

Learning Environment Advisory Group

Agenda

Sept 23, 2025, 2:30 pm – 4 pm

MSTeams

Attendees: Lauren Couture, Soowook Kim, Michelle Johnson, Bryan Wilkinson, Brian Wright, Heather McAlpine, Awneet Sivia, David Stobbe, Kristi Wood, Shannon Wilson, Kirsten Hargreaves, Renette AubinBoisclair, Monique Goerzen, , Homa Rafiei Milajerdi, Mark Thomson, Gillian Mimmack, Monika Vondras.

- 1.0 Welcome
- 2.0 Agenda: Sept 23, 2025
Minutes: May 27, 2025
- 3.0 First Peoples' Principles of Learning (FPPL) Poster in Classrooms – Leanne Joe
- 4.0 Learning Environment Guidelines (for approval by all members) – Maureen Wideman
[LEAG Learning Environment Guidelines Draft.docx](#)
- 5.0 Active Learning Classroom Strategy (attached note) (2025-26) – Maureen Wideman
- 6.0 ITS Projects Update – Brian Wright

Next meeting Nov 18, 2025

Learning Environment Advisory Group

Minutes

May 27, 2025

2:30 pm- 4 pm, Microsoft Teams

Present: Gillian Mimmack, Shannon Awneet Sivia, Bryan Wilkinson, Brian Wright, Mark Thomson, Vanessa Radzinski
Regrets: Shelley Young, Kirsten Hargreaves

1.0 Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

2.0 Learning Environment Guidelines (for approval by all members)– Awneet

Awneet shared the updated guidelines and asked for any questions/comments. The committee discussed the long-term vision of how many rooms would be in the high-tech level, flexible seating, HVAC systems, eco considerations, background mechanical noise, instructor voice amplification, ceiling height, rubrics for assessing standards of quality, two entrances for safety, room shapes conducive to interactive instruction, and putting carpets back in the classrooms.

Action item: Awneet Sivia will clean up the doc and maybe look at rubrics. In September the group can work on this together and concentrate on part B for a teaching focus.

3.0 Brightspace Update – Awneet

The TLC team is working with ITS and it is going well. There have been some challenges around portfolios and grading. Ally will be integrated into Brightspace.

4.0 Active Learning Classroom strategy (2025-2026) Awneet

5 classrooms were chosen to participate in this pilot project which included moveable tables and chairs in each room and instructions to alert faculty that they can use the room as they want and not reset it up into lecture style when they were done. This project was initiated to have faculty think differently about how they teach and undo traditional practices.

Update:

- Starting Winter 2026, a new draft of these instructions will be posted outside of three classrooms, D119, D124, and C1425 on the Abbotsford Campus. Each classroom will have tables and chairs with wheels and tables will have flip top to be able to store out of the way.
- The department Coordinator can now select this type of classroom when inputting room requests into Banner.
- It was suggested to also make a QR code to link to the document that has resources and research about these types of classrooms.

5.0 Demonstration of Student Presentation Technology (Brian / Bryan)

Sam Burton demonstrated the features of this new software which include:

- No software to install, uses native wireless protocols (AirPlay, Google Cast, Miracast)
 - Instantly share your content from any device (including smart phones) to projection or display screens
 - Leverage in room - wireless connection to peripherals, microphones, cameras, soundbars
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- No software to install
 - Instantly share your content from any device to any screen
 - Leverage in-room peripherals, microphones, cameras, soundbars
 - Can be used as a digital signage hub

6.0 Walking Tour of Mission Campus

The group toured D223 which had the wireless presentation technology but is also hyflex enabled.

Meeting schedule for 2025-2026.

Meetings will be via Teams from 2:30 pm – 4 pm

Sept 23, 2025

Nov 18, 2025

Jan 27, 2026

Mar 24, 2026

May 19, 2026

Dimensions of T&L	Learning Arrangements (in place of Layout)	Furniture	Technologies	Acoustics	Lighting	Colour	Safety consideration
Academic s	<p>Whiteboards on two or more walls (not just at front of class)</p> <p>Room shapes more conducive to teaching/learning (not overly long/narrow, no posts and other obstructions in the way)</p> <p>Whiteboards on view at the same time as the overhead projector screen</p> <p>There are not enough large classrooms to</p>	<p>Flexible furniture (on wheels, moveable)</p> <p>Flip-top tables (like in K-building). Light weight enough so that rearranging is feasible for all.</p> <p>Activity based courses could benefit from a classroom where tables can fold up against the wall for space</p>	<p>Lab technologies that align with industry/professional needs</p> <p>Can we put technology in the on-campus yurt?</p> <p>Document cameras: double as rotatable webcams + better microphones for easier lecture capture = overall, more lecture capture classrooms</p> <p>Accessibility (microphones/capability for captioning in classrooms)</p> <p>More USB-C connection cables (some classrooms have them for</p>	<p>Ceiling mics</p> <p>Acoustic panels, I agree several of the rooms on CEP campus are long and narrow. This makes it hard to hear at the back at the room. The acoustic panels have been helpful in reducing the echo.</p>	<p>Dimmer lights</p> <p>Lamps</p> <p>Several people have commented on the fluorescent lighting</p> <p>Option to turn off only the lights in front of the screen (and not half the class)</p>	<p>Colourful and modern colours – white is so cold and harsh with florescent lighting.</p> <p>Student art on the walls!</p> <p>Murals?</p>	<p>Many students comment on the fact that the windows in D building don't open and the rooms lack fresh air and are often too hot or too cold. This is a difficult fix with the cost of windows and window replacement as well as security needs in one panel windows but worth mentioning</p> <p>Instructor workstation/podium/lectern not in the corner. There should be space for the instructor to exit both sides.</p>

