

## STATEMENT ON LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

With learning at the heart of our enterprise, Pacific Lutheran University must insist on high standards for the physical and virtual environments in which we engage our students. These spaces should communicate to students that their learning is our highest priority and facilitate with smart design and appropriate resources our ability to pursue our mission. Well-designed and maintained environments positively affect concentration, morale, and behavior; help attract and retain both students and faculty; and are essential to activities of learning, whether this means encouraging lively, thoughtful, and inclusive verbal exchanges or conducting inquiry using specific technology in the lab, classroom, studio, rehearsal room, online, or elsewhere.

Thus, Pacific Lutheran University supports excellent and well-maintained learning spaces (including, but not limited to, classrooms, laboratories, studios, rehearsal rooms, clinical and athletic spaces, and offices) in keeping with the following statement of values:

1. Learning spaces should be comfortable, convenient, spacious, acoustically well-designed, well-lit, aesthetically pleasing, and equipped appropriately for the instruction assigned to that space.
2. Information technology should be thoughtfully deployed to give students exposure to up-to-date platforms, extend the boundaries of the classroom, facilitate communication, and make informational resources more accessible.
3. Strong initiatives regarding faculty development will empower instructors to make best use of available resources and shape the new instructional landscape as technological advancement leads to the design of imaginative learning environments that extend beyond classrooms and class times.
4. The process of continually updating our teaching spaces and instructional technology will ideally combine long term vision about optimal design with a systematic approach to improvements that includes input from the faculty utilizing those spaces, as well as rigorous adherence to a rising minimum standard for every learning space.
5. Systems for reporting and addressing problems will optimize communication and response time.
6. Dedication of funds to all of these efforts – as determined long range in the campus master plan development and in procedures for allocations over shorter terms, (such as through capital improvement and equipment budgets) – will be as transparent as possible, so the university community can cooperatively set priorities.