

e-Bulletin of the Working Group on Innovative Learning Spaces (WG ILS)

Welcome to the 7th 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.

◆ **Name change of the Working Group**

To help raise awareness and facilitate recognition among staff members and students on learning spaces development at PolyU, the Working Group on Development of Campus Facilities and Environment for Learning and Teaching (WGDCFELT) changed its name to Working Group on Innovative Learning Spaces (WG ILS) with immediate effect.

◆ **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 are refurbished and revitalized starting from 2016.

Summer 2016

W208/209 (ready for use in late September 2016)

W208/209 are combined into a large interactive room. The room would allow flexibility for interactive as well as conventional teaching. The seating capacity is 78.

U208 (ready for use in late September 2016)

U208 is refitted into modern high adaptability classroom with the capacity of 40.

N lecture theatres (N001, N002 and N003 (ready for use in mid-September 2016) and N 1/F classrooms (ready for use in late September 2016)

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



N002



N003

TU107 and lobby

TU107 is 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 were done to reduce the steepness of the classroom. The seating capacity is 168. The room is now more modern, comfortable and technology-enhanced.



TU107



TU 1/F Lobby

2016/17

BC 4/F classrooms (will be ready for use by January 2017)

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 limited natural light. The room is very under-utilized and no longer regarded as fit for purpose. It will be refitted 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 40 in interactive mode.

Refit of BC415/16

BC415/16, the two small TEICs (capacity 20-25) across from BC411/12 are narrow spaces which are not suitable as formal teaching spaces. They will be transformed into an open access collaborative learning space for students.

Rooms to be upgraded in 2017

BC 3/F, 5/F and 6/F will be renovated in 2017 summer when central funding is confirmed. CDEF 3/F plans are pending UGC funding approval and is scheduled to be renovated in 2018 summer.

Upcoming work of WG

◆ **Evaluation of the upgraded lecture theatres**

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 will be conducted in November to collect users' views on the upgraded lecture theatres.

◆ **Orientation session for newly renovated classrooms**

Orientation sessions for newly renovated classrooms will be held to introduce the facilities of the renovated classrooms to teaching staff. More details to follow.

◆ **Call for learning spaces renovation nomination/competition**

The WG will invite proposals for learning space renovation nomination/competition to help improve and guide the learning spaces development at PolyU.

1. Call for Renovation Nominations

- For all academic/teaching staff at PolyU.
- To help prioritize the renovation of learning spaces at PolyU.

2. Ideal Learning Space Design Competition

- For all academic/teaching staff and students at PolyU.
- Tell us what your dream learning space is like and why.

More details to follow.

◆ **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". Some facilities, such as photocopying and printing facilities will be added.

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.*

◆ **Relocation of The ZONE**

The experimental prototype space - The ZONE (Z105 and 106) will be returned to CDO for other use in December 2016. The MoCoW multi-media collaborative learning stations of the ZONE, with a full-time Project Associate who helps in the management and running of this facility will be moved to the reconfigured revitalized BC 4th floor. A video capture suite will be housed near The ZONE.

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>