SAIC Classroom AV Technology Solutions During the Pandemic

IRFM:Media staff are aware of a few unanticipated problems faculty are discovering while trying to teach in this time of COVID modifications throughout SAIC. We are working to identify some solutions to the problems we've heard. We want to find solutions to these problems that are sustainable and repeatable across campus and are in keeping with our Make Ready safety initiatives. We want solutions that don't add significantly to faculty prep time for class or add great operational expense to SAIC during this crisis. Following is a collection of our suggestions.

While wearing a mask and social distancing in the classroom, I find it difficult to project my voice loud enough to be heard by everyone in the class.

Our recommendation is for the concerned faculty to procure a personal amplifier to keep with them for their exclusive use. There are **many** personal amplifiers available. We tested **this** one and found it quite simple and easy to operate. Provides 10W of amplification that may be heard in usual expected campus environments. Teachers may want to acquire one for themselves; some academic departments have expressed interest in buying a few for their faculty. These should remain personal devices and wouldn't be something we'd circulate for sharing between multiple users.

From left to right: Geicy G300 Personal Amplifier (recommended for personal purchase and use); MXL AC-404 USB Microphone (available at the Media Center); AverMedia SW313 Webcam (available at the Media Center)

I'm teaching hybrid and it's difficult to teach the students present in the classroom and still maintain good sound quality for the student learning remotely at the same time.

We've purchased a handful of nice **USB Conference Microphones** that are available for checkout from the Media Center. With this boundary microphone placed on the classroom teacher's podium, the voice of someone speaking at the teacher station sounds excellent in a remote Zoom; sound from other people speaking in the classroom is acceptable and understandable. Plug the microphone into USB on the computer and choose "USB audio CODEC" as the audio input in the Zoom preferences. It's called **USB Conference Microphone MC** in our WebCheckout circulation system, so you can reserve or ask for it by name. Faculty who have students who are quarantined, but learning synchronously with the in-person students, may borrow one of these mics from the Media Center on days when needed, attach it to the presentation computer and select the boundary mic as the audio input source for the videoconference.

SAIC Classroom AV Technology Solutions During the Pandemic

We have also purchased a number of **Web Cameras** for checkout. This webcam provides a much better video image than the built-in camera on the teacher's podium iMac. Plug it into USB and select "Live Streamer Cam" as your video input in Zoom preferences. You may turn this camera around at the teacher's podium and point it in other directions if you wish to draw the attention of remote students to something other than who is in front of the podium computer. There is also a built in microphone on this camera that is a few steps better than the iMac built-in mic for sound reproduction. You may choose "Live Streamer Cam" as your audio input in Zoom as well, if you like. For Media Center reservations, the AverMedia PW313 is called **Web Camera [General Access] MC** in WebCheckout.

These items may be borrowed for the day, or for a few days up to a week at a time. You may reserve equipment for checkout from the Media Center through our **Patron Portal**. Supply is limited, reservations are essential. For more information on Media Centers visit our **website**.

I need to do instructional demonstrations but I can't get close to the students.

We strongly suggest that you pre-record your demos, if you can, and make them available to your students in Canvas. There are many kinds of cameras and production equipment available from the Media Center. Thinking ahead to the future, you may also make a **proposal** to have our Academic Media Production (AMP) team work with you to produce content for your class. This resource is, obviously, limited and requires extensive planning.

For in-class tutorials that you'd like to project live through the installed AV system in your classroom, you may use a webcam from the Media Center; or borrow a Visual Presenter. It's like a copy stand camera perfect for displaying something you're doing on the tabletop; and you can also tilt the camera up to show more vertically. In many cases with all of these camera/presenter options, you may need to enlist the aid of a student or TA to point the camera at what you need to display while you conduct the demonstration.

Elmo TT-L1 Visual Presenter (available at the Media Center)

I'm sure I'll need more help.

That's what we're here for. Call us at 9-IRFM, e-mail us at irfm@saic.edu or have your Admin unit enter a work ticket at **Facility360**. Feel free to contact us.