

2009 Student Technology Fee Proposal Form

Title of Project: **Communications 161 Computer Lab Upgrade**

Department/Organization: **Journalism / ATUS**

Name(s) of Project Applicant(s)

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Amount Requested for project: **\$48,271**

Contribution by Requesting Organization: **None**

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 the student academic experiences through the use of technology and/or increase the *integration* of technology into the curriculum.

The WWU Journalism Department requests STF funds to upgrade the Macintosh computers, which are the computers that are standard in the journalism profession, in the CF 161 General University Lab on the south end of campus. CF 161 is the primary General University Lab with Macs on south campus. Its G4s were replaced in December 2007 with G5s gifted from the Journalism Department. G5s were made available because the department used lab fee funds (after an unsuccessful 2007 request for STF funds) -- along with some matching funds from its college dean --to purchase new iMacs for its CF 202 lab and its CF 210 mini-lab with 7 stations. The department donated 23 G5s to ATUS for a temporary hardware fix in CF 161. A serious need to upgrade this lab exists because the current G5 computers cannot run the latest release of Final Cut video editing software, which is the most popular video software and important for new media projects. As news and information delivery methods move from print to online, Final Cut editing software is essential so that all students – not just journalism students – can tell stories and produce projects using multimedia. Also, the G5's are not adequate to run the new CS4 software from Adobe. More than 800 students in journalism classes are impacted, and many other Western students are in need of current video, audio, mapping, internet and informational graphics operating on Macintosh computers. The journalism department has helped to provide students with newer Apple hardware in CF 202 and CF 210 and now

requests STF funding to meet student and curriculum needs for the computers in CF 161.

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?

Macintosh computers are the standard in the journalism and public relations profession, and also are standard in visual design and art. Yet, Western is a campus with limited Apple computing facilities. The Journalism Department grant request would provide additional computer access by upgrading a critical south-campus lab so that it is capable of running current software. Students from many majors doing projects requiring video and sound editing for their classes (for example, a team of Freshman Interest Group students with a video project for their FIG seminar) would benefit. Journalism's new visual journalism sequence also brings intense academic need for students to have access to this platform. This upgrade will increase access to current software for students in a variety of majors. They will also have greater access to software for placing video, audio and graphics onto Web pages along with more sophisticated blogging and podcasting ability. This proposal would increase student Mac access in a General University Lab CF 161. The request would also allow uniformity of software with other department Macs and iMacs.

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

WWU graduates today must be more technologically prepared for their careers, whether those careers are in fields such as art, graphic design, public relations, communications or journalism. STF grants allow students access to new technology and more hardware. If granted, this hardware upgrade would broaden visual journalism, public relations, news/editorial and environmental studies students access to current versions of software, which can only be run on these new computers. Without STF help, these same students will wait in line for the few Mac computers that are capable of running current versions of software and will be hindered in their ability to apply theory, to work with important concepts and to produce individual or team class projects. With the help of an STF grant, the journalism department will ensure that an estimated 225 students in its sequences, along with all those others (minors, related programs, interested students) will have an opportunity to broaden their academic experience. For journalism students, the benefits derived from this project will be that students will be provided with hardware and software that will allow them to apply

applications of theory and related concepts to assignments given and projects they undertake. Quality education comes when students are steeped in learning, and STF-provided, cutting edge software that deals with journalistic applications of video and audio along with others, is central to this learning environment. Also, students from a variety of majors would benefit because there would be another facility where they could use Adobe CS 4 or Final Cut for video editing. Quality education is tied to how well students learn, and the more that current software can be integrated into the curriculum and assignments given, the more opportunities students will have to apply theory and concepts to assignments and individual and group projects. The Journalism Department believes such integration will make its students' education at Western a quality one.

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

The Journalism Department is one of the most technologically dependent departments on campus -- perhaps second only to computer science -- because journalists routinely use computers, software and other modern technology to produce content -- stories, headlines, photos, informational graphics, and, now, more and more, video and audio clips -- be it in print, over the airwaves, or on the Web (for example, examine any Web site, such as the Seattle Times, New York Times, CNN.com). With STF help, many journalism classes will be able to incorporate more assignments and projects completed on modern Macs with advanced, current software. For example, Editing, Reporting, Advanced Reporting, Public Relations - - and especially Online Journalism, Introduction to Visual Journalism and Advanced Visual Journalism -- will incorporate elements of video or audio or mapping -- and some will require blogging or podcasting. Journalism students would be ill prepared if the department did not provide the opportunity to integrate current technology into their coursework. Up-to-date hardware that is capable of running current versions of software would allow students in Online Journalism, Introduction to Visual Journalism and Advanced Visual Journalism more access to important software and broaden their academic experience.

