

Informal Group on Learning Spaces – Summary Spring & Summer 2011

Group Leader: Leslie Hammersmith
Submitted August 23, 2011

The purpose of the informal group is to provide a friendly, informal place for stakeholders at any level in the university to share projects, ideas, needs, dreams, etc about learning spaces. Come to build your network of colleagues who are interested and involved in many aspects of planning, supporting, and using formal and informal learning spaces. Share your projects that are currently in progress, brainstorm ideas for the future, and get to know people who can help you be successful. The informal group may lead to more formal interactions elsewhere, but the more significant idea with the informal group is that we start developing relationships and networks, and share ideas.

January 13, 2011 Kick-Off Meeting

Attendees: Leslie Hammersmith, Matthew Tomaszewski, Dan Doolen, Peter Mortensen, Mona Heath, Furr, Jaime Nelson, Jennifer Themanson, Becky Franz, Richard Furr, Doris Reasor, Glenda Morgan, Craig Jackson

Don't imagine a formal objective

Plan activities -- One Leslie wanted to do is provide cameras and take pics of best/worst rooms to share with all

Very excited to get informal conversations going and keep them on-going
Idea is to develop networks so feel comfortable including others in your conversations
Not to replace an existing group or a committee to do a report; want this to lead to more formal projects
Starting by meeting bi-weekly to start

Leslie -- CIO's Office, E-Learning Analyst

Doris -- F&S, architect, taken over some of Steve H's responsibilities, also Deferred Maintenance Program

Richard -- CITES, Ac Tech Services, Coord for classroom support and training

Mona -- CIO's Office, some of her projects relate to classrooms

Morgan -- CIO's Office, focused on teaching and learning, kept on having similar conversations that were silo'd, lots of conversations on space

Peter -- Assoc Provost for Academic Affairs, work with Christy Kuhns on undergraduate education

Jennifer -- Registrar's Office, Assoc Registrar, scheduling

Matthew -- LAS Assoc Dean (Space Dean)

Jaime -- CITES, Ac Tech Services, helps with spec'ing devices that work in classrooms

Becky -- F&S, Interior Designer, specify and purchase furniture

Dan -- CITES, Classroom and Media Engineering

Craig -- LAS, ATLAS

Leslie would like this to be fun, would like the group to have fun while learning and sharing ideas
Attendees should be able to brainstorm without being judged or others jumping to conclusions; need to think about what reality COULD be

Beginning of the semester thoughts

Doris

Deferred Maintenance, long-term planning to address what needs to be done

Did not used to include money for IT; now incorporating technology in budgets

Current Major Projects

- DKH is a priority; first floor open fall, second floor this semester, third floor fall 11
 - Had money for some IT, not for equipment; Dan is working on that
- Greg Hall, half is remodeled and will open for Spring; west half goes next and currently in design phase
 - English, will have a second phase, will take care of leaks and also adding in technology; 2012/2013 for starting
- Armory, Architects and Engineers (AE's) will get started, will include a lot of classrooms, how much IT for those?
 - LH is NOT a deferred maintenance, will be available Fall 2010 and that's another 15 classrooms with technology
 - NHB is another that would be great to be addressed -- was on capitol funds request, and has a new higher priority

Jennifer also mentioned that funds for technology has been difficult and very pleased we can do that

Dan

- DKH being worked on, and other rooms
- Rhet room in HAB; 3 are being worked on for this semester and a fourth will come later
- Professional schools -- Fire Institute
- Some staff in Chicago; techs are done, now it's contractors
 - Pharmacy distance-learning another 6 months, and also some other rooms
- Dan also has a very cool for tracking tech in the classrooms; has funds and labor to offer a service
 - IP-based control system so Dan's staff can help remotely
 - Tracks lots of info in a DB for analysis later
 - § Can tie in to scheduling software to allow Registrar's Office to build algorithms and functions for that room for the length of the reservation
 - § Can also shut down systems to match building hours
 - Does not shut people out; users could restart the systems after shut-down
 - Would really help with improving the bulb life of projectors
 - Question about energy savings?
 - Ⓜ There will be some, major savings will come from lifecycle management of equipment
 - Ⓜ New equipment can also provide energy savings
 - ◊ 190 rooms and the majority (120) have old equipment
 - Dan also has funds from Library IT Fee to help swap equipment
 - Demo was suggested for the group
 - § Resource Management Software (Extron and AMX, tied together)
 - AMX is in large classrooms
 - Extron is in other rooms
 - These are the control system manufacturers
 - Ⓜ Phasing out Crestron
 - Ⓜ Extron is in smaller rooms; Extron's is a bit lighter-weight at this time
 - Ⓜ AMX much more detail to it
 - Ⓜ AMX costs \$200 / classroom ; Extron is free
 - Ⓜ Using software to tie in to Police to tie in for monitoring
 - Ⓜ Extron coming in for show on March 17th
 - ◊ BIF went Crestron as that's what they knew

