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Smart Classrooms: Guidelines for Educational Technology in Classroom Facility in The University of Texas System

Lawrence Jones MBA
The University of Texas System

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Smart Classrooms: Guidelines for Educational Technology in Classroom Facility in The University of Texas System, Lawrence Jones, MBA. Others, Houston, TX, 77030.

Problem Statement:
Classroom facilities developed as new construction or renovation projects for UT System institutions tend to be developed as individual, ad hoc project. There are significant opportunities for process improvement is establishing standard business processes for developing Smart Classroom, establishing design standards and referring to prototype facilities developed at other institutions.
Solution:
The University of Texas System Strategic Leadership Committee (SLC) provides leadership for System-wide IT initiatives. The SLC has established the UT System Multimedia Group with the following charge regarding instructional technologies:
… develop recommended guidelines for education technologies and related infrastructure supporting classroom-based teaching in new construction and renovation projects. The Multimedia Group shall undertake this project in collaboration with the UT System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction (OFPC) and deliver a draft report to the Strategic Leadership Committee. These guidelines should address:
- Principles of Best Practice for Design, Project Management, Commissioning, Maintenance and Operations classrooms supporting multimedia teaching
- Audio/Visual engineering design specifications meeting OFPC requirements
- Prototype equipment specification audio/visual and videoconference equipment with benchmark pricing for an appropriately equipped teaching facilities, e.g., large lecture hall/auditorium, classroom and conference room.

Methodology:
Working groups with representatives of all 15 UT institutions were established to develop sections of the report. The group was supported by a SharePoint site, listserv, video and telephone conferences. An interim report was circulated for feedback to senior administration at UT System. A final Smart Classrooms report will be presented at the spring 2007 meeting of the Strategic Leadership Committee.
Technology and Theory:
Learning Spaces, Diane Oblinger, Editor, an EduCause Book of education technology in teaching.