is never advised. There should always be at least one other person within auditory and/or visual contact, including the use of field radios. Members of different lab groups or field teams should not share transport, or other spaces, across groups. As described above, field teams should practice hierarchical isolation and operate whenever possible as “family units” that do not comingle.
- **Disinfecting** - Common use field equipment, supplies, or other materials must be cleaned with 70% ethanol or 0.5% bleach solution before returning to storage areas.

## Non-UVA Users

Station users that do not have UVA Computing IDs or are unable to access the University's on-Grounds approval process will follow the same general guidelines using the MLBS Research Ramp-Up Plan Approval web site ([mlbs.org/Research-Ramp-Up](https://mlbs.org/Research-Ramp-Up)). All users will receive a copy of these general guidelines.

- Non-UVA users will fill out an online *MLBS Phase 1 Research Ramp-Up* template based on the template distributed by the UVA VPR's office. All MLBS users currently must fill out a research application before being approved for work, but this template will include Phase I specific questions and guidelines as identified in the VPR's template.
- A list of research team personnel and contacts will be maintained as part of the standard reservation procedure for station use.
- Non-UVA users will sign a health attestation with their daily sign-in through the MLBS access form ([mlbs.org/access](https://mlbs.org/access)). All station visitors, including vendors, maintenance workers and inspectors will also sign in with name and contact information.
- Non-UVA users must sign the field station liability waiver maintained by the Research Compliance office.  
([researchcompliance.web.virginia.edu/acuc/animalhandlers/field\\_stations/home.cfm](https://researchcompliance.web.virginia.edu/acuc/animalhandlers/field_stations/home.cfm))
- Non-UVA users that will not enter the core property (see above), do not have to submit a *MLBS Phase 1 Research Ramp-Up* request, or sign-in to the property.

## Residential Space Policies

- **Housing** – Researchers staying on site will be assigned to cottages in which individuals not normally cohabitating will have private rooms. Whenever possible, individuals (or family units) will have private cottages with their own cooking facilities. In cases wherein individuals must share cottages, they will be assigned within field teams or lab groups to maintain hierarchical isolation.
- **Laundry** – Residents provide their own linens, bedding, towels, etc. and have access to communal washers and dryers.
- **Dining** – Residents will be assigned cottages with kitchenette facilities to prepare their own meals within family units or field teams. Shared dining outside of a residence is to be avoided. When group dining situations are unavoidable, distancing and protocols should follow state guidelines for restaurants. Outdoor dining is preferable in field situations whenever possible, weather permitting.
- **Cleaning** – Residents will be provided cleaning and disinfecting supplies, and asked to wipe down surfaces on arrival and before departure. Regular turnover cleaning will take place between residents. Residences will remain unoccupied for 3 days following the departure of the previous resident.

