Classroom Strategic Planning Workgroup – History

**August 2012**
As a result of numerous faculty conversations with Central Administration, a tour of general classrooms was conducted. This resulted in a call for the formulation of an ad-hoc group of faculty and key personnel from Facilities Management, ITS, and Office of the Registrar to brainstorm options. The Chief Information Officer led the effort to identify and gather interested faculty to assist in defining desired technology and other improvements that would support emerging trends in teaching and learning. After several meetings, a select number of highly visible improvements that would greatly benefit the general classroom pool were identified.

**December 2012**
On the recommendation of the ad-hoc group, Central Administration approved a budget amount for some targeted classroom improvements. Based on an overarching need for technology equipped classrooms and in an effort to address aging furnishings, three projects were outlined:

1. Renfrew 125 and 126 – fully renovate these rooms with dual projection technology, new tiers, and furniture that will allow for improved collaboration and better student experience.
2. TLC 023 – create an experimental collaborative classroom adding two electronic interactive white boards to the existing multi-media; new chairs that easily transition between lecture, seminar, and group layouts; and provide multiple white boards to enhance group work.
3. AgSci 106 – renovate our oldest auditorium by enhancing the sound system, improving technology, and replacing or refurbishing the seating.

**Spring 2013**
In an attempt to continue efforts to review and identify needed improvements in general classrooms, the Assistant Vice President of Facilities worked with the Registrar to discuss options for formalizing a workgroup. Efforts were undertaken to research similar undertakings by other institutions, identify a model for UI, and draft a charter.

**Summer 2013**
Renovations were completed in Renfrew 125, 126 and TLC 023. In addition, the AgSci 106 project kicked off with an expected completion date in August 2014.

**Fall 2013**
A charter was formalized and the Classroom Strategic Planning Workgroup (CSPW) formed. Faculty Senate sanctioned the charter and approved the workgroup goals. Activities completed Fall 2013 include:

1. Familiarize workgroup with current general classroom inventory, tour older classrooms, review five-year history of work orders, assess multi-media usage in tech classrooms, research and review chalkboard vs. white board usage, and begin to develop improvement prioritization criteria.
2. Developed faculty and student Qualtrics surveys for the purpose of assessing renovated classrooms TLC 023, REN 125 and 126. Administered surveys early December.

**Spring 2014 – in-progress**
A complete review of the Fall surveys was conducted and a summary of findings developed. Early in January, Central Administration identified a second allotment of funding that might be used for classroom improvements and asked for a recommendation. The workgroup evaluated the collection of classroom data available and determined this funding would best be spent upgrading furnishings in
selected classrooms focusing on creating more flexible collaborative spaces. A proposal was developed and subsequently approved to include improvements in the following classrooms:

1. TLC 223 – purchase new flexible tables and chairs on casters. Current tables and chairs will be used to upgrade furnishings in MINES 306.

2. TLC 247 – purchase new flexible tables and chairs on casters. Current tables and chairs will be used to upgrade furnishings in BEL 346.

3. Admin 326 – add multi-media and new tablet arm chairs on casters. Multi-media will be relocated from JEB 121 which is less than ideal for media as it has tall south facing windows and no air conditioning.

4. Admin 221 (MAC Lab) – Repaint and carpet, purchase new hidden monitor style desks, and chairs on casters. Incorporating these upgrades will make this a more versatile classroom as it can be used as a lab or a regular classroom with tables.

Plans are underway to document activities, create a workgroup web site, and share what has been learned with the broader campus community.

Vers: March 20, 2014