

Date: August 8, 2007
To: The UMBC Community
From: Arthur T. Johnson, Provost
Re: Classroom Upgrade Status Report

As we prepare to begin another academic year, I am pleased to share with the campus a summary of classroom projects that will be completed this summer and recognize those responsible for such accomplishments.

The Provost's office, through the leadership of Vice Provost Antonio Moreira and the Classroom Committee, has worked diligently the past few years to improve classroom facilities and classroom-related business operations. Beginning in the summer of 2005, we approved an initiative and funding to begin work on equipping a number of our classrooms with current technologies and to enhance overall utilization. Examples of this include the move to the Resource-25 software system for common scheduling, the move of the free hour to improve classroom utilization, the evaluation and replacement of classroom furniture, and a number of technology upgrades in classrooms to better support instruction. These efforts were the result of discussions in the Classroom Committee and the close cooperation and support from the Offices of the Registrar, Facilities Management, and Information Technology, among others. We recognize that there is certainly more to be done in future years, especially in matching instructional needs with the classroom capabilities.

Last summer, eight Sondheim Hall classrooms were upgraded concerning instructional technology equipment; the remaining thirteen Sondheim academic classrooms are being completed this summer, representing phase I of a multi-year campus plan endorsed by the Classroom Committee for upgrading our classrooms. This will make Sondheim the first of our older buildings to have fixed technology present in each general inventory classroom. Combined with improvements made prior to 2007, thirty nine of our general inventory classrooms (excluding lecture halls) have been addressed to support technology in teaching. This represents a milestone of over 60% completion of the technology upgrade of our mid- to large-size general classrooms.

Finally, in late May, construction began to complete the renovation and redesign of Lecture Hall IV, a project separate from the classroom upgrade plan described above. We look forward to its completion, as this room will offer premier technology, improved teaching area and two distinct seating styles, large lecture and mid size case study areas.

To learn more about classroom technology features, go to <http://www.umbc.edu/avservices>.

To request use of any general academic classroom, faculty should first check with their respective department scheduling coordinator or send an e-mail detailing the request to schedregoffice@umbc.edu.