## Building Specific Guidelines

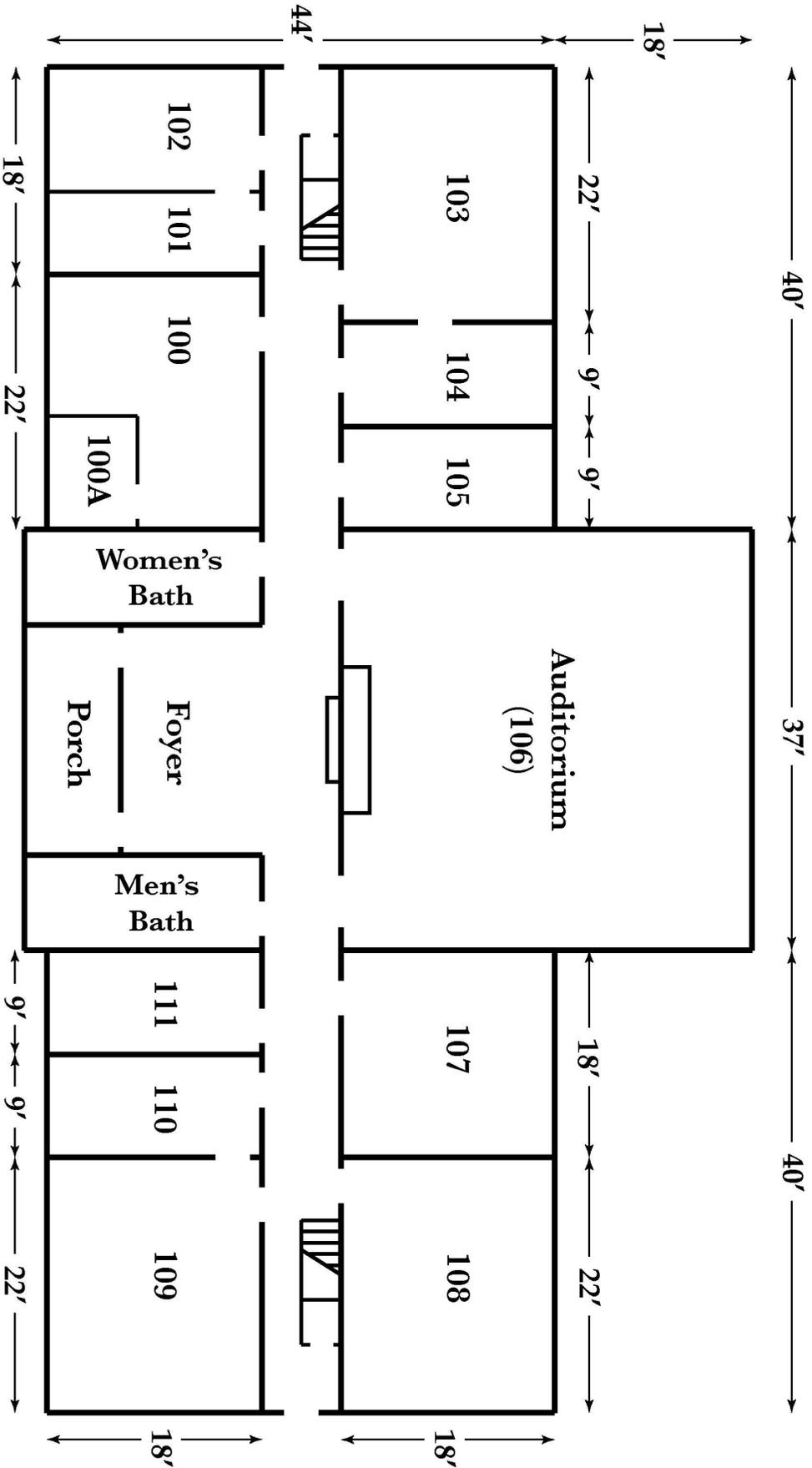
- **Foot travel** – Attached floorplans outline ideal travel paths within Wilbur Laboratory and Lewis Hall. In some cases hallways and staircases will necessarily be two-way paths. Users should wait until halls clear before entering if their paths must cross.
- **Office spaces** – Offices in Wilbur (103, 106) are individual occupancy. The Station Office (102) in Lewis will be individual occupancy, and station users will not be allowed into that

office. The bottom half of a dutch door will remain closed to prevent users from entering the Station Office. Seasonal station staff assistant will use room 103, or other location determined by the Station Manager.

