California State University Los Angeles
Space Needs Assessment: Teaching, Learning, and Research Spaces
Supplementary Interview Detail
Interview Summaries

This section provides overarching themes offered by representatives from each of Cal State LA’s individual colleges, the University Library, and various student services groups. General comments about the unit as a whole are followed by perspectives gathered from meetings with that unit’s stakeholders regarding the issues bearing on the types of space assessed in this study.

College of Arts and Letters

General

- Enrollment in nearly all of the College’s programs has grown in recent years.
- Knowledge of University space allocation processes is limited.
- There is a perception the organization of King Hall is especially poor, with a high degree of programmatic fragmentation and some under-utilized spaces.
- Some of the College’s departments are fragmented between buildings. For example, the English department is housed in four different buildings across campus.

Teaching Laboratory and Research Space

- In the case of Music, offices and practice rooms typically double as research space. Within the Music building, some practice rooms have been converted for part-time faculty office use in recent years.
- Most faculty artists work off campus, a combination of personal preference and lack of available on-campus studio space.

Classroom Space

- Conference-style classrooms seating roughly 10-15 students are seen as desirable.
- In terms of accommodating existing course load, the College sees its greatest difficulty in accommodating its smallest and largest courses.
- In some instances, course enrollment is being driven by capacity of available classrooms.

Faculty Offices

- Some full-time faculty share offices.
- Part-time faculty share offices with each other and with FERP faculty in some instances.

Informal Learning Space

- The College lacks project space.
- The configurations of the buildings are perceived as limiting community. This is of particular concern given Cal State LA’s role as a commuter campus.
- The Fine Arts Gallery acts as the University’s art gallery, whose programming commonly has a community focus.

College of Business and Economics

General

- The college has experienced moderate enrollment growth in recent years, which is expected to continue. The college is actively hiring additional faculty to accommodate growth.
- Coordination of room scheduling and knowledge of University space allocation practices is not well understood. In particular, there is a sense of concern that the University’s room reservation system has not changed with time.
There is a desire for more separation between graduate and undergraduate spaces, to provide an atmosphere commensurate with graduate business schools in general, and peer institutions in the region in particular.

The college’s spaces are organized in a model from the 1960s, with office spaces clustered in Simpson Tower and classrooms arranged in adjoining Salazar Hall. The college has invested over $1M to upgrade various spaces within the Simpson-Salazar complex.

The college shares Simpson Tower with the departments of Social Work and Public Health, part of Health and Human Services

Teaching Laboratory and Research Space

- Mathematics lab space is perceived as needing renovations.
- With growth in faculty, the development of new research centers is expected, some of which will be joint ventures with other colleges on campus (e.g., Finance, Sales, Behavioral Research, Operations and Logistics, Placement and Advising). Need additional space to accommodate centers.
- Innovative lab spaces needed with flexible furniture and contemporary equipment.

Classroom Space

- Classrooms in the building are centrally controlled and maintained. The college would like additional active learning classroom configurations, Bloomberg terminals, etc.
- Classrooms in the building are heavily scheduled. The intensive scheduling means that office hours cannot be held in the room after class.

Faculty Offices

- The number of full-time faculty is expected to grow significantly in the near future, necessitating the need for additional office spaces.
- Most faculty in the college share an office, owing to the way that Simpson Tower was originally constructed.
- Additional support space for faculty offices is also needed as faculty numbers increase.
- There is a need for additional hoteling and conference room spaces. Several hoteling spaces currently exist in Simpson Tower, but they are insufficient. The college has lost the use of several conference rooms in the recent past for general University use as classroom space.

Informal Learning Space

- The college lacks informal spaces to congregate, for faculty and staff as well as students. The complex also is seen as lacking meeting spaces for student groups.
- Given that the University is a commuter campus, there is a sense that the onus is on University facilities to be welcoming.

Charter College of Education

General

- Compared to other colleges at Cal State LA, the College of Education is unique in that its enrollment is primarily made up of graduate students.
- There is a perception that the quality of the building’s spaces does not befit a graduate college.
- King Hall, home of the College, houses some offices, such as the credentialing office, that also serves other colleges.
- There is a lack of clarity about who is responsible for building upgrades.
Teaching Laboratory and Research Space
- The College’s six centers and clinics serve as College research space.
- All computer labs are centrally managed by the University.
- Some research spaces only have partial walls.

Classroom Space
- Would be ideal if the College had dedicated classrooms for Education because its students are paying higher tuition than students in the other colleges.
- The Ed.D. program has a dedicated classroom.
- Would like to have more flexible classrooms.

Faculty Offices
- All offices are located in King Hall with the exception of some part-time faculty in the Library.
- Some part-time faculty share space with full-time faculty.

Informal Learning Space
- There is a desire for student lounge and study space, especially for use at night.
- King Hall has many “nooks and crannies” that could be improved upon to create informal student spaces.

College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology

General
- In terms of enrollment, the college is the fastest-growing on campus.
- The college is the only college on campus that is self-contained within a single building. All five departments are housed in the same building.

Teaching Laboratory and Research Space
- Lack of research space may be limiting the University’s ability to attract grants and faculty.

Classroom Space
- Classrooms in the building are heavily scheduled. The intensive scheduling means that office hours cannot be held in the room after class.
- Roughly 70% of college-related instruction is held in the building.
- While college representatives are interested in renovating the building’s classrooms to accommodate more active learning configurations, the rooms themselves are owned by the University.
- The College’s Student Success Center is housed in a former classroom. It is perceived as being the right size, but unattractive and in need of renovation.

