

Classroom Improvement Program Report

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Spring 2000

Edward A. Hoskins
UNC-CH Division of Facilities Services

Summary of this Report

This report summarizes the goals and accomplishments of the Classroom Improvement Program and reviews the status of on-going projects.

This spring, construction is underway in the following rooms:

- The lecture hall at Mitchell 05
- The five General Purpose Classrooms (GPC's) that are the Phase III renovations of Dey Hall
- The two GPC's at Hanes Hall 307 & 308, and
- The *ad hoc* classroom at Phillips 328.

Designs are in progress for the following General Purpose Classrooms:

- Greenlaw 302
- Alumni 207
- New East 102 & 301

An outside design team is being selected to design future classroom improvement projects.

A series of limited scope projects is being developed to address many of the remaining critical classroom renovation needs that were identified by the Campbell Committee.

This report also describes the current effort to re-evaluate the priority list for future projects and to broaden the role of the Classroom Improvement Committee to include development of a comprehensive classroom renovation plan.

Goals and Objectives of the Program

The late Chancellor Michael Hooker initiated this program in 1996, with the goal of improving the teaching and learning environment in the oldest and most outdated classrooms on the campus. Originally known as the Chancellor's Classroom Improvement Initiative, the program is undertaking major functional and appearance renovations in each classroom.

These are the objectives of the program:

- Undertake specific classroom renovations so the renovated rooms better support teaching and learning activities and comply with applicable codes and standards.
- Efficiently and expeditiously use the resources allocated for classroom renovations.
- Coordinate renovations with the on-going classroom schedule to assure that an adequate number of classrooms are available for instruction.
- Minimize the adverse impacts of on going classroom renovations on building occupants.

Goals and Objectives of the Program (Continued)

The scope of work in each classroom typically includes replacement of floors, ceilings and furniture; installation of Internet connections and new dimmable lighting systems. Many classrooms are being equipped with instructional technology, including multimedia projection and laptop compatible podiums.

Program Funding

Since 1996, more than \$9.6M has been allocated to achieve program objectives. This total breaks down as follows:

\$3,530,600	From 1996 R&R Funds
\$1,897,800	From 1997 R&R Funds
\$1,109,700	From 1998 R&R Funds
\$2,298,900	From 1999 R&R Funds
<u>\$ 800,000</u>	<u>From other sources</u>
\$9,637,000	Total funding to date

There currently is an uncommitted balance of \$1,400,000.

Accomplishments of the Program

Since 1996, the program has dramatically improved the classroom learning environment in the heart of the central campus. Approximately 2,000 general-purpose classroom seats have been renovated in more than 50 rooms. Three major lecture halls have been completely rebuilt. The program has increased the number of multi-media classrooms on campus from nine (9) to thirty-eight (38).

The average renovation investment to date has been \$2100 per seat, or \$77,000 per room; the average classroom renovation cost has been \$121 per square foot.

The cost components for the average General Purpose Classroom break out as follows:

Design -- 3%
Asbestos Removal -- 4%
General Construction -- 28%
Electrical Construction -- 20%
Classroom Furniture -- 16%
Instruction Technology -- 29%

Projects Under Construction

Mitchell Hall 05

This project will completely renovate a 160-seat lecture hall. Construction bids were received on October 6, 1999, and \$488,000 has been committed for this project. Mitchell Hall 05 is under construction and is projected to be completed for the beginning of the Fall Semester, 2000.

Dey Hall Rooms 201, 202, 203, 204 & 210

The 155 seats in these rooms represent the third of three phases of classroom renovations in Dey Hall. The previous two phases are complete. Construction is underway, and \$350,000 has been committed to complete the project. All five classrooms will be renovated as Level I Multimedia Classrooms, and the rooms will be ready for classes at the beginning of the Fall Semester, 2000.

Phillips Hall 328

This is a project to renovate a 70-seat *ad hoc* classroom as a Multimedia Classroom with desktop video teleconference capabilities. \$185,000 has been committed for this project. Construction is approximately 60% complete, and the room will be ready for use at the beginning of the Fall Semester, 2000.

Hanes Hall Rooms 307 & 308

This project will provide basic appearance upgrades for the 90 seats in these two classrooms. The work is being undertaken in conjunction with air conditioning and power improvements that are being funded by others. The \$42,100 project is currently under construction and will be completed in time for use during the summer.

Projects In Design

New East Rooms 102 & 301

This is a project to renovate two General Purpose Classrooms (45 and 18 seats) in conjunction with an on-going building-wide HVAC renovation funded by others. The classroom designs are under development and will provide for new room finishes and lighting, infrastructure for new visual presentation systems, and new power and data network connections. The classroom renovation work will be incorporated as a change order into the current construction project, which is expected to be complete for Spring 2001. \$60,000 has been reserved for classroom renovations.

Projects In Design (Continued)

Alumni 207

This is a project to create a 35-seat Level 1 Multimedia Classroom. It is currently in design and will include new student seating, new finishes for floors, walls and ceilings, a new projection screen, a laptop-compatible electronic podium, audio and visual presentation systems and new lighting, power and data network connections. Construction is anticipated during the Fall Semester, 2000, and the projected budget is about \$100,000.