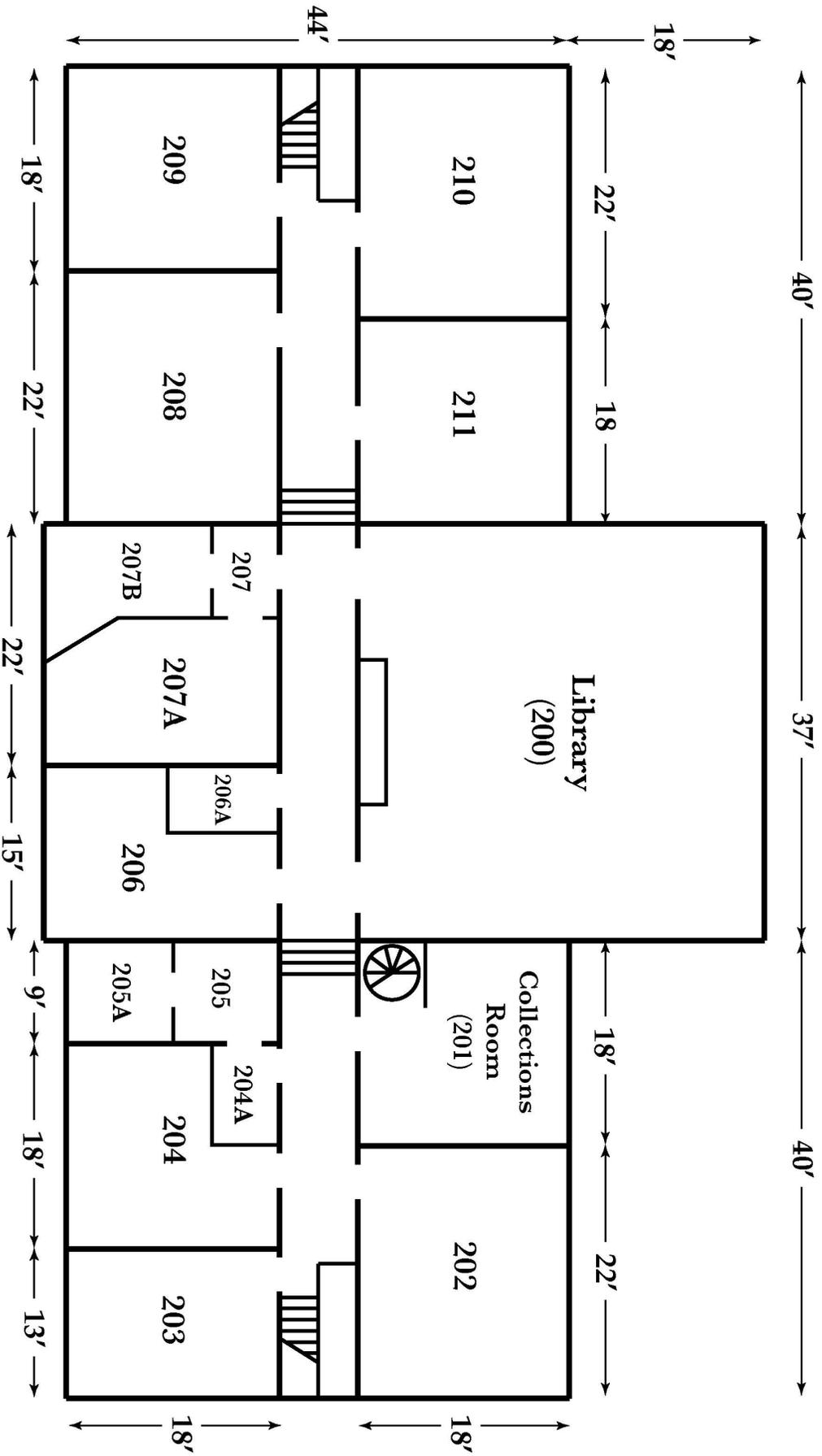
- **Laboratory use** – Each research team will develop a specific plan for laboratory rooms and activities therein. Because of the size and layout of old laboratories, no more than 2 users may work in a lab simultaneously, to maintain minimum 9-foot spacing.
- **Restrooms** – All common area restrooms (Lewis, Wilbur, Walton Pavilion) will operate as single occupancy with “occupied/unoccupied” signs on the exterior doors.
- **Common use areas** – Common wet lab areas (Lewis 206, 207), microscope room (Wilbur 105), workshop (Wilbur 111), animal rooms (Wilbur 117, 118), and greenhouse will be single occupancy. A signup outside the doors will be used to reserve times in advance. The aquatics laboratory area (Wilbur 110) is a large open space of over 2000 sqft and can accommodate up to 5 people with ample personal distance.

### Lewis Hall First Floor

Side entrance doors bidirectional, front doors  
unidirectional; hallways bidirectional with one  
user at a time when passing