Faculty Offices
- Part-time faculty have been relocated to accommodate new tenure-track faculty.
- In conjunction with planned faculty growth, there is a need for additional full-time faculty offices.
- The Dean’s office suite has an odd configuration.
Informal Learning Space

- There is insufficient student project space in the building. Many of the projects students collaborate on are space-intensive. Students have locker space in the building for storage of project-related materials.
- The building lacks informal gathering spaces for students.

Rongxiang Xu College of Health and Human Services

General

- Enrollments in all of the College’s departments have grown in recent years.
- The College occupies space in multiple buildings on campus, including Fine Arts, Salazar Tower, and the Hertzberg Davis Center. The Dean’s Office is located on the ground floor of Fine Arts.
- The college’s course scheduling is complicated by clinical placements.
- Downtown LA spaces are seen primarily as providing space for expansion, not relocation of programs currently on campus.

Teaching Laboratory and Research Space

- Student graduation rates are hampered by lack of lab time, owing to demands on existing lab spaces.
- The college has experienced the recent loss of faculty over the lack of available research space on campus.
- College faculty “get creative” by combining teaching and research in the same lab space.
- The college has identified needs for additional teaching labs devoted to Exercise Physiology, Food Science, and Nutritional Science.

Classroom Space

- The college has expressed interest in potentially utilizing off-campus spaces for instructional and clinical activities.
- There is a need for larger classroom spaces seating 75-100 students. This is spurred in part by faculty agreeing to teach larger courses in exchange for course releases.

Faculty Offices

- The lack of meeting space within the College is a concern shared by many of the college’s departments. Conference rooms in Salazar Tower (shared by Business and Economics) have been re-purposed as classroom space.
- Conference room has been converted for advising functions as well as instructional use.

Informal Learning Space

- Many departments within the college do not have a central “home.” There is a perception that college identity suffers as a result of the college’s spread-out layout.
- The Physical Education building lacks informal gathering spaces for students, and is perceived as unwelcoming.
College of Natural and Social Sciences

General
- The College occupies some of the oldest buildings on the Cal State LA campus, such as Biological Sciences, and some of the newest, including the Annenberg Integrated Sciences Complex. The College also occupies space in King Hall.

Teaching Laboratory and Research Space
- Chemistry is considered “tight” on teaching laboratory space.
- Physics offers a number of large introductory courses. Engineering enrollment is increasing, putting pressure on Physics course enrollments.
- Biology computer labs are outdated. Many students use their own computers instead of those in the labs.
- Regarding research space: “there is no room to innovate, because there is no room.”

Faculty Offices
- Office spaces across the college are seen as “pinched.”
- Faculty would like to have space to meet with students outside of class.
- Some part-time faculty are housed in college spaces, while others utilize the part-time faculty suite in the Library.
- Many Anthropology faculty have offices within lab space.

Informal Learning Space
- There is a desire to create gathering spaces for students and faculty to meet informally.
- “It is unacceptable that students have nowhere to sit” when they come to campus.

University Library

General
- There has not been an internal discussion regarding Library space needs for some time.
- The Library is self-contained in two buildings: the John F. Kennedy Library (also known as “Library North”), and the Palmer Wing (“Library South”).
- At present, the A level merits consideration for repurposing for other uses. The floor was emptied after a recent flood, and formerly held the Library’s periodicals collections. It is currently used for study space.
- The Office of Graduate Studies has been relocated to renovated space on the A Level as well, including dedicated study and group work space, as well as a number of administrative office spaces.
- The periphery of the B level has been renovated for use by Information Technology Services, including data center spaces.
- The Library administration has considered providing Library South for University use while intensifying and reorganizing Library North to suit contemporary needs.
- Library South houses a part-time faculty suite, open for use by faculty from all of the University’s colleges. This suite is the former location of the University’s Writing Center.
• Units mentioned for inclusion in a Library reconfiguration include the Office of Research, the Office of Student Disabilities, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and potentially art gallery and events programming spaces.

• In recent years a café space was added to the main floor of Library North, which has proven popular. The space it occupies was a former classroom.

Student Services and Administrative Groups

In addition to academic representatives, RA met with representatives of a number of other centers and offices. These groups, many of which are under the auspices of Academic Affairs, were included given their close functional relationships with the University’s academic enterprise, and their corresponding use of instructional and office space within the purview of this study. These groups included:

• Center for Engagement, Service and Public Good
• Center for Teaching and Learning
• Extended Education/Professional and Global Education (PaGE)
• First Year Experience
• Graduate Studies
• Honors College
• Information Technology Services
• International Programs
• Office for Students with Disabilities
• Undergraduate Studies
• University Academic Advisement Center
• University Tutorial Center
• Writing Center

General

• Student services groups are currently located in numerous buildings on campus, including a cluster of services in the Library complex.

• In many instances the layouts of the spaces occupied by student services and administrative groups have evolved in an ad hoc way in recent years.

• The exception to this is Information Technology Services, which is on the B level of the Library, and occupies newly renovated space due to a past flood. However, this is considered sub-optimal for their needs because of the subterranean location and sensitive equipment housed in their space.

• Many individual units cited a need for improved and/or additional staff meeting space, additional storage, and workspace to accommodate potential staff increases. In some units, such as Professional and Global Education, up to 10 additional staff are anticipated in the future.

• Numerous qualitative issues regarding existing work spaces were also expressed (e.g., configuration, natural light, physical condition). Greater spatial flexibility and reconfigurability was nearly universally desired.

• Among those units whose spaces are occupied by students, specific needs for space devoted to functions such as testing, counseling, and workshops were also expressed.

• The need for greater visibility of units and welcoming space configurations was also stressed by many stakeholders within these groups.

• Accessibility is seen as a common problem for many buildings on the Cal State LA campus.

• Co-locating and clustering strategies for some student services units were suggested, including potential locations (e.g., Library South).