

2009 Student Technology Fee Proposal Form

Title of Project: Accessible Computer Availability Information

Department/Organization: **Libraries & ATUS**

Name(s) of Project Applicant(s)

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Name **Andrea Peterson**

Phone **3894**

Amount Requested for project: **\$19,681**

Contribution by Requesting Organization: **Staff resources in implementing and developing information.**

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.

Computer labs and laptops are crucial resources for student work, and during busy times, it can be difficult for students to find open and available computers. This proposal is for software and a server to make information about open lab seats and laptops easily available to students through the web and the existing display screens on campus. The proposal also includes 2 large screen LCD touch screens which will be used to pilot a touch screen display for computer availability. This will allow students to select and find information about computer availability in different locations throughout campus. The pilot will also allow the Libraries and ATUS to experiment with making different types of information available as well. If successful and well received, additional screens may be requested in the future to be placed in other locations on campus.

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?
This project would make it easier to find technological resources by making information about resources accessible via the web and various screens on campus.
 - b. How would this project broaden or enhance the quality of the student's academic experience through the proposed technology?
Making technological resources easier to find would save time and decrease frustration for students and offer them more time to complete their research.
 - c. How would this project integrate technology into coursework?
Computers and laptops are an integral part of most coursework on campus, whether students are writing papers or utilizing complex software. This project makes access to these resources easier.
2. From a **faculty perspective**, explain how this project will enhance your ability to help students meet their educational goals.
Again, this project is about making existing resources easier to find and access.
 3. Will other departments be involved with this project? If so, please describe.
This project will benefit all departments and all students. The personnel resources will come from ATUS and the Library.
 4. Has any part of this project previously been funded by STF?
 No Yes (Please describe):

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.
Students have frequently mentioned their frustration in finding open computing resources on campus. It was mentioned in the "14 days to have your say" initiative which gathered student feedback in May, 2008 (<http://lib206.lib.wvu.edu/14days/node/30>) and was also one of the first topics discussed on Western's Community Forum this fall (<http://forum.wvu.edu/node/48>). With this software, computer availability information will be available through the web 24/7. Students interested in coming to campus late at night or early morning to use specialized software could find out availability from their home or dorm before coming to campus. The software will also be utilized heavily during peak usage times. We would anticipate heavy usage of this service, though it may be difficult to determine exact numbers particularly related to display screens. After implementation, we will be able to report usage on the web, and will do surveys related to the use of information displayed on screens throughout campus.

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
Labstats Labmap Software	1	\$1,200	\$1,200
NEC 42" touch screen monitor	2	\$5,500	\$5,500
STF standard computers to power displays	2	\$1,178	\$2,356
Server for Labstats software	1	\$3,500	\$3,500
Shipping (taxable)			
Tax (8.4%)			\$1,525
Total			\$19,681

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?
The Libraries and ATUS will provide staff resources to implement and develop this project.
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.
The software and server are necessary for any part of the project. The screens will be used to improve the type of display available when a student does not have access to a computer. The screens will also allow the Library and ATUS to test the use of touch screen technology to provide access to other types of useful information on campus, such as building

and classroom locations. The project could be funded without the display screens, which would bring the cost down to \$5,095.

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.
A local PHP script is currently used to provide some information about computer availability on campus. This information is displayed on TV monitors in Haggard Hall 1 and on the ground floor of the Communications Facility. This information is difficult to maintain and update, however, since it is a local script written by students. The purchase of software would provide greater flexibility in the display as it allows the use of locally created graphical maps. It will also be easier to use throughout campus. If this project is funded, the display will improve and will include the libraries and potentially department labs on campus as well. The touch screens will also provide a better display mechanism in at least two locations.
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.
ATUS has written a PHP script which provides access to some information related to computer availability on campus. This currently displays available ATUS labs on TV screens in locations such as the first floor of Haggard Hall. Funding this project will allow the university to expand this and make the availability of computer labs in the library and departmental labs an option as well. In addition, it will allow a greater flexibility in the display, providing a more user-friendly display for students. The large screen touch panels have the potential to offer a user-defined approach to finding information. In other words, students could select which buildings, and which labs they prefer without having to wait for the display to scroll through every option. It also has the potential to include other types of information, such as locations and directions to buildings and classrooms on campus.

3. If this project involves the replacement of equipment:
- Describe the 'before and after' configuration changes. A spreadsheet reflecting these changes can be attached.
The look of the display will be improved and two monitors will be improved as well, as described above.
 - Describe the costs and benefits of replacing vs. upgrading (if applicable).
n/a
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.
This project will provide computer availability information to any students on campus or off 24/7 through a web display, and will provide the same information on TV screens in some buildings and on the touch screens in others. The screens will be available at any time the building it is housed in is open.
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.
The server will be housed at 32nd St. and supported by Technical Services. ATUS will provide any maintenance costs on the software.
7. Does the department have adequate personnel funds to provide on-going staff support for this project?
No **Yes** Please describe,
ATUS and the Library will provide personnel resources to implement the software and experiment with the touch screens.

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.
The software will be used to create a new display on the existing screens and on the web. The location of the new screens will be informed by student feedback in Fall, 2009 and placed in 2010.
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.

Provided we receive the server and software early to mid summer, we would have the software implemented and available through the web by fall quarter. The Library and ATUS will develop the touch-screen capability during fall quarter and hope to have the screens installed for winter quarter, 2010.

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.
n/a

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?

n/a