Jaime & Rich

- Classroom support, answer help desk line, go out and take pics, create documentation, etc
 - Training for Rhet faculty tomorrow
- Started the instructor survey again last year; could expand questions to collect other strategic data

- Increase in iClicker use, we have an agreement with iClicker
 - 2009 three bookstores sold 10,000 clickers
 - Allowed to get instructor kits to help instructors get used to the systems
 - Students get a minor discount
-

January 27 Henry Administration Building Rooms with guest Cathy Prendergast

Discussion of "star" system

Morgan

How space impacts discussion

Cathy Prendergast

Serves 4,000 students per semester

Adopted custom eBook

Did not have spaces to deliver this in; not enough small space were fitted with IT

Classes capped at 22

Once outlined tech needs, peer group review

Instructors prefer flexible environments; want tech, also want flexibility (e.g., not computers on desks)

Want to facilitate interaction

Granted funds from Library/IT fee to solve these issues

One issue was that needed more space for the flexible environment

4 rooms in HAB will be getting new flexible furniture

Have asked students to reflect (compare/contrast) current with new furniture

Instructor feedback important

First item was to keep the coats so that no one is tripping over coats

Coats also absorb sound

Screens are all around -- do students follow instructor, follow screen, what?

One image can be sent to all screens, and those can be used by groups to comment on someone's work

If instructors welcome student laptops, students will bring them

Instructors/Students will move furniture

Despite various familiarity with technology, eBook folks are more familiar technology

Chair selection

Had other samples as well

Placed comment sheets to ask folks to try the chairs
Voted at faculty meetings and most wanted a particular chair (Not the Node chair)

The one selected was stackable to clear more space
Really helps with classes

*** Becky Franz has 4 Node chairs for folks to try out; those do have a large footprint

Worked with instructors that 80% of class should be on student writing
Instructors did ask if podium could be brought to the middle of the room; need to change paradigm

Jaime and Rich (CITES/Class Tech) were receiving emails from instructors about how they should be prepared
Jaime said they spent time on how nuts-and-bolts of how to manage the IT in the rooms

Instructors seeking ideas for how to use the space/IT in the rooms

Had gone with a publisher for the eBook and later created own eBook
Surveys were better, pricing was better, and scrolling around the book was improved

Students said they learned more because they WERE MORE COMFORTABLE

Also asking for additional questions that can be asked of students and instructors about the space

Question about ideal "containing" space
Three in HAB were okay, and the fourth across the hall has no central air and part of courtyard with 5 air compressors
What about lighting?
HAB rooms face south and have huge windows which is good for interaction, and still need to have blackout shades for when using the projector(s)
Yes, a better controlled lighting system is helpful

Iowa is also re-doing a number of classrooms; adding flexibility; putting the podium in the middle of the room
Michigan is doing similar things

Yes, any room can be made flexible
Suggested that as we are remodeling buildings, should have some suggestions/recommendations to provide to facilities people
Sound should be discussed more for where to place classrooms (bus stops, air compressors, etc)
Assess opportunities such as HAB that provide possibilities for enhancing learning
Change teaching times to 8 am - 5 pm in Rhet made HAB easier to do

Furniture manufacturers are doing their own research and trying to help campuses enhance instruction

Node chairs -- chair, storage, and table so overall footprint may be less if needed all those pieces in a room

Flexible room such as IH23 and the HAB rooms and can manage rooms from one location

HAB rooms have three LCD's that could be made available for students in the evenings for group work

However, as general assignment rooms, there are security issues to address

How much unclaimed basement space is there?

Quite a bit of space is unclaimed, although folks are still territorial

Also, support needs to be addressed

CITES does tech support; ATLAS does not as they are general assignment rooms

Can the unit also support the instructors for the IT as well as the curriculum?

eBook has provided some internal funding to get professional development

Have a week-long pedagogical orientation/training

Print or digital books still need to have a plan for how to teach with them

February 10 Departmental Spaces

February 24

Next meeting, March 10th; perhaps in Physics who just renovated a space

March 24th demo of software

FLB-G58

Turning videoconferencing space into an 18-seat computer lab, primary use for ESL

Robert suggested perhaps it's an old style of teaching assuming all students need a computer

Georgia state legislature considering going without textbooks and all digital with iPads

Morgan had some concerns about this model

Videoconferencing

ATLAS will be hosting videoconferencing now in Psych for CourseShare and others who need it