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

Journalism is changing rapidly; it is no longer just printing ink on paper or talking into a microphone or looking into a camera. Newspapers, magazines, TV and radio all have crucial Web elements. Newspapers have Web sites with audio and video clips. Western's journalism program must keep up; it must provide students with the education and the technology that allows such education to be of quality. As noted above, last fall the Journalism Department added a Visual Journalism sequence with three technology-dependent, upper-division courses. The computers requested are needed to support the software tied to this new curriculum and will be used by students to prepare video, audio and advanced informational graphics in assignments and projects. The software will also be integrated into many existing courses (more than 3,000 student credit hours, or SCH, alone in journalism classes such as editing, online journalism, periodical

staff and newspaper staff). In brief, the Journalism Department is on the move to provide a current and quality education for its journalism graduates -- and believes an STF grant is essential in helping provide that quality education.

3. Will other departments be involved with this project? If so, please describe.
While CF 161 is a General University Lab, managed by ATUS and open to all students, the Journalism Department is particularly dependent on it for scheduling its classes and having a computing environment that supports its curriculum. In fact, the Journalism Department upgraded the lab hardware in 2007 by its gift of G5s to replace G4s. Also, students from many other departments (for example, Communications, where many students minor in journalism, especially public relations, or Computer Science's Internet Certification Program) would benefit from the project and from having such expanded Mac access on the south end of campus.

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

No Yes (Please describe): **In 2003 the original G4's (replaced last year by a gift of G5's from Journalism) were purchased with a grant from the STF.**

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.

CF 161 is a General University Classroom and is open to all students except when classes are in session. The 21 stations there (including an instructor station) are available 24 hours per day. Below is a sample of typical utilization of this lab by the Journalism Department, beginning with most recent figures for this academic year:

Fall 2008	7 classes	126 students
Winter 2009	6 classes	108 students
Spring 2009	5 classes	90 students

Fall 2007	7 classes	126 students
Winter 2008	6 classes	108 students
Spring 2008	7 classes	126 students

In addition, we anticipate that Journalism students will use this lab during open hours to complete class assignments.

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
STF Standard iMac Computers	21	\$1,700	\$35,700
Security Rebuild	21	\$30	\$630
Hitachi CPWX 625 wide aspect projector	1	\$3,400	\$3,400
Scanjet 8200 Scanner	1	\$400	\$400
HP 9050DN Duplexing Laser Printer	1	\$4,400	\$4,400
Subtotal			\$44,530
Tax			\$3,741
Total			\$48,271
Shipping (taxable)			
Tax (8.4%)			

We recognize your proposed budget as an estimate. Final funding for successful projects will be established after through technical review; some costs may need adjusting due to price changes. The STF Committee may impose special conditions may upon a project. See Sections B.7 & B.9 of the STF Mission Statement <http://www.wvu.edu/cms/WWU.STF/mission.html>

1. What funding is available from your department or other sources?
No other sources of funding are available for this equipment.
2. 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.
All parts of the project are necessary as a unit; it would not be realistic or appropriate to fund segments of this. The equipment is no longer able to support the software at adequate levels.
3. 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.

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.

The existing equipment is used for instruction and for students to complete assignments and course work. If the project is funded, the lab will continue to meet the needs of the Journalism Department's specialized software and design environments. The equipment is no longer able to support the software at adequate levels. If the project is not funded, the lab will soon be outdated for the Journalism Department's instructional needs as well as the needs of students completing coursework from other disciplines.

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.

Yes, the FI 101 lab (26 seats), the new AW 308 lab (18 seats) and Education's MH 66 lab (30 seats). But these labs are already heavily scheduled with classes.

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.

CF 161 computing lab will receive: 21 new iMac computers, a projector, a scanner and a printer. These are all needed to keep this lab current as a place where instruction can occur demonstrating the latest technologies, thereby enabling students from all disciplines to compete class work and projects using those technologies. The old computers will replace some even older computers in student use spaces or be used for replacement spares, as will the printer and scanners.

- b. Describe the costs and benefits of replacing vs. upgrading (if applicable).
These computers cannot effectively be upgraded.

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.

CF 161 is a General University Lab and as such it is available to all students when it is not scheduled for classes, and is publicized as a General University Lab.

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.

ATUS has budget resources dedicated to the on-going maintenance and support of the General University Labs.

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

No Yes Please describe,

ATUS has personnel dedicated to the on-going maintenance and support of the General University Labs.

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, November 14, 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.
CF 161

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.

The space is assigned to ATUS who are participants in this proposal.

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.

We expect to have all systems installed and functional by the start of fall quarter 2009.

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.
None expected. Lack of equipment availability is a possible constraining factor.

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.
N/A
2. Describe the funding cycle for these requests (submission dates, projected award dates).
N/A
3. Indicate the amount of external funding that would be requested.
N/A
4. In cases where joint funding is requested, what will happen if the STF award is made and the external grant is not awarded?
N/A
5. Has a grant proposal already been submitted for all or part of the proposed STF project?
No