

# 2020 50th Reunion Gift Classes of 1970 and 1971

“The Commons at School of Government”

Goal: \$500,000

CASE STATEMENT



# 2020 50th Reunion Gift

The Principia College Classes of 1970 and 1971 will celebrate their 50th Reunion with a significant gift to their alma mater, as is tradition on this special occasion. Down through the history of Principia, classes have made significant donations that have enabled the institution to expand and grow in special ways, while alums have taken special pride in being a part of these gifts. About fifteen Steering and Reunion Committee members visited the College in June 2019, toured the campus, and met with Principia leadership, faculty, and administrators. Included in the presentations was discussion of the School of Government renovation, already approved, with opportunities to fund and name specific spaces.

As a result of conversations among the attendees, the choice was made to support a specific space in the School of Government with a gift of \$500,000 toward this capital project. This space is a very important collaborative learning and gathering area on the second floor, where students and faculty can meet, study, and engage with one another in an open environment. The redesign for the School of Government aligns with the most prominent thinking in the design of educational spaces today.

## School of Government Renovation

The School of Government was built in 1966. The much-needed renovation and addition now underway will meet the needs of current and future faculty and students. This significant project has an expected completion date of fall 2021. The renovation will replace aging infrastructure, allow for more flexible classrooms and collaborative spaces for faculty and students, and accommodate new teaching methods and academic technologies.

In January 2019, a survey was conducted among the faculty to gather information about classroom technology standards and trends. This survey shed light on the current instructional strategies of faculty, important technical attributes of a classroom, and the use of flex spaces. Key to our 50th group was, first, the focus on flexible spaces and the consensus that faculty prefer such spaces because they allow students to alter their classroom to meet the needs of the day and improve student performance. A second and important goal is to improve the initial impression of visiting prospective students and their families when they first come to campus. The School of Government is a critical arrival location for everyone coming on campus.

## What our \$500,000 gift will provide

Our gift will provide a flexible, collaborative learning space to be called The Commons at School of Government. Much of the current building is being gutted, but the front section will be torn down entirely and replaced. This will better define the arrival sequence and entry to the College, making it more welcoming for all. This new area includes the space we want to support—the 2nd-floor, indoor, flexible area connected to the patio that overlooks the walkway to the Concourse.

This is an important space because it provides a multi-use gathering area, primarily for students but also for others, much like what was requested by the faculty in their survey. Often, students congregate in common spaces for study groups, class discussions, and a change of scenery. Faculty can also use the area to meet informally with students, as adjunct classroom space, and for collaboration with colleagues. Such a multi-use space didn't exist in the old School of Government and will be an important addition to campus life. Other majors such as arts, engineering, and the sciences have enjoyed defined areas in other buildings, and now social science majors will have a common place to collaborate and work on projects. And as part of the new entry to campus, it will give a fresh, updated look that will be attractive to prospective students.



Figure 1 - Architectural rendering view of new School of Government from Science Center

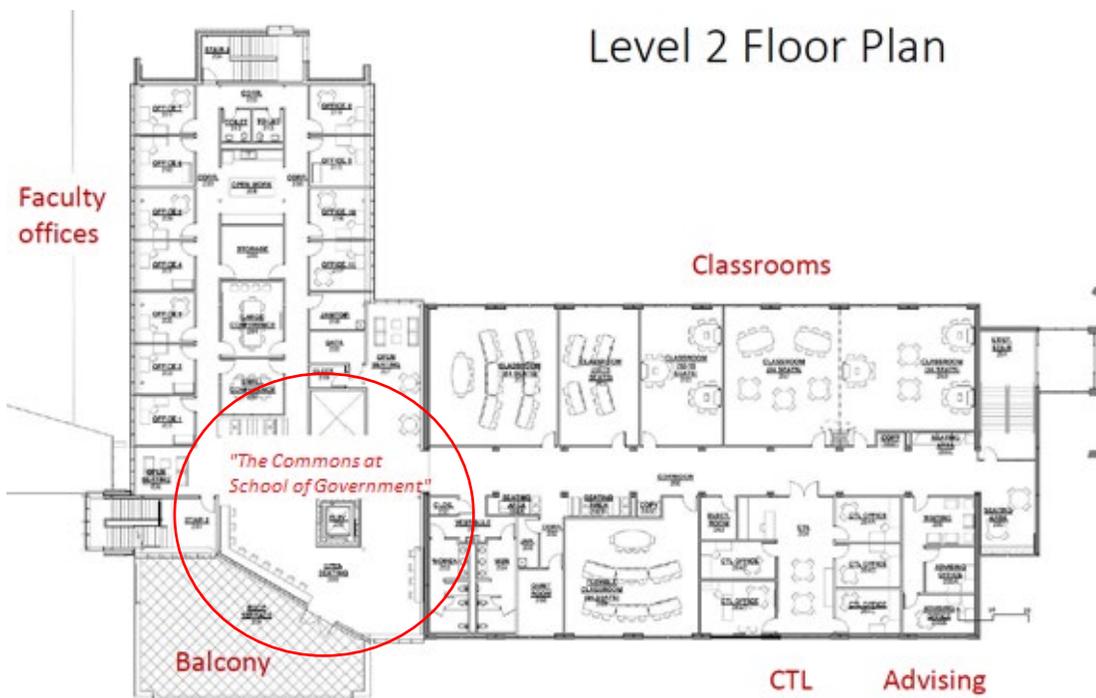


Figure 2-The Commons at School of Government circled in red

We are excited to have this opportunity to fund this space and meet a critical need. Please join us in celebrating our 50th Reunion with a gift today.