

Next Generation Classrooms: A whole of University Approach

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Abstract:

This presentation reports on the implementation of pilot program of collaborative teaching spaces at the University of South Australia. These classrooms were designed and built during 2017 as part of the University's Teaching Infrastructure Master Plan (TIMP), a key element of the Digital Learning Strategy.

This pilot program involved the refurbishment of four previously under-utilized classrooms at one of each of UniSA's city and suburban campuses and were opened for scheduled classes at the commencement of 2018. The rooms are designed to facilitate collaborative learning among students by providing flexible spaces for group work and to promote student mobility during classes. The digital technology of the rooms was required to be flexible to suit not only the teaching modalities but the physical flexibility of the furniture within each room. Concentrating on delivering a cost and time effective solution which could be used as a 'kit of parts' for future university projects.

Two of the classrooms have particular features – one class has no desks, but rather chairs on wheels that include attached A3 size mini-desks and another contains desks that are divided equally between desk space and writable white-board space.

Bio:

Emma Short is a Senior Project Officer in the Capital Development Group (Facilities Management Unit) at the University of South Australia who enjoys working closely with colleagues in both FMU and the wider University to deliver projects that provide beautiful, practical and high quality spaces.

Emma holds a Bachelor of Interior Architecture with a minor in Exhibition Design from the University of South Australia.

Prior to starting at the University of South Australia in January of 2017, Emma worked as a Senior Quantity Survey for the international firm Rider Levett Bucknall. In this position Emma worked closely with all three Universities in South Australia delivering a variety of refurbishment projects including the Master Plan for the Collaborative Teaching Spaces being presented at this workshop.

Emma's was excited to be given the opportunity in her current role is as Senior Project Officer at UniSA to continue to be part of the team delivering Pilot rooms of the Collaborative Teaching Spaces.

Dr Stuart Dinmore is a Senior Lecturer with the University of South Australia's Teaching Innovation Unit (TIU). Stuart works in academic development with a particular focus on technology enhanced and blended learning. This involves support for academic staff in the implementation of online learning environments and the design and effective use of the new generation of collaborative and flexible learning spaces.

Other areas of work involve the provision of professional development opportunities for teaching staff and the creation of multimedia content for learning. Stuart also has a strong interest in the area widening participation and inclusion. He is interested in the use of digital technology and its potential to remove barriers to learning for all students.

Marek Pokorny is the Teaching Technology Coordinator at the University of South Australia (SA). His role encompasses Audio Visual (AV) capital works, AV consultancy, vendor management, project management and the support and maintenance of approx. 700 AV spaces across four city and two regional campuses. Over the past seven years his team has had extensive involvement in UniSA's major projects including the seven story Jeffrey Smart Building, Pridham Hall and the fourteen story Cancer Research Institute. Marek and his team have been widely acknowledged for their contribution to these facilities.

Prior to his commencement at UniSA in 2011 he was the AV and Video Conferencing (VC) Project Manager for the SA Attorney Generals Department. In this role he improved and increased the AV and VC spaces at Courts and Corrections facilities across South Australia. This work resulted in a significant reduction in prisoner transport across the State and improved the experience of vulnerable witnesses giving evidence.

Earlier in his career he was involved in the finance industry and has held the positions of Business and Change Process Manager, National IT Manager, National Help Desk Manager and Marketing Analyst.

Growing up in Sydney, Marek moved to Adelaide in 2001 where he lives with his partner Connie and their two cats. He has an avid interest in travel and over the past 5 years has visited China, Japan, Vietnam and Cambodia. He also has a passion for Si-fi and Fantasy and is a keen collector of memorabilia.'