	<p>accommodate 40 students on the CEP campus</p> <p>Whiteboards or glass walls (best!) that erase easily and take standard whiteboard markers</p>		<p>projection, others don't)</p> <p>Wireless presentation?</p> <p>Flexible furniture with wireless presentation makes a pod room simple.</p>				
Learning with Peers	<p>Flexible outside of the classroom space (hall, seating areas, cafe, outside)</p> <p>Some departments have "lounge"-type space for students/faculty to use... others don't. Not sure why some have</p>	<p>Pod arrangements</p> <p>Table Groupings</p> <p>Movable furniture (on wheels)</p> <p>Wider tables that comfortably fit two chairs without the chairs touching each other.</p> <p>Places where students can</p>	<p>Ability to share easily (whiteboards/monitors)</p> <p>More whiteboards (could have smaller, movable ones)</p> <p>Projectors facing different parts of the room (in case students are in pods not facing the front)</p> <p>A better solution for students to break out into</p>	<p>Quiet spaces for breakout groups.</p> <p>We are getting more students in our program with sensory needs and identifying on the autism spectrum who take more frequent breaks due to class noise in large classes, bright lights, sensory overload etc so the quiet spaces idea would be helpful here as well</p>		<p>Spaces like K160 are great because each pod has an individual whiteboard . Makes it extra easy for me to get students working collaboratively and seamlessly</p>	

	this and others don't, but it would be lovely to have one of these types of spaces for every department.	sit in pairs or small groups facing each other.	groups that have both in-person and virtual learners	Green Walls to soften the echoes			
Experiences with faculty	<p>More smaller to mid-size spaces to meet with students who are struggling and/ or meeting with faculty.</p> <p>Tables and chairs in hallways and outside classrooms for faculty to meet with students and for students to meet with</p>	A quiet place for student/instructor conversations	Built-in tutorials for the technology (like a wizard, that shows the main features of a given technology tool so that faculty are reminded of how to use the tool)		<p>Smart lighting Spotlighting</p> <p>Dimmers ?</p>		<p>Safety and Risk Assessments (UFV Safety and Security can provide this for a classroom)</p> <p>Ability to request removal of public access to this information.</p>

	other students						
Campus spaces and environments	We used to have a student lounge in the basement at CEP and this was removed to make room for IT, the students still talk about how they miss this space.	<p>More couches and study spaces/study pods in hallways and common areas</p> <p>Whiteboards in hallways for students to work outside of classroom spaces (McMaster has chalkboard walls in their math building!)</p>	Virtual computers/BYOD	Classroom acoustic upgrades/assessment. Panels available for existing spaces	New building projects – appropriate space assessment		
High Impact Practices	<p>Active Learning Strategies</p> <p>Group work</p>	<p>Round tables for collaboration</p> <p>Moveable furniture</p>	Digital sharing technologies that allow for hyflex activities to use the same resources (such as digital handouts)				

	Presentation spaces						
Access to Outdoor Learning Spaces		<p>Outdoor classroom-style seating/in the round</p> <p>Doors and more windows</p> <p>Indoor plants/greenery</p>	A way to take the technology outside (for example if you have students joining virtually and want to go outside the classroom)				

Instructors:

Welcome to an **Active Learning Classroom (ALC)**. This classroom is set up to promote student engagement and collaborative learning opportunities. Research shows a positive correlation between student learning and interactive classroom design (see links below). **Please utilize this space as it is arranged.** If the ALC arrangement is not suitable for you, please email scheduling@ufv.ca to check room availability.

For more information, see:

[The Room Itself is Active](#)

[University of Virginia Active Learning Classrooms](#)

[Algonquin College Active Learning Classroom Design](#)

[UVIC Active Learning Classrooms](#)

[International Journal of Active Learning in Higher Education](#)

[University of McGill Active Learning Classrooms](#)

Note: To be piloted in Winter 2026 in D119, D124, and C1425.