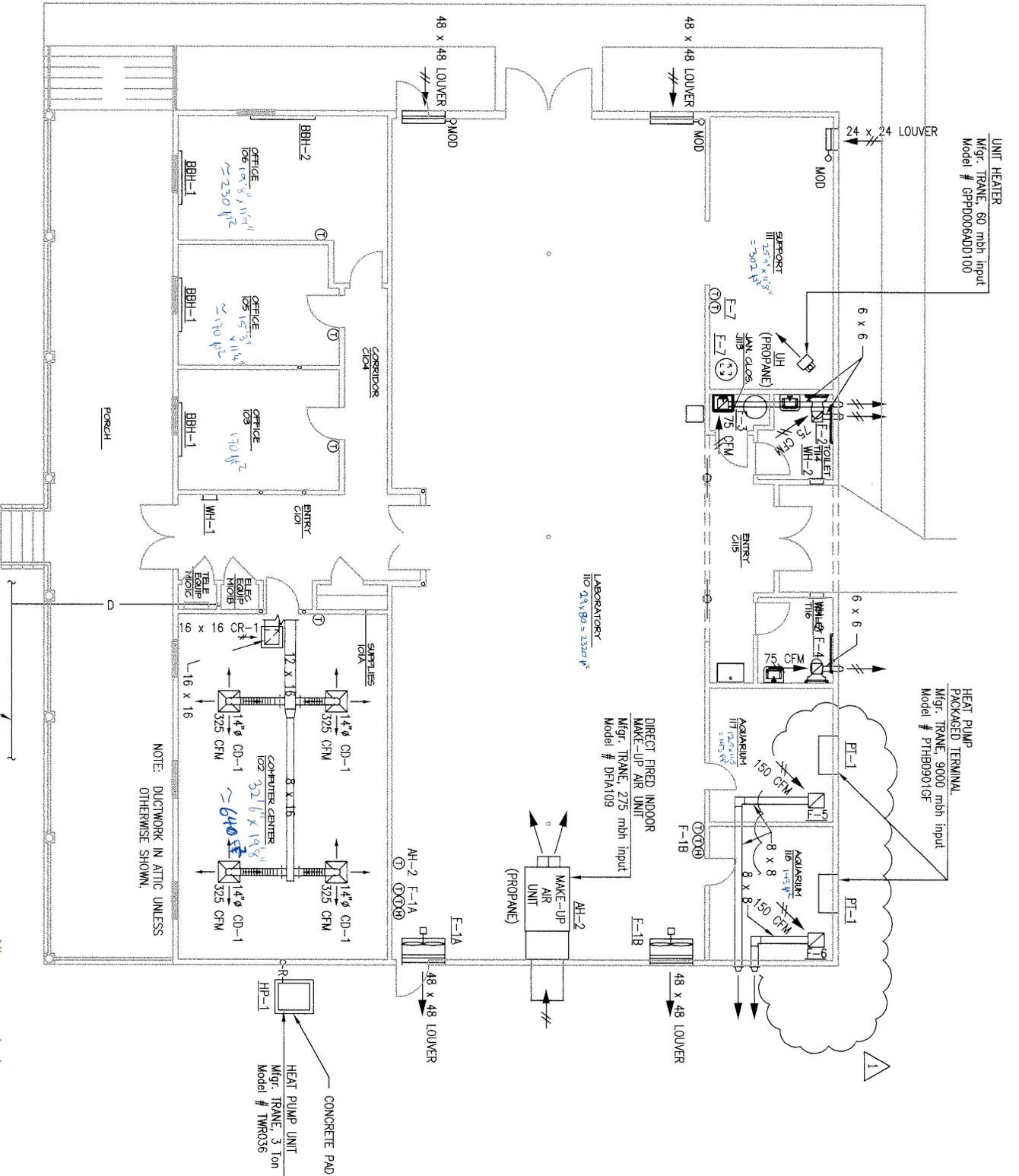
**Lewis Hall  
Second Floor**  
Staircases and hallways  
are bidirectional, one user  
at a time if passing



# Wilbur Laboratory

## FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



UNIT HEATER  
Mfg. TRANE, 60 mwh input  
Model # GPPD006ADD100

HEAT PUMP  
PACKAGED TERMINAL  
Mfg. TRANE, 9000 mwh input  
Model # PTHB901GF

HEAT PUMP UNIT  
Mfg. TRANE, 3 Ton  
Model # TWR036

CONCRETE PAD

NOTE: DUCTWORK IN ATTIC UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN.

RAIN WATER CONDUCTOR SYSTEM. SEE SHEET C-2.

All rooms are single occupancy except main laboratory room 110. Doorways and hallways bidirectional flow

