

Dear Advisory Board Members,

Given the busy time of year, I thought it would be best to update you via email in lieu of meeting in person. I would welcome your comments and feedback on anything included in the update or on any other ideas related to learning environments.

The update below has been divided into three categories: learning space project work, assessment and engagement, and additional initiatives. We've had a productive year, despite being short one staff member, and I'm excited to share our progress with you.

I'll be in touch again this fall to schedule our next Advisory Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Dave

Learning Space Project Work:

Winter break 2014-2015

- BSB 211: This classroom underwent a moderate renovation which included new lighting, acoustic treatment, whiteboards, and Audio-Visual (AV) technology. ACCC's LETS office will soon be issuing a survey to faculty and students currently using the room to gather their feedback.
- BSB 1st floor classrooms: sound absorbing wall panels were added to nine classrooms to help with acoustical performance.

Summer 2015, East-Side

- BH 204 + 208: these two classrooms will be combined into a larger classroom and undergo a complete renovation into a case study style learning space.
- TH 3rd floor: new acoustical tile ceilings and dimmable lighting will be added to six classrooms.
- BSB 219, 281, and 289: these classrooms will undergo a renovation similar to BSB 211, which will complete the renovation of all the 32-40 seat classrooms on the 2nd floor of BSB.
- ETMSW 2417, 2419: these classrooms will undergo a minor renovation, including new painting and AV technology, which will complete the renovation of all the 36-41 seat classrooms on the 2nd floor of ETMSW.
- Lecture Center D1 and D4: sound absorbing ceiling panels will be added to help acoustical performance in these two classrooms.
- BSB 140: the AV system will be replaced in this room along with some finish upgrades.
- SES 250: the AV system will be replaced in this room along with some finish upgrades.

Summer 2015, West-Side

- NPI 765: this College of Medicine auditorium will undergo a complete renovation.
- SPHPI 121: this School of Public Health classroom will undergo a complete renovation.

Planning for SEL Renovation:

- This project will focus on the public spaces in SEL-E and SEL-W and in particular on place making, way finding, and code upgrades. We have been working with the consulting team on the design for new building entrances, informal learning spaces and upgrades to corridors, stairwells, and bathrooms.

Planning for Future Active Learning Spaces:

- We had proposed partnering with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to create a SCALE-UP classroom(s) in the former Science Library space in SES, but LAS has other plans for that space. We will continue to look for other opportunities to create active learning spaces.

Assessment and Engagement:

Learning Space Assessment:

- During the fall semester we completed our data gathering on a research study that evaluates the impact of physical learning spaces on learning outcomes. We are planning to hire a graduate assistant this summer to help us analyze the data and summarize findings.

Student Workshop on Classroom Layouts and Design:

- Undergraduate Student Government co-hosted a workshop with OCLE in November 2014 to gather student feedback on different classroom layouts and ideal classroom design. Thirty students participated and **attached is a document** which summarizes key findings.

Faculty Survey on Classroom Layouts and Design:

- With the help of the faculty members on the Advisory Board we refined our survey on classrooms layouts and sent it to all faculty members and TAs this semester. We're happy to report that 140 faculty and 180 TAs have completed the survey. We are still sorting through the data and will send you a summary document as soon as it is available.

Additional Initiatives:

Classroom Database:

- We are working with ACCC and the Office of Facility and Space Planning to develop a database with detailed information on all common-use classrooms. Several database planning meetings have taken place to advance this initiative.

Classroom Furniture Layouts:

- We have developed 8-1/2x11 diagrams of furniture layouts for all the common-use classrooms. These have been mounted on the wall in all common-use classrooms with moveable furniture.

Relocation of CUPPA:

- I mention the relocation of the entire College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs from their building at 412 S. Peoria to the Student Resident Halls (SRH) and the Student Services Building (SSB) since I was charged with leading this effort during the months of January and February on behalf of the interim Chancellor and Provost. We successfully readied three floors in SRH, built out 4,000 sf of office space in SSB, and moved approximately 200 FTE. And we did all this in less than two months!

Professional Organizations and Outreach:

- I was invited to speak at the inaugural Next Generation Learning Spaces Conference in February 2015 and will be leading a campus tour of exemplary health science learning spaces in July for the Society of College and University Planners International Conference.

Office of the Campus Architect:

- We hired an internal candidate to assist in building the Office of the Campus Architect. He is busy working on design projects and then will help draft design standards for campus buildings and grounds.