Jaime and Robert discussed their work with the Library -- using MS tools to "bring in" subject matter expert librarians

Used the Business MS system to do this; worked well

Did not have 2-way video, sound was very good

Believe UC will provide effective lightweight videoconferencing for the campus

Others will need LiveMeeting client if not from this campus

Rick mentioned working with an instructor to use Adobe Connect; instructor broke her leg and trying to find a way to help her

General assignment rooms are currently set up to do that, although CITES can help with consultations

Doug, Chem Learning Space

Buying moveable white boards

Noyes lab space for General Chemistry

Discussion sections have strong desire for interaction/better tools for this

Merit courses are more interactive

Would like Chem discussion rooms fitted with round tables for more collaboration

Process oriented guided inquiry learning -- presented with data and guide students on how to use the data/interpret the data

At least one room try to outfit as a prototype room

Others can be more collaborative (e.g., round tables)

Matthew commented that building renovations instructors do request to change the way that rooms are designed

Thinking of some type of partition for sound proofing; may go with glass so that can see there is a tutor available

DKH, Armory, and Greg will have something (what was Morgan saying?) -- 37 rooms

Dan says a basic package is being implemented

That package can be added to at a later date

Some concern that if we want to do things, it's about funding

How do we add these in, how do we maintain years later when need to refresh?

Really need to keep things coordinated

Have fewer resources, need to careful not robbing Peter to pay Paul

College of ED, ACES, etc, each discipline has a special room for newer teaching methods

Space -- funding

How can we get funding for rooms when campus does have funds

Discussed Extreme Classroom Makeover concept

NHB rooms; just providing flexibility is important

Not always about technology

Need the space as a pre-condition; need to have flexibility so that pedagogy can change

Faculty grounds and student groups want more flexibility

Morgan mentioned that at one school the bolted seats that could rotate 360 degrees and put them in pods; pretty inexpensive to do this

Morgan commented that U of Minn has an interactive map of what was available and where

Joe have had discussions about Grainger Library

Overall background: Have 1,000 machines total in EWS; 40 - 80 seat labs and machines attached to devices; Run Linux and Windows, want to make it more flexible with other technologies (e.g., Citrix)

Grainger 4th floor, some discussion about creating an environment to give the first and second year students a feel for what it is to be an Engineer

Environment for students and faculty to hang out, collaborate, tutoring, etc

Funding has not been resolved

Have a MediaScape unit there for another week

Students like it

Unable to teach in that location

Want to spread things out and create pods and small office/collaboration spaces

For price of MediaScape could do several pods

Also need for tutoring -- Library would like to chat about tutoring spaces

May take books out to clear more space; will still be able to get the books from the Oak Street storage space in a reasonable amount of time

Purchased 6 node chairs (no tablets)

Realize need more chairs than they need computers

Students have not realized they can store their backpacks in the Nodes

Comments are all over about liking/not liking

Some believe since not cloth are not comfortable when they really are

Shame they are not "nestable"

MediaScape

Attached a higher-end workstation to the device that has specific software

Log-in data is providing data that students are using 2- 3 hours

Students can also attach their notebooks

Two labs that have dual-displays

The students REALLY like it; for programming and for life stuff (homework and FB)

Library is also going to do this

Re-fitting four rooms for small group/collaborations

Space will have some soundproofing, although not totally

March 10

This week's informal gathering continued the conversation about spaces that are managed by departments or units. Last week we learned more about Engineering Work Stations (EWS), plans that ATLAS has for adding videoconferencing capabilities to labs in Psychology, Chemistry's thoughts on enhancing the Chem Learning space, and the interest in improving spaces for tutoring (for example at Grainger Library and Noyes). We will start off discussing needs for spaces that support tutoring and other non-lecture-based instruction. [Welcomed Gretchen Madsen, Librarian at Housing. Discussed

SDRP and small groups and tutoring uses of informal collaboration spaces. Some discussion about the usefulness of a site that lists tutoring options across the campus that would be something like tutoring.illinois.edu, which led into what are the different types of "tutoring" spaces: breakout with reservations; specialized needs (media); last minute, non-reserved; spaces undergraduate students can reserve; presentation practice spaces.]

March 24

Tour of Ikenberry Commons

Greetings,

I hope this email finds you all well and able to enjoy the beautiful weather the past few days. If you are lucky enough to be on campus this Thursday, I hope you have added the Informal Group on Learning Spaces to your "accepted meetings" list. Just in time for a turn in the weather (bummer), we are having our first Learning Spaces Campus Tour featuring the fantastic new Housing facility: Student Dining and Residential Programs (SDRP) Building and Nugent Hall. Melissa Marriott has arranged for a great tour for us, and, get this, it includes a demonstration of the donut machine!! I am probably a little too excited about that part of the tour, but I can't wait to have a fresh donut to get the tour started off right. :-)

If you've been attending the Informal Group meetings, you have heard about the special features and spaces of SDRP. If you haven't been able to attend a meeting yet, now is your chance to visit this outstanding new space and meet a few colleagues over donuts. Tour details are below, and please be prompt as there are a lot of great spaces to see in a short time.

