Dear STF Committee,

I write in support of funding the STF Proposal: “WWU Maker Lab”.

The proposal, submitted by students Max Smith and Bailey Jones, describes the benefits of a “MakerSpace” made available to all Western students. MakerSpaces can provide a variety of creative design and development tools. In the proposal, Max and Bailey propose 3D printers, laser cutters and 3D scanners as three potential tools for a Western MakerSpace. They also propose that such a space be accessible to students “potentially in conjunction with the current STC facilities.”

As the manager for the STC (or Student Technology Center), I support the adoption of MakerSpace technologies into the list of services that we currently provide. In particular, we feel that 3D scanning and 3D printing are technologies that could be installed within our existing space and supported through our current services. These services would include new workshops in using 3D modeling applications. And, of course, these new workshops would be free and open to all students regardless of major.

At the STC, we believe that we can develop a sustainable support process, providing training and support to students developing 3D models similar to our current support of large-format (i.e. poster) printing.

In summary, the proposal by Max and Bailey to bring 3D modeling services to the STC is one that we support. We look forward to continuing to work with Max and Bailey as well as the STF to refine the tools and functions most desired along with the best client-support that the STC can provide.

Please contact me if you desire any further clarification.

Sincerely,

John D. Farquhar, Ph.D.
Manager, Centers for Teaching, Learning & Technology
Academic Technology & User Services
Western Washington University