Summary of audience feedback

1. Concerns over whether the layout will encourage background discussion/distraction as a result of the collaborative furniture layout.

2. Suggested this collaborative approach be taken in seminar rooms and/or small teaching spaces as well as in larger traditional lecture theatres.

3. Some feedback as to whether the devices on the table were necessary, given students high level of ownership of personal devices. Suggestion of considering a bank of laptops in the building to be handed out before lectures or rely on bringing your own.

4. Suggestion that tablet devices would be preferable to laptops – could we consider the type of device?

5. If traditional lecture delivery is used, reassurance sought that the angle of the seating will not be uncomfortable, for example one hour’s didactic teaching.

6. The original design of the furniture was modified following discussion with stakeholders to address this concern. Burwell Deakins Architects have confirmed that “similar seating has been installed elsewhere (the most similar being Belfast QUB) and we have received no adverse comment about the comfort levels in the schemes designed by BDA.”

7. Support for power supply to student desks, use of the rooms for evening collaborative work and the improvement of the spaces and their environment.

8. Commitment to accessibility of the lecture theatres where possible.

9. Some concerns that academic colleagues might not adjust their teaching style and if this was the case, will the desks provide sufficient space for written/traditional note work? Burwell Deakins have confirmed that they have received no adverse comments in regard to the size of the writing surface in past installations.

10. Some schools are concerned about the recording of students using the installed student desk microphones and via the lecture capture system. It was confirmed that recording would only occur if the students actively opted into use the microphone (push-to-talk)