
STRATEGIC PRIORITY

5.0 Infrastructure and Support

SUB-PRIORITY

5.6

Improve the quality and inventory of research and teaching spaces

EXECUTIVE SPONSOR

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RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1.1,2.5,5.3,5.5

DESCRIPTION

The University's mission is centred on excellence in teaching and research. In order to enhance our teaching and research efforts, facilities must be developed and altered in an ongoing manner. This involves a complex interplay of multiple factors and interests that must be recognized and addressed in order to effectively manage and advance these resources priorities.

Teaching Space: Traditional teaching space is broadly the purview of the Classroom Planning Committee, with an ongoing Room Quality Index assessment process to provide a baseline of quality of teaching spaces. The incorporation of new and evolving concepts of teaching spaces is essential.

Student Learning Spaces: The physical environment has a strong influence on student learning. Outside of the formal teaching spaces, students require environments that promote reflection, discussion or group work, and provide informal gathering space where students can interact with other students and faculty.

Research Space: Research space is currently managed largely by Deans, who have the primary responsibility for the provision and management of the space. Funding is provided from a wide variety of sources, many of which are one-time in nature. Measures to better coordinate research activities and facilities are proposed in the Institutional Framework for the Support of Research which is the basis for Strategic Priority 2.5.

Standards, such as COU averages, are published for both research and teaching spaces in terms of quantity. Established quality standards are more difficult, particularly in the research area, although the Room Quality Index is useful for traditional teaching spaces.

SPECIFIC GOALS

1. Improve teaching and student learning space quality and quantity to established standards by 2018.
2. Improve research space quality and quantity to the standards established in the Institutional Framework for the Support of Research.