

2009 Student Technology Fee Proposal Form

Title of Project: Upgrade of Computers in the Language Media Center

Department/Organization: **Modern and Classical Languages**

Name(s) of Project Applicant(s)

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Amount Requested for project: **\$34,477**

Contribution by Requesting Organization:

Important note: Before completing this form, please read the Proposal Form Instructions located on the STF website:

<http://www.wvu.edu/stf/>

I. Project Abstract

Give an overview of existing environment, and summarize the items being requested. Include a brief explanation as to how the requested technology will improve student access to technological resources and/or enhance the *quality* of students' academic experiences through the use of technology and/or increase the *integration* of technology into the curriculum

BACKGROUND

The Language Media Center, located in Haggard Hall 113 and 114, provides students of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages with a variety of resources related to language study and language practice.

Haggard Hall 113 was renovated during the summer of 2007 with departmental funds to create an area for tutoring and group study, along with a student lounge, which serves as a home base for language students.

Haggard Hall 114 was renovated in 2004 through the support of a Student Technologies Fees grant. The project was proposed to create a dual-purpose, fully mediated lab, with an instructor's control podium, video projection, and 26 Gateway computer stations, for individual and full-class participation in the lesson or activity demonstrated by the instructor on the main screen. An additional station was provided for the use of the student assistant at the help desk.

The dual configuration in HH 114 serves a variety of functions. It allows instructors to demonstrate the use of online software or language-related

websites on the main screen, while students follow at their individual desktop stations. This function has become increasingly important with the growing use of subscription-based online software tied to specific textbooks used in our classes, such as the Quia online Spanish and French software used in all first-year classes, which amounts to 33 sections per year, or 990 students.

Following class or group work, students will return on a drop-in basis to continue their work, often in consultation with other students working at nearby stations, taking advantage of their access to the same programs and the use of various foreign character sets at their disposal.

Students also use the work stations for individual viewing of DVD foreign language films from our collection of some 700 titles (which includes both DVDs and VHS).

NEED

In the last two years, however, the Gateway machines have proved to be increasingly unreliable, leading typically to two or three stations being down at any one time due to burned-out fans, defective hard drives, or failed monitors. Although the machines are only four years old, Fred Robson, Supervisor of Desktop Support for ATUS, has informed us that (1) the machines were from an apparently defective lot purchased in 2004, (2) that the warranty has expired, and (3) that the vendor is no longer in business, meaning it would be difficult to obtain replacement parts in the event of important system failures.

PROPOSED UPDATE

We propose to replace the Gateway machines with 27 Dell Optiplex 755s, with the standard configuration now in use in General Labs, with core 2 Duo processor at 2.33MHz, 2 GB Ram, 16X DVD+/- RW, 80 GB Hard drive. This replacement will provide increased speed, reliability and ease of use.

This particular Dell model comes bundled with a 19" wide screen flat panel monitor with fully adjustable height. The lower profile of the wide screen format, combined with the option of lowering the monitor to desk level, gives an important advantage to students in viewing both the instructor and the main screen, as opposed to a non-adjustable square format monitor. (The layout in HH 114 requires that students at individual stations look over the tops of their monitors to see the main screen at the front of the room.)

II. Relationship to STF Objectives and Impact upon existing Academic Programs

Describe your proposed project in detail. Tell us how it will provide positive benefits to specific courses or instructional programs.

1. From a **student perspective**:
 - a. How would this project provide additional student access to technological resources?

The project would increase the speed and reliability of both online and off-line work, assure maximum availability of student stations, facilitating full student access to textbook-related and other language-specific software and language-related needs required for their studies and language practice.

NOTE: It continues to be departmental policy that all Western students, whether or not they are working on language-related tasks, will have unrestricted access to work stations in HH 114 whenever the space is not in use by groups in scheduled department activities. The room is generally available for such use some 25 hours per week. During any one of these unscheduled hours, there are typically 10-12 "outside" students making use of the computer stations, alongside language students working individually or in small groups. (In the same manner, the use of foreign-language films from the department's sizable collection is available to all Western students for on-site use.)

- b. How would this project broaden or enhance the quality of the student's academic experience through the proposed technology?

