2012 Classroom Refresh Summary
June 5, 2012

Overview

- UCI has 133 GACs, of which 131 are Smart Classrooms (108 “regular” rooms, 13 trailers, 10 lecture halls)
- Initial Smart Classroom renovations started in 2003, the bulk of which were completed before 2008
- A subset of equipment has been replaced as needed out of an operating budget, strategic purchase of spares as part of initial renovations, or special one-time funding for larger items
- Some equipment has been in place for 9 years, and OIT CTS would rather replace that equipment now than have it begin failing en masse and cause classroom disruption
- Ongoing refresh funding allows us to replace old equipment with new, replenish supplies of backup equipment, stay current with newer technology standards (digital signals, higher resolution images, widescreen aspect ratios, etc.), and make specific enhancements to meet departmental needs
- OIT CTS is planning a 5 year cycle for refreshing all 131 rooms, starting with the oldest rooms first
- Feedback on our scope was gathered from student and faculty surveys, as well as one-on-one discussions with Humanities faculty and technical support staff.

Classroom Technology Changes

- New computers with digital outputs and widescreen monitors
- 16:9 format screens and widescreen data projectors
- Extron touchpanels and controllers in place of AMX devices
- Video switchers and distribution amplifiers changed out
- Software to play multi-region DVDs on the computer (in ALL classrooms, not just Humanities)
- Lectern adjustments to reduce monitor glare & customize monitor angle
- Blu-ray players and auxiliary A/V inputs installed, VHS decks being removed
- Digital and analog laptop input cables
- Re-wiring all rooms for stereo audio, changing out all cables and connectors
- Microphones in rooms >49 seats, microphone inputs in all rooms
- Full HD 1080p projection in Art History and Film Studies priority classrooms
- Lecture halls also get HD document cameras and widescreen digitizing tablets
- “Hotspot” audio system fixes in ELH 100, SSLH 100, and SSPA 1100

Plan & Scope of Work

OIT CTS will roughly follow the original renovation/construction schedule, refreshing the oldest rooms first. This year we will start by replacing equipment in 22 “regular” classrooms (mostly in Humanities Hall) and 2 lecture halls (SSLH 100 and SSPA 1100). HOB2 130 is included in this year’s refresh to try and maintain the same new image standards in all Film & Media Studies and Art History priority rooms. Additionally, we will be using refresh funds to make necessary repairs to the audio system in ELH 100 in advance of a full refresh of that hall in 2013 or 2014. Options may allow us to make additional upgrades to the video and control equipment in ELH 100, HSLH 100A, and PSLH 100.

OIT CTS will be performing the majority of the work this summer, with some assistance from outside vendors where necessary. The two lecture halls will be operational for Summer Session II, and the 22 Humanities area rooms will be completed for Fall Quarter 2012. In preparation, OIT CTS staff have taken special training classes, researched and developed new system models, and re-designed and re-engineered the equipment installation and all signal pathways. We will be removing old equipment, installing and wiring new equipment, programming the new control panels, testing all aspects of the new components, and training faculty and staff on the use of the new systems. We are also involved in setting up new monitoring and control systems for the Extron components, including a new server.