SDRP/Nugent Hall Tour

Thursday, March 24, 2011

9 AM SHARP

Hosts: Melissa Marriott and Gretchen Madsen

Nugent is the new hall that connects to SDRP and the first floor is dedicated to Beckwith program residents. SDRP has seminar room (classroom) spaces, small study spaces, the learning commons (including the library and computer lab), larger meeting rooms, dining for 1200, servery venues, coffee house, and c-store. It is a lot to squeeze in, but will give everyone a good look at learning spaces outside of classrooms.

Please gather in the lobby of the SDRP at 9 AM and we will depart from there. SDRP is on Gregory Drive, right behind Clark hall.

SDRP

Website: <http://www.housing.illinois.edu/Ikenberry%20Commons%20Construction/SDRP.aspx>

Map: <http://bit.ly/fPnOON>

Can't wait to see you Thursday!

Leslie Hammersmith

Office of the CIO

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

April 7

Craig Jackson discussed Student Computer Lab Managers group and that they are working on finding some standards across labs, such as icon locations, printing services, and having a public safety liaison with lab managers to arrange for safety measures when having late lab hours.

Joe Zalabak discussed virtual applications and explained that Engineering has a grant from Caterpillar of over \$300K to pilot hardware for Citrix and VMWare. The pilot will be in the fall 2011. Questions whether the Library/IT Fee could provide funding for projects like this, especially for projects that are not high-end, but more focused on end-user ease of use. The Stoneware "Cloud Browser" was mentioned as an example.

April 21

This week's informal gathering took place in newly renovated collaborative space managed by Physics. Gabe Gibson provided us with insight into the process they went through to create the Physics Interaction Room, how they selected furniture, technology, and chose a room design that helped Physics create a collaborative space that fit their needs. This visit also lent an opportunity to see and use a SmartBoard. (Open since February, equipment costs \$3500 + installation (about \$5K total). Wanted to have multiple hook-ups. But too much for installing software on each individual machine, so have it connected to one computer. They will install KVM in table so that 6 computers can be hooked up and display on screen.)

May 5

Join this week's meeting to recap the things we have shared this semester and keep us updated on summer plans for your spaces. Meetings will continue this summer starting on June 2. Bring your topic suggestions and let us know what spaces YOU'D like to see this summer. Don't hesitate to share this invitation with anyone else interested in joining the discussion.

Summer Series

June 2

Meeting in Bevier Hall, Room 358 tomorrow. Tour of the Food Science Labs and meet in a conference room nearby to discuss development of that space, how it is being supported, and future directions for FSHN.

June 16

Topic - Collaborative Spaces

This meeting will feature discussion led by Leslie Hammersmith and Craig Jackson on a new project funded by the Library/IT Fee Committee for 2011-2012. The project funds building up to 10 collaborative spaces across the campus. This project is being developed and we need to establish a governing process for deciding how to create and support student collaboration spaces using Library/IT Fee funds. We hope that participants in this informal group can provide critical feedback to organizing and developing the formal project. Please plan to attend, especially if you are interested in a possible role in the formal project. [AHS buying Mediascape table for faculty collaboration area on 3rd floor. Seats 8 at cost of \$12K.]

June 30

Update on the Collaboration Spaces Project (a Library/IT Fee funded campus project), and the rest of the meeting time is open to discuss other projects and needs for campus learning spaces.

July 14

Topic: Mumford House: We will be joined by Professors Paul Kapp, Alice Novak and Susan Appel to discuss Mumford House, the oldest architectural structure on our campus. Dr. Kapp is conducting a study funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Research Board on future uses, rehabilitations and additions for future academic uses in the Mumford House. Since it can be somewhat difficult to get the word out to all stakeholders about future space uses, I invited Dr. Kapp and his team to join our meeting this Thursday. They are interested in hearing ideas about the future of Mumford House, as well as learning what the experiences have been for others when involved in allocating, scheduling and building spaces. They will be able to share the process they have gone through to preserve the Mumford House, the bumps they have encountered, and their challenges for completing their study and matching a use with the space. [Meeting facilitated by Jamie Nelson]

July 28 – canceled due to vacations

Upcoming Fall Series

September 8
September 22
October 6
October 20
November 3