Consistent reliable access to language-specific tools will enable students to better complete their academic assignments and related tasks. The wide screen adjustable-height monitors will significantly improve the quality of student viewing of the instructor and the main screen. At the same time, the quieter operation of the Optiplex mini-tower will increase the ability of the students to follow the instructor's lecture or commentary, lower the level of background noise, and thus improve the audio quality of films being projected.

All of these features are particularly relevant when classwork, software and other media are presented in a language other than English.

- c. How would this project integrate technology into coursework?

With the increased quality and reliability of technology-based experiences in the Center, faculty will be more encouraged to incorporate these functions in their course design.

2. From a **faculty perspective**, explain how this project will enhance your ability to help students meet their educational goals.

As language instructors, we are constantly seeking ways to provide students with authentic, contextualized and quality experiences in the use of language practice material. With the increasing availability of quality online resources, such materials play a major part in enabling the assignment of relevant language activities. The requested upgrade will assure reliable and high-quality access to these activities, both for demonstration to classes and for subsequent individual practice.

An improved and more teacher-friendly lab environment will encourage faculty to explore new approaches to the teaching and learning of languages.

3. Will other departments be involved with this project? If so, please describe.
Yes.

The interdisciplinary program in East Asian Studies makes frequent use of our facilities and strongly supports the desire expressed by our Chinese and Japanese faculty to furnish both the equipment and software necessary to facilitate character processing in those languages.

The interdisciplinary program in Linguistics (currently 80 majors) uses the Center for phonetics practice.

The program in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) makes regular use of the Language Media Center, both projecting and discussing video or internet-related material, and directing students to follow up with practice and viewing on a drop-in basis.

The Intensive English program (IEP) regularly reserves the Center for the projection and discussion of online materials and films.

4. Has any part of this project previously been funded by STF?

No Yes (Please describe):

The original Gateway machines, furniture and instructor's podium were funded by STF in 2004.

III. Utilization

1. Please list the anticipated number of times and duration per each use, per quarter, that the proposed technology will be used by students.

ENROLLMENTS POTENTIALLY IMPACTING THE LANGUAGE MEDIA CENTER (2007-2008 figures)

Non-departmental programs:	112
Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics	1,453
Modern and Classical Languages	5,736
TOTAL yearly enrollments (2007-2008)	7,300 (2,400/qtr)

ESTIMATED QUARTERLY USE

Classes: 2-3/day, ave. 20 students/class	2,500 students/qtr
Drop-in students: average 10/hour*	3,500 students/qtr*
Average time used by drop-in students:	30 minutes*
Total time of drop-in use	105,00 minutes*

***These figures include both language students and other Western students seeking access to available work stations. See section II.1.a above.**

IV. Project Budget

This section of the proposal details the estimated cost of the project. Please include costs that will be covered by your department or another source, for ongoing costs such as personnel or operating expenses.

To assist you in preparing your budget, please consult with relevant campus support departments (ATUS, Purchasing, Space Administration, etc.) For more information, see this page on our website: <http://www.wvu.edu/stf/instructions.shtml>

ATUS has developed standard configurations for desktop and laptop PCs and Macs. Your project is not limited by these standards, but these figures may be helpful. Standard configurations can be found on the Student Technology Fee website: <http://www.wvu.edu/stf/instructions.shtml>

Please complete all of the following sections (attach Excel spreadsheet for any additional details).

Item	Quantity	Item Cost	Total
PC Dell GX 7555 year			
Warranty: 5 years			
Memory: 2GB			
Hard Drive: 160GB SATA 3			
Display: 19" Wide Flat Panel			
Optical: DVD +/- RW			
Firewire: Yes			
Video: 256 MB video			
NIC: 10/100/1000			
Type: Mini-tower six bays			
Price:	27	\$1,178	\$31,806
Shipping (taxable)			
Tax:	27	\$98	\$2,671
Total:			\$34,477

We recognize your proposed budget as an estimate. Final funding for successful projects will be established after through technical review; some costs will need adjusting due to price changes. The STF Committee may impose special conditions upon a project. See *Sections B.7 & B.9 of the STF Mission Statement*

<http://www.wvu.edu/cms/WWU.STF/mission.html>

1. Could this project be divided into discrete elements that could be funded separately?

No Yes Please summarize and prioritize project segments with cost estimate for each segment.

