# Learning Spaces – Development and Use

## Developments

The development of a 400-seat high quality lecture theatre in the Edward Herbert Building has been approved. This will be created in the space currently occupied by J104 (Barrow room) and the Woodhouse room above. The current facility in J110 (Quorn) will return to use for sport. It has never quite worked as a shared facility with the layout and seating not being ideal for teaching. The seating would need replacing if we did not to undertake this project. The timescales for the work are very tight and we need to stop the work for a week due to a conference taking place in the building in early August. It is likely that the facility will not be ready for the first week or two of term and if this is the case lectures will use J110 at the start of term and then transfer to J104 when it is ready.

The development has meant that the Careers Fairs will need to move and discussions have taken place with SDC, Facilities Management and Imago to enable suitable accommodation to be found and the fair to be appropriately supported. The move to the Sir David Wallace Sports Hall will enable the autumn fair to expand to meet the demands of both students and employers.

## Central Timetabling

We have purchased a system called CMIS (pronounced see-miss) from Serco Learning and are now working in partnership with them on the implementation.

Michael Earl is the Timetabling Manager based in Facilities Management and Lokesh Bhatia is the Software Engineer based in IT Services working on the project. The project management board chaired by the sponsor Jennifer Nutkins has good representation from academic departments and support services. The board recognises that the project must move forward in a way which is consistent with reducing unnecessary administration, which simplifies processes and which results in an improved experience for both students and staff. The new system will enable the publication of timetables for staff and students in a consistent and timely way.

The aim is to enable a better use of our teaching space and for the system to help model our academic plans and their space requirements to feed into our capital development and space planning considerations.

Two departments (Aeronautical & Automotive Engineering and English & Drama) have used CMIS to enter their requirements for semester two and Mike Earl has entered in all other requests (input by departments in the normal way) to enable the allocations to be made using CMIS. This was successful with the main issue being the inconsistency between data on student numbers in LUSI and estimated numbers from departments which allowed for variation on optional modules. Mike is going to discuss this issue with PQT. Mike is now working with departments in turn to support them in using the system (following on from general training) in the context of their own requirements. All departments will enter their 2011/12 semester one requests into CMIS which will enable all administrators to see other requests and problems and clashes to be identified at an early stage. We are investigating undertaking the final room allocations after the A level results and looking at where the data will come from to provide final numbers into the CMIS system. If we can do this then we will see a significant improvements in efficiency of space use and less problems for departments whose numbers on particular modules are higher than predicted.

Options for linking personal timetables to the student Google Calendar are being investigated.

The project is going very well which is a credit to those involved including an effective partnership with the supplier.

*Anne Mumford*

*3rd February 2011.*