2010 Student Technology Fee (STF) Proposal Form

Title of Project: Viking Village: improve performance and environment

Department/Organization: Viking Village Advisory Board

Name(s) of Project Applicant(s)

Name Andrea Peterson  MS 9103  Phone 3894
Name Carmen Werder  MS 9093  Phone 7329
Name Deborah Frost  MS 9195  Phone 7474
Name John Farquhar  MS 9094  Phone 6538
Name Roberta Kjesrud  MS 9124  Phone 4566
Name Jeff Purdue  MS 9103  Phone 7750
Name Sylvia Tag  MS 9103  Phone 7992
Name Megan Otis  MS 9093  Phone 2329
Name Jamin Agosti  (Student)
Name Jon Bash  (Student)
Name Whitney Dunbar  (Student)

Principal Contact person:

Name Andrea Peterson  Phone 3894

Amount Requested for Project: 10,500

Contribution by Requesting Organization:

I. Project Abstract

Viking Village is Western’s online dialogue forum, social network, and shared media gallery. It is intended to encourage dialogue and increase a sense of community on the Western Campus. In service of Western’s “engaged excellence” objective, Viking Village offers students the chance to connect classroom learning across disciplines and to life beyond the classroom. In addition, Viking Village engages students, faculty, and staff in open dialogue, allowing the campus community an opportunity to model the kind of civil discourse expected of engaged citizens. Viking Village allows students to share their experiences and knowledge with each other in an online environment 24/7.

Furthermore, since it is an environment available to all members of the campus community, it allows staff and faculty to weigh in and direct students to official resources and avenues for support when appropriate, as well as to respond directly to their questions and concerns. Viking Village has become a significant resource for students and the primary electronic means of gathering student views from across campus.

Viking Village currently runs on an enhanced workstation acting as a server. Participants have complained about the response time of the system, and the ability to grow the environment is
limited by the current hardware. This is an experimental project which was original hosted on an extra PC. Given the current level of traffic and the complexity of the environment, it should be hosted on a server class machine.

This proposal is to purchase a new server to upgrade the environment hosting Viking Village. The new server will improve response time for participants and expand the capabilities of the system. Additional disk space will allow participants to store images directly on the system, instead of requiring they be posted on a third party system, such as flickr, then linked on Viking Village.

II. Relationship to STF Objectives and Impact on 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?

      Viking Village is an online dialogue and information space, which allows students to share information with each other 24/7. The technology, in this case, provides additional access to information, a means to connect with each other and with the faculty and staff of Western, and a way to share and highlight the creative work of Western students, staff and faculty.

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

      Viking Village enhances the quality of the student’s academic experience by expanding the environment in which knowledge, especially as regards teaching and learning, can be explored. For example, before the beginning of fall quarter, a number of entering first-year students participated in Viking Village dialogue by asking questions about campus resources and processes. In this way, it provides a place to expand on the knowledge gathered in the classroom through the open exchange of ideas in a broader context. It provides a space for students, staff, and faculty to connect with each other over shared interests, questions, and issues. A new server class machine is necessary to support and grow the environment.

   c. How would this project integrate technology into coursework?

      Viking Village provides an environment with great potential for use in the curriculum in a variety of ways. For example, for the past two years, Viking Village has been integrated into Communication 322, “Civil Discourse as Interactive Learning,” a course taught by Dr. Carmen Werder, both as a way to engage in civil dialogue virtually and also to explore and study the nature of online dialogue.

      In addition, the Gallery has a great deal of potential in both highlighting and informing coursework. It currently supports the incorporation of creative writing, images, video, and audio materials. Any courses which encourage these multimedia products could utilize Viking Village as a curricular tool, and individual students or faculty members can use the Gallery as a tool to get feedback or highlight the work they are doing in a course.
The additional storage space requested in the quote for this server will allow students to store their images directly on the server as well. This increased capacity will greatly simplify the process, which currently poses a roadblock to participants who do not use flickr or one of the other third party image storage places supported by Viking Village at this time.

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

Viking Village provides an environment which allows faculty to engage students informally in dialogue outside the classroom. In providing a space for students to voice their views on learning, faculty can better understand students’ learning needs and can also respond to their shared concerns/questions. It also provides a place for faculty to voice their views on teaching and learning as well as to urge students to share exceptional work.

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

This is a cross-departmental project involving the Libraries, ATUS, University Residences, The Teaching-Learning Academy, and the Writing Center, as well as drawing on student voices from various departments and from students who have served on the Viking Village Advisory Board.

