e-Bulletin of the Working Group on Development of Campus Facilities & Environment for Learning & Teaching (WG DCFELT)

Welcome to the first issue of the *e-bulletin* of the WG, which was formed to review & advise on learning spaces design/upgrades to meet learning & teaching needs of PolyU.

The aim of this & future *e-bulletins* is to inform you about our most updated learning space plans, design and developments at PolyU – and we are happy to receive your feedback and suggestions.

Developments in upgrading of learning spaces over the summer 2014

◆ Upgrading of QR611

QR611 was transformed from a computer laboratory into a 45 seating capacity General Teaching room which features more modern facilities and furniture, including more whiteboards, new 'teacher station' with a different style of lectern, touch sensitive monitor to annotate PowerPoint presentations, two projection screens and a side wall monitor, more comfortable and flexible furniture and some vibrant colour elements in the decoration. The room will be in general use in semester 1, and a user survey (staff and students) will be done, with results used to guide the planning of future upgrades to other rooms.

◆ Refitting of QR402-404

Based on the feedback received by FMO and CDO and the results of our Staff and Student surveys, rooms QR402, 403 and 404 were considered as priority 'black spots' for refitting and upgrading, and this is in process. QR402, with planned seating capacity of 50-60 is being refitting as an interactive classroom, though due to timetable requirements for a larger capacity in semester 1, it probably will not be laid out in interactive /group seating mode until semester 2. Upgrades to rooms QR403 and 404, which have capacity ~100 each, are almost completed. They will remain in a more teacher-focused, lecture-style layout, but employing flexible furniture to improve adaptability and will have some innovative features.

◆ Setting up of video capture studio and editing room and 'experimental learning space' within Phase 8 Z105 & Z106

Creation of a video capture studio and editing room is nearing completion in Z106. This will support the production of video clips for online and blended learning, and will provide a platform for teachers and students for teaching/presentation practice, training and review. In addition, an 'experimental learning space' has been set up in Z105 for the creation and evaluation of innovative learning space prototypes and new teaching and learning technologies – your ideas on the use of this space are most welcome.

Upcoming work on learning spaces in Semesters 1 & 2, 2014-15

◆ Refit of BC410-412

BC411/12, the Technology Enhanced Interactive Classrooms (TEICs) are currently configured as a single, L-shaped space with no natural light. The room is very under-utilized and no longer regarded as fit for purpose. It will be soon refitted into a useful modern, interactive-style, adaptable learning space. The small adjacent room BC410 will be incorporated into it, thereby making a larger, brighter regular-shaped room. We aim to have the room available for use (through general room booking system, not through EDC as before) in semester 2, with capacity of ~50.

◆ Refit of BC415/16

BC415/16, the two small TEICs (capacity ~20-25) across from BC411/12 are small, narrow spaces which are not suitable as formal teaching spaces. We plan that they will be transformed into an open access collaborative learning space for students. More on this in the next e-bulletin.

◆ Revamp of other BC 4th floor rooms

Some rooms along BC 4th corridor are small rooms (capacity ~20-25) which are proposed to be repurposed as 'learning studios' or free access, informal collaborative learning spaces for self-study and complementary study. Some rooms could be combined into larger rooms with capacity 40-50 or 100+. We are currently working on how best to reconfigure these rooms. Because the rooms are needed this academic year, and due to the noise and disruption of remodeling work, this will probably have to wait until summer 2015.

◈ Create collaborative technology-fitted learning 'pods' in Z105/06

We are having discussion on the creation of 10-12 'learning pods' pods in our experimental prototype space (Z105/06). These would be a new style of informal learning space at PolyU, designed to promote collaborative, technology-supported learning. Each pod would accommodate 6-8 students and be equipped with a mobile 'computer on wheels', study table, comfortable chairs, writing wall, and collaboration enhancing software such as Vuepoint connect so student can work together. Each pod would look a bit like this……… (photo courtesy of Queensland University of Technology).

◈ Identify other suitable and underused spaces on campus to create more informal learning spaces

We will look for spaces (and be happy to hear your suggestions for these) that are currently underused, unused or unusable, such as corridor-ends, stairwells, open spaces, dead ends (inside and outside) that can be transformed into innovative student learning spaces and try out 'prototype' informal, collaborative learning spaces and study zones.

Your feedback and suggestions are welcome.

Please send these to Ms Iris Leung, WG Project Associate, Room 1402, Li Ka Shing Tower, HKPU or e-mail <cyileung@polyu.edu.hk>