Recommendation for the Development of a Learning Space Master Plan
as part of the University Strategic Plan

The Classroom Advisory Subcommittee of the Senate Educational Policy Committee recommends the development of a Learning Space Master Plan (LSMP) as part of the current University Strategic Planning process. A LSMP provides a vision to guide the creation, management, and operational excellence of learning spaces that befit the University of Minnesota. Learning spaces include not only traditional general purpose classrooms, but laboratories, studios, formal and informal study spaces, field research and demonstration space as well as others. The last review of classroom space occurred in 1995, and the 2009 Campus Master Plan included limited guidance for learning spaces. A current and focused LSMP is essential if we are going to achieve our goal of being a world leader in place-based research intensive education, and it will enable us to operate with a new level of focus and planning directed at innovating and operationally maintaining extraordinary learning spaces. A LSMP would include:

- System-wide reclassification of learning spaces using a uniform inventory system to efficiently catalogue existing space and plan for future space needs
- Managing instructional spaces through standardizing policies and procedures based on best practice educational principles, using performance metrics for space utilization, and soliciting funding for space related planning and operations
- Operating instruction and study spaces for optimal learning in day-to-day instruction, safety and security, and emergency preparedness

The Classroom Advisory Subcommittee recommends supporting a collaborative advisory or consultative process in the development of the LSMP to ensure input from all stakeholders. The timing is right to align a LSMP with the current University Strategic Planning process. Development of the plan must interface with both educational leadership and capital planning. The Committee recommends a position be created under the Provost in the Center for Educational Innovation to lead the creation of the LSMP. The Office of Classroom Management supports creating the position and offers to fund 50% of new position, with the University funding the remainder to support the system-wide LSMP initiative.

The University of Minnesota is well positioned to be the premier institution of higher learning, demonstrating advanced innovations in best practice pedagogies. This cannot be accomplished without due attention to the spaces where that learning occurs. The Committee believes the time is now to direct efforts toward a universal LSMP that can guide space decisions for decades to come.

Approved by the Classroom Advisory Subcommittee, May 2014
Endorsed by the Educational Policy Committee, April 15, 2015