Blended Learning Taskforce Visit
College of Business Active Learning Room – Tour given by Tawnya Means
June 27, 2014, 11:00am

Present: Amanda Balkhi (student), Dr. A. Cantrell, Dr. G. Hack, Dr. S. Hanson, Dr. C. Harle, Dr. C. Prins, Ms. Susan White
Absent: Dr. M. Bishop, Angela Fulbright (student), Dr. A. Kane, Dr. M. Marsiske, Dr. J. Pomeranz, Dr. O. Shechtman

Room Set-up

Room is 30 x 30 with 32 seats for students; they do have more room in there and could fit two more tables but they wanted room for students to move around

Each table has two monitors and webcam plus push to talk microphone; so you can use the room for local and distance together.

Figure 1

Can also use overhead cameras in each corner of the room (Figure 2) to record class and push it out later. Have someone in the room at a control desk (seen in the background in Figure 1) who actually follows the instructor with the camera. They use adobe connect for running the whole class. They can give a presenter role to a team to let them share their screen with everyone in the class.
Their tables are from Herman Miller and the company would have modified them any way they wanted; Round tables are not bolted down

The white boards are mostly used by the instructor; Egan white boards. They have adjustable overhead lighting but it’s not set up the way Tawnya would want it to make the screens the most visible; They have sun screens in the room on the windows (see figure 1); They also have an overhead and can project on the screen and capture that (Figure 3); They have new carpet and they painted an accent wall...looks nice!

Figure 3

Have used the room for hybrid instructors so far but not hybrid students; Can use the room for TBL or any kind of active learning

There is a center table that has the equipment to allow the instructor to control the screens, mics, etc.; that table can be raised and lowered automatically to allow better visibility of the room when it’s not being used (Figure 4; more about the technology below). They chose to bolt down this table.
They have a Crestron control panel at a desk in the middle of the room (Figure 5). Crestron is a proprietary system.

They record with Capture HD.
Microphones in front of students can be recorded independently of Adobe Connect through their audio mixer

Most complex part of programming the room was the audio; academic technologies did the programming and when the student mic is unmuted the overhead mic above them gets muted to avoid feedback. Instructor can control mics so can manage discussion of groups.

One instructor has set up roles for the teams where one person runs the computer, one speaks for the team, etc

Their thoughts on how many people can remote in and make it manageable - the size of the team should be between 6 and 8 people and there’s no real limit because you can have some completely remote teams, but the limit comes from the culture of how the teams get treated equally and how the instructor can work with completely remote teams

What are the biggest obstacles with the room?
1. It probably cost more than it needed to. They spend 240 but could probably do it for 150 to 180 nowadays; You can make students use their own computers but you lose the wiring control; You can probably build your own table but need to think about all the routing, etc

2. When Tawnya records herself talking to the class she has to unmute her mic right now to be captured but they're fixing that.
3. They did have to do a lot of programming as far as wiring and how to capture in the room; as far as that goes, she would not have the same computers. She prefers smaller ones. She would have also preferred tilt monitors that you can write on

They use a program called School Vue that lets her look at all the screens and she can also control their screen; that's no good for remote though. In that case they do adobe connect

Doceri app allows full control as she walks around the room

The room is full Monday through Thursday; they have no classes on Friday

The training for the room is really more about group work and how to do that well instead of the technology

They have a technology assistance center that is available by phone; any technology problems were minor and have been worked out

Mediascape can be used but it's very expensive

They use the room to teach business ethics, computer programming/systems analysis, and other courses

Contacts: Eric Olsen is the person to talk to about designing the room; connect with Mark McAllister as well
Other Active Learning Resources

Education has a similar classroom, Journalism has an informal room with couches and cafe seating, Design, Construction and Planning has a room where each table has a projected space and a white board space.

Iowa has Tile, MIT has Teal (Teaching Enhanced Active Learning), others like North Carolina State have Scale-up (Student-Centered Active Learning Environment for Undergraduate Programs or Upside-down Pedagogies). Those are all designed on local learners. Michigan has done a lot of research on active learning classrooms.

Minnesota has a room that fits 90; they don't have computers on the table but they have plug ins on the table; the table is about the size of the ones at Business but it's cut into thirds with a center pop up console that has the plugs plus a mic; they also have Screens on the wall that can display their computer screens but just one per table and the instructor controls that.