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

Welcome to the 3rd 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

◆ **Video capture studio and editing room with technical support in Z106**

The Video Capture and Editing Facility@PolyU can be found at Z106a/b (Phase 8 building 1st floor), **and is now in operation**.

Aim:

To provide a custom made and well equipped space with technical support to facilitate production of educational videos for teaching staff at PolyU.

The videos can be for:

- Your own personal practice and self-reflection on teaching
- Inclusion in your evidence-based teaching portfolio
- Video clips for blended and on-line learning
- Lecture capture for preparation of stand-in and make-up classes
- Production of MOOCs

Some of the reasons you might like to use it:

- Prepare content to free up class time for more interactive learning
- Prepare introductory and revision materials that students can use - and reuse - via Blackboard
- Review and develop presentation skills
- Build capacity and prepare materials for on-line teaching & MOOC building
- Facilitate teaching cover for staff who are away
- Facilitate off campus learning
- Provide a resource bank for new teachers
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Features:

- Video capture room: cameras, lights, different style backdrops, green screen, voice recording equipment, teleprompting system, 72" monitor, internet access
- Post-production editing room: with PCs and specialized software
- Expert technical support for filming and editing: Mr. Andrew Tsang
- 'Mobile' video service is under planning.

Please contact Mr Andrew Tsang, Video Facility Technical Support Officer to arrange a visit or filming session at: (its.video.support@polyu.edu.hk), Ext. 2037

A promotional video is under preparation. More on this to follow.

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

An unique learning space, 'THE ZONE' featuring up to 12 Mobile Collaboration Multimedia 'stations' or 'learning pods' will be created in Z105/106 over the summer, 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. It will be open for use in Semester I, 2015/16.

Example   of   a   MoCow   learning   station

◆ **Upgrading of general classrooms and lecture theatres**

Based on visual inspection and feedback from the staff and student surveys, 13 rooms have been identified as priority areas, and these have been approved for 'renewal' in two phases in 2015 and 2016. *The upgrade of the first batch of general classrooms and lecture theatres (TU101, TU103, TU107, TU201, U208 and BC TEIC room) will start in summer 2015*. Over the summer 2015 they will be renewed and revitalized into modern technology enhanced rooms that are designed to facilitate interactive, more student-centred learning. The rooms will be in use in Semester 1, 2015/16.

◈ New nodal chairs in QR611

QR611 was transformed from a computer laboratory into a 45 capacity General Teaching room which features a new look and more modern facilities and furniture. The upgraded room was used for teaching starting from 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, nodal chairs (shown below) in orange & white will replace the existing chairs over the summer period, ready for semester 1 of 2015-16.

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

We are now looking for spaces at PolyU that are currently underused, unused or unusable, such as corridor-ends, stairwells, open spaces, dead ends (inside and outside) that can be transformed into informal, collaborative learning spaces equipped with simple furniture, electric sockets no device but wifi enabled for students on main campus. We will try our best to seek funding support from the university to cover the costs of the enhancement/renovation of the spaces. ***Please let us know (or inform the Executive Officer of your Department/School who will then inform us) if you find such 'potential' spaces in your Department/School, or spot any around the campus.***

◈ Formation of four Subgroups and invitation to your participation

Four WG Subgroups were formed recently, which comprise WG members working on specific issues/projects for the WG.

Subgroup 1: Informal outside the classroom collaborative learning spaces across campus

Subgroup 2: Management and support system(s) for upgraded learning spaces and integrated AV/IT facilities (the 'digital environment')

Subgroup 3: Video capture facilities promotion, management and evolution (part of The ZONE)

Subgroup 4: MoCow station installation and management (another part of The ZONE)

Colleagues who are interested to join any of these are welcome. Please contact us to contribute your expertise and suggestions to the learning space development at PolyU.

Upcoming activities

◈ Survey on learning support at PolyU

Classrooms and lecture theatres in PolyU are undergoing refurbishment/remodelling and will feature new generation and 'integrated' IT/AV facilities and tools, as well as improved physical space. The higher level of technology (both in hardware and software) and the design, furniture and layout in our revitalized learning spaces will facilitate the use of blended learning, video capture and use of video in class, promote more student interaction, and support you in 'flipping; your classroom. The enhanced level of technology and the integrated nature of many AV/IT tools can be described as our 'digital learning environment'.

To help identify teachers' needs for training and other forms of learning support, we are planning to seek teachers' views and to explore their expected or anticipated needs on the upgraded digital learning environment, as well as support services they will need so that blended and online and innovative learning and teaching (L&T) at PolyU can develop and thrive. More to follow.

◈ Opening ceremony of THE ZONE

A joint opening ceremony of THE ZONE (video capture facility and the Mobile Collaboration Multimedia stations) and the launching of PolyU's first MOOCs will be held around mid-August 2015. More on this to follow.

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

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