



2025 / Learning Spaces Community Conversation

The Learning Spaces Team (LST) is a group of people dedicated to supporting our learning spaces and to connect the UCalgary community on learning space needs. It comprises people from Teaching and Learning, the Registrar's Office, Campus Planning and Architecture, and Information Technologies. This group formed in 2023 as one of the suggested actions within the 'What We Heard Report' from the 2023 Community Conversation on Learning Spaces.

On January 31, 2025, LST hosted the second community conversation, as part of an ongoing commitment for open dialogue on how the academic community experiences learning spaces at UCalgary. Over 55 people from academic units, student groups, teaching and learning leaders, members of the provost team, the Registrar, Campus Planning and Architecture, Information Technologies (IT) and the Taylor institute for Teaching and Learning, gathered for this 3-hour workshop.

Classroom Case-Studies

The intention of the workshop was to bring people together from units across campus to share experiences, build awareness and **give input for future planning** within our physical learning spaces. During the workshop people learned about recent **technology classroom upgrades** and newly established **classroom technology standards**, along with the recently launched **Classroom Search Tool** designed to help people visualize and locate learning spaces on the University of Calgary Main Campus. The tool offers detailed information about centrally scheduled rooms, such as available information technology and A/V equipment, furniture, and accessibility aspects to the space, including 360 degrees photographic views.

Using the tool as mechanism for information gathering, conversations focused on real-life classroom case-studies to discuss three topics:

- ⇒ **Learning in our Current Spaces:** Identify common barriers and adaptations that impact teaching and learning.
- ⇒ **Care and Respect in the Classroom:** Share expectations for classroom care and respect and collective responsibility.
- ⇒ **Immediate vs. Long-Term Investments:** Identify immediate and long-term priorities to enhance and improve our learning spaces.

Instructors, students, and leaders from academic and non-academic units gave feedback on these topics, and **some key takeaways** were identified to help inform decisions and future planning for our classroom spaces. These include:

- ⇒ **Flexibility** / Participants emphasized the want for flexible spaces that can accommodate different modes of teaching and learning.
- ⇒ **Technology Integration** / Technology integration, particularly for hybrid learning environments is important, along with adequate power outlets, stable Wi-Fi, and AV equipment were all seen as key aspects that support learning.
- ⇒ **Accessibility** / Accessibility is paramount to inclusive learning environments. Older classroom spaces have accessibility concerns, from physical access (stairs, narrow spaces) to audio-visual accessibility needs (acoustics, visibility).
- ⇒ **Environmental Factors Impact Learning** / Lighting (particularly natural light), acoustics, temperature control, and overall aesthetics can affect the learning experience.
- ⇒ **Culture of Care** / Continue to build a shared understanding of care and respect for classrooms. Learning spaces are used by many groups across campus. Consistent central communications would bolster this shared understanding.

The Learning Spaces Team connects across central supporting units, and acts as a conduit to share information, create awareness, and give advice and guidance regarding the development and management of learning spaces on campus. Community conversations about learning space needs, form an integral piece of this puzzle to make strategic community-informed decisions.

To find out more about what LST does, please visit: <https://teaching-learning.ucalgary.ca/strategic-initiatives/learning-spaces>