Presentation to:	Board of Governors
Subject:	Learning Environment Quality (LEQ)
Date:	March 12, 2012
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Purpose

To explain the original purpose of the Learning Environment Quality (LEQ) Committee and to track its evolution.

Background

To formalize the review of the quality of existing learning spaces, the LEQ Committee was established in 2003 as a support structure for the College Space and Infrastructure Committee (CSIC). Its mandate was to:

- Focus attention on and improve the quality of the physical learning environment.
- Develop learning space standards, where appropriate
- Prioritize requirements for renovations and new furnishings in classrooms and laboratories.

The LEQ Committee originally focused its efforts on issues that were having a negative impact on the quality of the learning environment. Examples of these issues included improper seating in classrooms, lack of window blinds, and the identification of specific classrooms with other space issues that may have adversely impacted learning. The LEQ Committee worked with the Registrar's Office Scheduling Department and with individual Chairs from various Schools to identify problem classrooms. The LEQ Committee ensured that CSIC was aware of any learning space issues. CSIC then allocated appropriate funding to address the LEQ-identified issues in CSIC's annual capital budget.

In 2005, the mandate of the LEQ Committee was expanded to ensure it took into consideration the evolving need for technology-enhanced learning environments within classrooms, laboratories and common study areas. The LEQ Committee led the final conversion of all appropriate classrooms to meet the new Algonquin eClassroom Standard. This standard included overhead projectors, a computer console and a screen with appropriate student sightlines.

By 2008, the LEQ Committee had fulfilled the main classroom enhancement

requirements and was meeting less frequently. CSIC decided to disband the LEQ Committee and transfer ongoing monitoring of learning environment quality to Physical Resources, as part of that department's regular duties. Over the following four years, Physical Resources canvassed Schools for learning quality issues in classrooms or labs. These identified issues were then brought forward to CSIC by a representative from Physical Resources. CSIC assumed the responsibility of dealing with the large common study area projects including the B Building corridor to the Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence (ACCE) and the Mobile Learning Centre on the first floor of C Building.

As the College moves forward with incorporating mobile learning into program delivery and identifies emerging challenges associated with the Digital College expansion, CSIC has recognized the need to re-establish the LEQ Committee. It is the intent to reconvene the LEQ Committee as the Learning Space Planning Committee (LSPC) with a revised mandate reporting to both CSIC and the College Technologies Committee (CTC). The LSPC will oversee and help plan the move to mobile classrooms, as well as look at the impact 'going mobile' will have on student study areas.

Recommendation

That the Board accept this update on Learning Environment Quality.