

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

Welcome to the 6th 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.

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

Following the upgrading of the three TU lecture theatres (TU101, 103 and 201) in 2015, around 20 classrooms will be refurbished and revitalized starting from 2016.

In summer 2016

W208/209

W208/209 will be combined into a mini lecture theatre. The room would allow flexibility for interactive as well as conventional teaching. The seating capacity will be around 100.

U208

U208 will be refitted into modern high adaptability classroom.

N lecture theatres (N001, N002 and N003) and N 1/F classrooms (may be a bit later to complete)

These rooms will be transformed into modern technology-enhanced rooms designed to facilitate interactive, student-centered learning.

In 2016/17

BC 4/F classrooms

Some BC 4/F classrooms will be combined and transformed into modern technology-enhanced rooms designed to facilitate interactive, student-centered learning.

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 refitted by summer 2016, with the IT/AV facilities upgraded, and new furniture installed to make it a modern, vibrant, user-friendly, interactive learning space. The small adjacent room BC410 will be incorporated into it, thereby making a larger, brighter regular-shaped room, with capacity of about 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. They will be transformed into an open access collaborative learning space for students.

TU107 and lobby

TU107 is currently a very steep lecture theatre. Remodeling work on lifting up the level of the floor at the teacher station, removal of front rows of seating, taking out the pipe duct and stretching the last row will be done to reduce the steepness of the classroom. The seating capacity will be similar to current at around 180, but the room will be more modern, comfortable and technology-enhanced.

Rooms to be upgraded in 2017

BC 3/F and 5/F will be renovated in 2017 summer if central funding is available. CDEF 3/F plans are pending UGC funding approval.

◆ **Surveys on the upgraded QR611 and TU lecture theatres**

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 has been used for teaching starting from semester 1 of 2014-15. A third user survey (staff and students) was performed in May 2016 to get users' views on the room (with nodal chairs which were placed in response to the feedback from the first two surveys done after Semester 1 and 2, 2014/15 which identified problems with the furniture previously installed. The feedback is largely positive. QR611 was considered good for interactive learning and student group work.

Three lecture theatres, TU101, TU103 and TU201 were upgraded and refitted in Summer 2015, with fresh layout, new lectern design, writing glass panels on side walls, double layer swirl chairs to facilitate more interactive learning and equipped with more advanced IT/AV facilities. A user survey was conducted. The upgraded lecture theatres were generally well-received, which could facilitate interactive and collaborative learning and teaching. However, the writing glass panels on side walls have to be improved for better visual impact and usage, and teachers are encouraged to use the new space (and others of this type) for more interactive and technology-enhanced approaches to learning and teaching rather than the traditional lecture.

Upcoming work of WG

◆ **Preparation of learning spaces design standards**

The WG will discuss and prepare design standards for different types of learning spaces, such as on space allocation/student capacity, colour, comfort, lighting, furniture, all of which will help guide and provide reference for the future learning spaces development at PolyU.

◆ **Identifying open/communal spaces on campus to create more informal learning spaces**

We have identified some open/communal spaces in Block Z (e.g. 2/F, 4/F and 5/F) and are now planning to fit them out and promote their use as informal student learning spaces and “hot desks”.

We are also looking for open/communal spaces in main campus of PolyU. *Please let us know if you find such potential spots for this purpose around campus. Our students have little in the way of suitable places to go between and after classes to discuss assignments, read and prepare materials for classes, work on team projects, review their notes - so this is an important area that we need to address.*

◆ **Identifying priority rooms for upgrade**

The WG will soon explore and identify the next tranche of priority rooms for upgrade and revitalization.

◆ **Relocation of The ZONE**

The experimental prototype space - The ZONE (Z105 and 106) will be returned to CDO for use in December 2016. The MoCoW multi-media collaborative learning stations of the ZONE, complete with a full-time Project Associate who will help in the management and running of this facility will be moved - probably to the reconfigured revitalized BC 4th floor. The WG is searching for suitable space on main campus to relocate the video capture suite.

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>