Greenlaw 302

This unique renovation will create a 35-seat Multimedia Classroom that is laptop-enabled, and will support the CCI initiatives within the English Department. As currently envisioned, the project would not include new flooring, ceiling chalkboards or new furniture, allowing the renovation to be completed at a substantially reduced cost. The project is currently in design and will include a laptop podium with VCR and DVD, ceiling-mounted data/video projector, document camera, dimmable lights and wireless networking. Construction is anticipated during the Fall Semester, 2000, and the projected budget is about \$50,000.

Designer Selection for Future Classroom Renovations

In anticipation of the development of future, larger-scope classroom renovation projects, an outside design team is being selected to undertake the design of many of these projects. The team will consist of a lead architectural firm and other consultants who might contribute needed expertise. We have solicited letters of interest from firms who have had recent experience with classroom construction and instructional technology applications, and we have created a short-list of four of these firms for interviews. Final selection will be complete and design work on future projects is anticipated to begin this summer.

Targeted, Limited Scope Renovations

To address many of the remaining critical classroom renovation needs that were identified by the Campbell Committee in 1996, we are developing a series of limited scope projects specifically targeted to critical classroom improvements in numerous rooms on North Campus. These improvements would typically include replacement of fixed with movable student seating, installation or replacement of chalkboards, projection screens, and instructor's tables. This strategy will balance the larger whole-room and multi-room renovation projects with a number of smaller-scope projects to expand the reach of the classroom improvement program to many more classrooms. Specific projects are in the early stages of development, and construction work is expected to be undertaken during the Fall Semester, 2000.

Re-Evaluation of Priorities for Future Work

On August 20, 1999, Bruce Runberg and Kathleen McGaughey requested a re-evaluation of the priority list that would be used to guide the next series of classroom renovations on the campus. In response, a Classroom Improvement Committee was formed. It consists of representatives from the Registrar's Office, ATN, CTL and Facilities Services, and it has met frequently over the intervening period. We used as a point of departure the original list of 46 of the lowest scoring General Purpose classrooms (of a total of 186) on the campus, as evaluated by the *ad hoc* Classroom Advisory Committee chaired by William Campbell in 1996. We reviewed the lowest scoring classrooms, estimated their probable renovation costs, and developed a renovation schedule based on priority and an anticipated level of funding. Additional considerations aided the selection of specific projects to be undertaken during the Spring and Fall Semester of 2000.

A more comprehensive assessment of current needs and priorities is needed. Changes have occurred in the physical condition of some rooms, and recent campus-wide discussions related to Intellectual Climate and the Carolina Computing Initiative have superimposed a new layer of expectations concerning the physical classroom environment.

Consequently, this summer we will undertake a new effort to assess and document current classroom conditions. This effort will consist of (a) a physical inspection of existing rooms, (b) an updating of the renovation priorities database used by the Campbell Committee, (c) generation of a new set of priority rankings, and (d) a reexamination of classroom design standards. We will begin this effort during the summer with the expectation of having a revised list of classroom improvement priorities to guide renovations beginning Spring 2001.

Role of the Classroom Improvement Committee

The Classroom Improvement Committee is the policy-making body that guides and directs the work of the University's Classroom Improvement Program. The Committee includes representatives of:

- The Registrar's Office
- ATN Multimedia Classrooms
- The Center for Teaching and Learning
- The Division of Facilities Services

Through focus groups and structured interviews with faculty, students, and University committees (e.g. Disabilities Advisory Committee, the Faculty Instructional Technology Advisory Committee, Intellectual Climate Implementation Committee), we will work to broaden the perspective of this Committee to represent all of the stakeholders in the classroom improvement process.

Role of the Classroom Improvement Committee (Continued)

The Committee's mandated role is to establish and maintain the classroom renovation priorities and the classroom renovation schedule. This role should be expanded to encompass the preparation of a comprehensive plan for the renovation of General Purpose Classrooms. The plan should:

- Accommodate the variety of classroom teaching and learning strategies in use,
- Set classroom renovation program goals in terms of the number of classrooms needed by type (e.g., multimedia, lecture/break-out, laptop-enabled seminar, multipurpose) and capacity.
- Distribute classroom improvement investments where they are needed across the campus and where they would have the greatest marginal impact,
- Allow for a broader range of renovation strategies that would vary the length of time required to complete renovation projects and expand the funding model used for classroom renovations, and
- Develop a model for accommodating maintenance and support of renovated facilities and for the periodic lifecycling of installed equipment.

In order to develop this comprehensive plan, the role of the Committee should include all of the following specific responsibilities:

- a. Adopt a set of classroom design standards against which existing classroom conditions can be measured.
- b. Evaluate individual classrooms against these standards, and against the planning goals, to determine ratings that reflect classroom improvement potential and improvement needs.
- c. Define criteria to be used to prioritize classroom improvement needs and to provide a basis for assigning renovation priorities.
- d. Develop a prioritized list of classroom improvement needs.
- e. Define individual projects to address the prioritized list of needs.
- f. Maintain a master schedule of classroom renovation projects designed to implement the classroom renovation planning goals.
- g. Evaluate the success of specific renovation projects to provide feedback for the renovation planning and the classroom design standards.