2. Are lab fees charged for any of the courses that will use this equipment?

No Yes If yes, please note: the total funding requested from the STF must reflect the amount collected from course fees for equipment replacement and/or equipment acquisition. All proposals asking for course fees will be reviewed by the Academic Budget Office.

Students in the first and second years of language instruction are charged a \$5 lab fee per course. These fees are used to defray the cost of equipment repairs, purchase or licensing of software and media material, including foreign-language films and supplies related to Center use.

V. Impact on Existing Resources

The proposal should address your project's potential impact on existing resources. Special attention should be given to impact on data transmission networks (e.g. sources accessed, networking equipment, etc.), and personnel (e.g. staffing, administrative support, faculty support, etc.).

Any proposal that includes the replacement of computers should specifically address the feasibility and cost effectiveness of upgrading the computers rather than replacing the computers.

1. Describe how existing equipment is used. Contrast this to projected use if your project was funded.

See Sections I, II, III.

2. Is similar equipment or technology available elsewhere on campus—such as the Student Technology Center, Classroom Services, Video Services, Western Libraries, a college lab? If so, please describe why the existing equipment doesn't meet the needs outlined in this proposal.

Not applicable

3. If this project involves the replacement of equipment:

a. Describe the 'before and after' configuration changes. A spreadsheet reflecting these changes can be attached.

Not applicable

b. Describe the costs and benefits of replacing vs. upgrading (if applicable).

Not applicable

4. Will this equipment be available to students outside your department?

No Yes

5. If the proposed technology will be used by students outside your department, please describe how they would gain access, how the availability of the equipment will be publicized, the hours/week when the equipment will be available, and any costs that would apply.

Access to the Language Media Center is openly available at no cost to all Western students seeking use of the equipment or media described. The Center's hours are 9-5 MWF, 12-4 Saturday and Sunday, as posted.

6. Does this project involve the check-out of equipment to students?

No Yes If yes, please discuss whether or not the Student Technology Center could be assigned this task.

6. Does the department have adequate operating funds to provide on-going maintenance and support?

No Yes Please describe.

Funds from lab fees as described in IV.2.

7. Does the department have adequate personnel funds to provide on-going staff support for this project?

No Yes Please describe.

VI. Space and Site Information

This section addresses any space alteration or site preparation necessary for the proposed project. Site alterations include painting, holes in walls, security systems, carpeting, construction, lighting changes, or conversion of a lab or office

Special Note: If this project requires any site preparation, or if this project uses any space not currently under control of the department, a draft proposal must be submitted to Space Administration by **Friday, January 11, 2008**. Space Administration and Facilities Management will conduct a site survey and respond back to you with information concerning project feasibility, cost, and schedule. This information must be included in the final project proposal.

Proposals for projects that involve any site preparation will be considered only after the required site survey by Space Administration and Facilities Management has been completed.

1. Location for installation of equipment or technology.
Haggard Hall 114

2. Is site modification required?

No Yes Please describe. (Electrical, air, painting, lighting, security, network access, etc.)

3. Will this project use space not currently assigned to your department or area?

No Yes Please describe.

VII. Project Schedule

This section describes your overall implementation schedule. Project awards will be announced by the end of spring quarter. It is anticipated that projects would be substantially completed by the end of the calendar year. If there is any site preparation involved, please align your project schedule with the schedule provided by Space Administration and Facilities Management.

Not applicable

VIII. Constraints

This section should list any external or internal factors that could affect your project schedule, project objectives, or the project budget (e.g. if external approval is required for curricular changes, or if funding must be received by a certain date).

1. Please describe any constraints to this project.
Not applicable

IX. External Funding

This section must be completed for any **projects over \$100,000**. For project budgets of this scale, the applicant should investigate opportunities for obtaining external funding for all or part of the proposed project.

1. Describe the external organization(s) able to provide funding in support of this project.
2. Describe the funding cycle for these requests (submission dates, projected award dates).
3. Indicate the amount of external funding that would be requested.
4. In cases where joint funding is requested, what will happen if the STF award is made and the external grant is not awarded?
5. Has a grant proposal already been submitted for all or part of the proposed STF project?

No