Learning Spaces @Mason: Are you ready for tomorrow's classrooms?

Mason's Learning Environments Group (LEG) and Learning Environments Assessment Group (LEAG)

Future Learning Spaces

- **Supporting Flexible Learning**
- **Supporting Engaged Student Learning**

Designing for Flexibility

Mason is reimagining learning spaces on our campuses to foster increased student engagement through classrooms that are built for flexibility. Here's what faculty can expect in terms of future spaces that support teaching and learning.

- Classroom boundaries are flexible
  - ❑ There are increasing options to connect the classroom to the world (e.g., external speakers) through web-conferencing
  - ❑ Buildings are increasingly designed to help faculty and students continue classroom conversations in adjacent informal learning spaces
- The way students interact with each other is flexible
  - ❑ Opportunities for students to engage with each other and the course material in meaningful ways are optimized
  - ❑ Collaborative learning and use of student teams of various sizes are supported
- Instructors are able to be flexible in the ways that they relate to their students, from sharing with the full class as a whole, to engaging multiple smaller teams of students, to working with students individually.
- New classrooms are increasingly supporting curricular flexibility, whether face-to-face or hybrid, introductory or capstone, interactive lectures to fully project-based across all disciplines.

The Value of Informal Learning Spaces

Informal learning spaces create opportunities to continue conversations and student (and faculty) learning communities beyond the classroom. Informal Learning Spaces at Mason:

- Mason Innovation eXchange (MIX) spaces: The MIX@Fenwick; The MIX@Innovation Hall, and in the new Core Campus Academic Building
- Collaborative study rooms (IN Hall, Fenwick, Peterson, new Core Campus Academic Building)
- The Collaborative Learning Hub (The CLUB, Johnson Center 311)
- Outdoor Learning Amphitheaters
- The Wilkins Plaza
- The Nutrition Kitchen
- The Greenhouse
- OneButton Studio

Classroom Technologies

What kinds of classroom technologies are/will be available in Mason's classrooms?

Breadth of Technologies

As Mason continues to enhance our classrooms, there is increasing differentiation in available classroom technologies. While all university classrooms support basic presentation, we seek to provide more advanced capabilities as we design new and refresh existing classrooms, especially in the new Core Campus Project classrooms that will be BYOD. These built-in technologies allow for a wide range of options for teaching and learning, including:

Wireless projection and presentation capabilities
- Instructor projection
- Student projection

Web-based conferencing
- WebEx
- Blackboard Collaborate
- Microsoft Teams
- Videoconferencing Classrooms

Projection flexibility
- Multiple screens around the room for student and instructor projection
- Dual duplicate projection to show information on two screens at the same time

Lecture capture
- Ability to record classes for student review sessions
- Furniture to support collaborative learning

What Faculty are Saying

"The biggest change we've made is that we've gone almost paperless at this point. We can do double screens now, we are able to do our visual, our PowerPoint up on the wall, and if we are doing group notes and **we're getting ideas from everybody and consolidating them**, we can do it on one screen, we can have a timer on one screen." ~**Adjunct Professor, Education**

"I do a lot less lecturing and more in-class activity and more collaboration. The classes are more segmented. We're not doing anything for an hour and fifteen minutes, but we're doing something for 25 minutes and then something for 25 minutes and then something for 25 minutes. But I would say the **de-emphasis of myself**, to a large degree, and a greater emphasis of them **doing things on their own**." ~**Term Professor, English**

"[Active learning] was pushed in sort of a peer environment. This was not someone from the top. Some of it was **classroom visits**, where I'd go into my colleagues' classrooms, because we had to do class evaluations for tenure. And I'd be sitting there thinking, wow, that's really good. Where did that come from? It's like, 'Hey, where did you learn that?'" ~**Associate Professor, Computer Science**

Preparing to Teach

How can faculty take advantage of enhanced classroom flexibility to engage students and optimize learning?

	Simple Change	More Advanced
WebEx	Bring a guest speaker in to speak with your class; conduct virtual office hours	Connect with a colleague teaching a class at another institution for a joint session(s)
Wireless Presentation	Instructor can present from anywhere in the room while monitoring students groups	Student groups can lead presentations from the class
Screen-based White Boards	Instructor can work problems and post whiteboard after class	Review sessions with problem-solving can be broadcast to off-campus students
In-class Collaborative Learning	Think, pair, share (TPS) or web-based surveys/quizzes	Team-based, in-class problem-solving
Ongoing Class Assessment	Start of class quiz or end-of-class exit ticket	Staged quizzes that have both individual and team-based credit

Where can Faculty go to Learn More about Engaged Student Learning?

- The Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning
  - ❑ https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/
  - ❑ See their pages on Active Learning, Collaborative Learning, Curriculum Design Support, and the Classroom Guide!
- Learning Environments Website
  - ❑ https://learningenvironments.gmu.edu/

Additional Campus Resources to Support Faculty
- Information Technology Services Teaching and Learning
  - ❑ https://its.gmu.edu/service/category/teaching-learning/
  - ❑ Search for Classroom and Lab Technology, GMU-TV, and Enterprise Collaboration support (Video-conference)
- Office of the Registrar Faculty & Staff
  - ❑ https://registrar.gmu.edu/facultystaff/

"The new (Core Campus) building will be a living laboratory, where faculty will put into practice new forms of learning and bring student life closer to scholarship and research."

~ Ángel Cabrera, former Mason president

The LEG and LEAG are cross-institutional teams of Mason faculty members, administrators, and staff. For more information, please see
http://learningenvironments.gmu.edu/

LEG Representation

- Campus Planning & Facilities
- Faculty Affairs and Development
- Faculty Representatives
- ITS: Academic Strategies; Classroom and Lab Support; Learning Space Design
- Office of the Registrar
- Stearns Center for Teaching & Learning
- Student representative(s)
- Undergrad Education: Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- University Libraries
- University Life

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