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

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the *e-bulletin* of the WG.

These e-bulletins intend to update you on the latest learning space plans, design and developments at PolyU – and we are happy to receive your feedback and suggestions.

Developments in upgrading of learning space

◈ Upgrading of QR611

QR611 was transformed from a computer laboratory into a 45 seating capacity General Teaching room which features a new look and more modern facilities and furniture, including:

• two projection screens for students to see better, and a side wall-mounted monitor for the teacher to see what is on the screen without turning around • more whiteboards to promote student interaction/activities • new 'teacher station' with a different style of lectern • touch sensitive monitor to allow annotation/interaction of PowerPoint presentations • new style of high resolution visualize and projector • more comfortable and flexible furniture and • some vibrant colour elements in the decoration

The upgraded room was used for teaching in semester 1 of 2014-15, and a user survey (staff and students) was performed. The feedback is largely positive, but students have not found the chairs very comfortable – so, in response, furniture will be changed - a new style of 'nodal' chair will be tried out in QR611 soon.

You can have a virtual tour of QR611 by clicking the following link (http://www.polyu.edu.hk/elearning/lms/virtualtour/update3/).

◆Creation of a video capture studio and editing room with technical support

This new facility is in Z105 a/b, and is nearing completion. You will be able to book the facility and the video production technical support staff for the production of video clips for your teaching review/development, on-camera skill building, as well as creating video material to support your on-line and blended learning and flipped classroom approaches to teaching, and for the development of MOOCs.

We will let you know when it is operational, and send information on how to book it, and how to find it.

◆Remodelling of BC411/12 - former technology-enhanced interactive rooms (TEIC)

These rooms (which together form an awkward 'L-shaped room) will be combined with BC410 to form a larger, brighter, rectangular room with the IT/AV facilities upgraded, and new furniture installed to make this a modern, vibrant, user-friendly, interactive learning space. The work will be completed over summer 2015.

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

We are now looking for spaces (and will 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 to try out 'prototype' informal, collaborative learning spaces and study zones. *Please let us know if you find such 'potential' spaces in your Department/School, or spot any around the campus*. We can decorate, add furniture, electrical sockets and so provide individual and small group gathering /study zones.

◈ Priority list of 13 general classrooms and lecture theatres for upgrading in 2015 and 2016.

Based on visual inspection and feedback from the staff and student surveys performed recently, 13 rooms have been identified as priority areas, and these have been approved for 'renewal' by upgrading AV/IT facilities, using modern and colourful decoration techniques, installing better lighting, comfortable and flexible furniture, and more. These rooms will be upgraded in two phases: in phase 1 (2015) the following rooms will be transformed:

- ◈ **TU101**
- ◈ TU103
- ◈ TU107
- ◈ TU201
- ◈ U208
- ◈ W208

Then, in 2016, these rooms will be transformed

- ◈ N001
- ◈ N002
- ◈ N003
- ◈ N112
- ◈ N113
- ◈ N114
- ◈ N116

In general, it is the intention of the WG to help drive a 'rolling plan' of upgrades and refurbishments to our learning spaces – and we will be happy to hear from you as to which rooms should feature in the next round of priority upgrades.

◈ Creation of a mobile technology, collaborative learning zone in Z105/06

Plans are well underway to create an unique learning space, featuring up to 12 Mobile Collaboration Multimedia Station 'stations' or 'learning pods', each with a mobile

computer on wheels, keyboard and monitor on a tailor made trolley (a MoCoW), table and chairs to accommodate 6-8 people and two writing panels. Stations will be able to be booked by students and staff for interactive tutorials, group work, collaborative learning, and the zone will also offer a unique space for technology-assisted workshops. More news on this exciting development to follow.

Example of a MoCow learning station

We look forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions for improving our learning spaces.

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