



“Our Finest Hour” August 19th, 2020

James Taylor received the following from Brian Leas, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, awhile back and shared it with me over the weekend:

“Good afternoon, everyone! I wanted to provide an update on CIT’s efforts to add web-conferencing capabilities to Springfield-campus classrooms this summer.

Our team finished installing and setting up all of the rooms on the attached list. Next to each room on the list, there is a column titled “System”. It corresponds to the three documents I have also attached with brief instructions on their use. [EasyIP](#) [AV Bridge](#) [Large Classroom](#)

There are a few things to note:

- In rooms with wireless microphone systems, they are the preferred method of getting speech into a web-conference. In most cases, a second mic is available, but certain limitations in its design make it less than ideal.
- The University purchased a number of head worn microphones that are to be issued to faculty teaching in rooms with wireless systems. Faculty can keep them; we do not want them back unless they are still in the original package. A number of these mics have been distributed to colleges already. We left a few spares in the lecterns in rooms that have these systems. Please let me know if you need additional mics.
- The lavalier mics that were in these rooms have been removed so the sound systems could be tuned for head worn mics. Head worn mics provide better audio quality to those wearing masks and are preferred.
- Unused audio devices were disabled in the sound settings to help ensure the appropriate devices were selected.”

I thank Brian and his team for this work. It was paid out of the \$850,000 COVID-19 funds MSU received to support teaching and learning during the pandemic. I recommend faculty work closely with department heads when scheduling rooms for the spring 2021 semester. The file attached to this “Finest Hour” shows the five additional rooms converted to Zoom this summer.

Am currently in AC and have a meeting-packed week, as we are all continuously monitoring our environment hour by hour, minute by minute.

While the shorter days are inhibiting my early morning and late evening walks into the garden, Venus and Orion are beautifully vivid in the early morning eastern sky. Sipping on coffee while star gazing from 5:00 – 6:00 AM is actually a pretty good way to start the day. The sun rise is now in my rear view mirror as I drive to campus each morning.

Keep Calm & Enjoy the Morning Sky,

David