Classroom Strategic Planning Workgroup (CSPW)

Brief History
University classrooms are essential resources that support multiple learning activities and must adapt to future trends in teaching and learning. To this end, the Classroom Strategic Planning Workgroup was formed to develop a coordinated and systematic approach for evaluating general classroom needs. Funding for classroom renovations was made available in the FY13 cycle. Approximately $200,000 has been allotted per year since then. The CSPW workgroup uses available data to research and make recommendations on the prioritization of budgeted expenditures for new or renovated classrooms. Our goal is to continually promote classroom environments that are acceptable, sustainable and effectively facilitate the evolving teaching and learning methodologies. Some guiding principles are:

- Focus on General University Classrooms which serve students in all colleges and departments and are heavily scheduled and used.
- Establish a ranking of heavily used university classrooms which are in need of updates and furnishings that will allow a more collaborative atmosphere.
- Review Multi-media needs, does it currently exist? Are sightlines, sound, and technical capabilities appropriate for each classroom?
- Where can we create pedagogical flexibility – typically driven by furnishings and technology?
- Spread classroom improvements across the campus seeking to identify improvements where the most bang for the buck is achieved.

CSPW history and charter can be found on-line at: http://www.uidaho.edu/its/cspw
CSPW classroom improvement Planning Calendar: http://www.uidaho.edu/its/cspw/Planing-Calendar

TEAL (Technology Enhanced Active Learning) Initiative
The CSPW has been involved with the design of furnishings to be placed in the four new general university classrooms that will come on-line Fall 2016 as part of the re-build of the College of Education building. Central Administration has asked us to explore the possibility of creating a TEAL classroom similar to what has been so successful recently at MSU.

- MSU TEAL: http://www.montana.edu/us/pdc/projects/allPris/TechEnhancedActiveLearningClassroom/

One of the ED classrooms has been identified as an ideal candidate for a TEAL classroom and efforts are underway to put together a budget and secure funding.

The University of Idaho has already taken strides in this area as the Doceo Center for Innovation + Learning has been exploring the possibilities of teaching in a technology enhanced learning environment since the spring of 2014. At this time, twelve faculty/instructors have utilized the Doceo Center Lab space to teach a total of twenty classes.

Doceo Center staff state that “while College of Education faculty have priority in scheduling the space, there have been three members of other colleges that have utilized the space as well. Since the Doceo
Center Lab is a space where we experiment with many technologies for teaching and learning, we have been conducting research on the experiences of both faculty and students in the lab. In fact, we have two conference presentations this semester and one in the summer where we will share those experiences.

Since the Doceo Center was established in the summer of 2013, their staff have been attending relevant conference sessions and have had many conversations with others who have experience with tech enhanced active learning spaces. The Doceo Center funded a visit to Montana State University in February where four members of the CSPW were able to tour the TEAL classrooms and discuss TEAL experiences with key players at MSU. Those who visited MSU are preparing a report to share with the workgroup and many others on campus who are interested in developing active learning classrooms.

To view a list of conferences Doceo Center staff have or will be participating in, please visit our impact dashboard. Please contact Cassidy Hall, Technology Integration Specialist and Doceo Lab Manager, with questions and to tour the space.

The UI Central Administration has offered to fund a UI TEAL Symposium next fall. The idea is to bring an expert or two to the UI campus and outline some informative sessions for faculty, staff, and interested students to attend. The CSPW will need assistance to put this Symposium together, and we are hoping the TEAC would be interested in partnering with us to develop this concept and move forward.