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.

During Fall Quarter, 2009, Over 2600 students, staff, and faculty logged in to participate on Viking Village. In addition, there were over 172,790 visits to the site from 67,923 Unique Visitors / IP Addresses (Google Analytics). Viking Village is heavily used throughout the quarter, and we anticipate this utilization will only increase as we improve the environment.

IV. Project Budget

This section details the estimated cost of the project. 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.wwu.edu/stf/instructions.shtml

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

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<th>Item</th>
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<th>Item Cost</th>
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3
We recognize your proposed budget as an estimate. Final funding for successful projects will be established after thorough technical review; some costs may need adjusting due to price changes. The STF Committee may impose special conditions on a project; see the STF Program Description.

1. What funding is available from your department or other sources?
   
   N/A

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.

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.

   Viking Village is currently housed on a PC class machine. If Viking Village is to continue, it needs to be upgraded to a server class machine in order to improve performance and expand the capability.

   Current specs: Dell Optiplex 755 (typical desktop PC purchased in 2008) Intel Core 2 Duo, 2.33 GHz, 2 GB RAM, Two 80 GB hard disks (mirrored) One 1-gigabit netcard
New Server: (See specs / quote attached for details) The 12 Terabytes of storage space will be utilized allow the storage of images directly on the server and to mirror the content on the server as a backup measure. The actual usable disk space will be about 5 terabytes.

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 does not meet the needs outlined in this proposal.

No. Viking Village is a unique environment on campus.

3. If this project involves the replacement of equipment:
   a. Describe the “before and after” configuration changes. A spreadsheet reflecting these changes may be attached.
   b. Describe the costs and benefits of replacing vs. upgrading (if applicable).

   As mentioned above, Viking Village is complex enough that it requires a server class machine to improve the responsiveness of the system. In addition, only a server class machine can hold the appropriate amount of storage disks to support the storage of images.

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

   No ☐ Yes ☑ If the proposed technology will be used by students outside of 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.

   Viking Village is open to participation by all students, staff, and faculty of Western Washington University. This is facilitated through the use of CAS, Western’s authentication system. Participants simply login using their current Universal ID. Viking Village is advertised on MyWWU, the library website, and a variety of other Western Websites.

5. 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 ongoing maintenance and support?

   No ☐ Yes ☑ Please describe.

   The Libraries is committed to supporting the environment with its current IT staff, and we have included a five year maintenance contract in the cost of the server in order to make sure that any issues are dealt with quickly, and to limit downtime.
7. Does the department have adequate personnel funds to provide ongoing staff support for this project?

   No ☐   Yes ☑   Please describe.

   The Library provides the current personnel for running the technical environment and managing the social interaction. The Library is committed to continuing to support the technical environment, and is looking for additional support for managing the social aspects of the environment.

   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 your department's control, you must submit a draft proposal to Space Administration by November 25, 2009. Space Administration and Facilities Management will conduct a site survey and respond back to you 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 surveys by Space Administration and Facilities Management have been completed.

1. Location for installation of equipment or technology.

   32nd St. server room

2. Is site modification required?

   No ☑   Yes ☐   If 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 Viking Village server is currently housed in the Library server room. We will be placing the new server class machine in the primary campus server room on 32nd street to maximize the safety of the data stored on the machine and to minimize downtime related to power outages that occur within the library. The Libraries will cover the annual cost utilizing this space.

   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 funding is available late Spring Quarter 2010 or early Summer Quarter 2010, we would plan on installing Viking Village on the new server before the beginning of Fall Quarter 2010. If there are delays in funding, this schedule would move to Winter Break and the new server would be in place by the beginning of Winter Quarter, 2011.

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
**PRICE QUOTATION**

**Quote Number:** 4504538-2

**December 10, 2009**

**Provided by:** kathryn hummel

**Contract:** WA - STATE OF WASHINGTON (WSCA/NASPO) (T10-MST-297)

Product availability and product discontinuation is subject to change without notice. The prices in this quotation are valid for 30 days from quote date above. Please include the quote number and contract from this quote on the corresponding purchase order.

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**Note:** For detailed warranty information, please link to “URL” for more information [www.hp.com/go/specificwarrantyinfo](http://www.hp.com/go/specificwarrantyinfo).

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**SUB TOTAL :** $9,471.00

**TOTAL PRICE :** $9,471.00

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Comments:

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