

## **STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE BACKGROUND**

On February 25, 2002, the CUNY Board of Trustees adopted unanimously a resolution containing a series of administrative initiatives to improve efficiency and productivity in the University and to enhance revenues available to the Colleges and University. Among these initiatives was the creation of a Technology Fee of \$75.00 per student per semester (\$37.50 for part time students), effective September 2002. As stated by the resolution, these revenues will be retained by the Colleges to improve computer services for their students and faculty.

## **COLLEGE PLAN**

In a memorandum to College Presidents on March 8, 2002, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein called for the Presidents to submit College plans for the use of Technology Fee revenues, pursuant to proposed guidelines to be circulated by Executive Vice Chancellor Louise Mirrer. The Chancellor stated that in order to develop the College's plan, a College committee, including a minimum of two students and two faculty members should be created to advise the President on the development of the Plan.

On March 11, 2002 Executive Vice Chancellor Mirrer sent a memorandum to College Presidents and Chief Academic Officers regarding the timetable and providing a set of guiding principles and suggestions for the College plans. These evolved from the University Task Force on Education Technology.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

In summary, the guiding principles for the technology fee plan called for a perceptible effect and demonstrable impact on students; focus upon academic use of technologies; and reflect strategic investments with sustainability and scalability. The specifically stated guiding principles in the memorandum were as follows:

- 1) The technology fee casts the students as consumers of technology provided by the college; expenditures of that revenue should be on resources and projects having a perceptible effect and demonstrable impact on students.
- 2) Technology expenditures are most needed and most likely to be felt by students in academic uses of technology. Faculty development, the purchase of software/personal computers, increased access to computer laboratories, etc. should have priority.
- 3) Requiring staffing, support, maintenance and upgrades, technology is never a short-term or one-shot investment, and so any investment in technology should be the result of strategic planning, done with an eye to sustainability and scalability.

In addition to the Guiding Principles, the Executive Vice Chancellor outlined suggestions for the creation of an effective plan. In summary, an effective plan is defined as one that should –

- build from existing resources and programs
- concentrate responsibility
- not localize or concentrate the use of technology itself
- have clear goals
- give adequate attention to support issues
- include students' input

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

In developing its recommendations, the College Committee has attempted to reflect the guiding principles and suggestions outlined in the March 11 memorandum from Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The recommendations provided in this plan are targeted ostensibly toward the academic application of technologies. Primary responsibility to ensure implementation rest with the Office of Information Technology.

### **Laboratories**

- Revenues from the Student Technology Fee are recommended for the upgrading of student computer laboratories including hardware and general, academic and Blackboard software. This will also involve increase technical support, miscellaneous hardware repairs, and a technology upgrade for the Astro-Physics Observatory. To ensure the most general access to technology, funds will be allocated toward the purchase of equipment and staff support for technology applications for students with disabilities.

### **Library**

- The Library is recognized as an essential focal point as a provider of technological use with a wide distribution and benefit to the students. Funding is recommended for enhancement of the Library electronic resources for student and faculty usage including licensing and rights for LexusNexus, Scientific Databases and Digital Journals. Computer upgrades for student access in the Library and the Digital Library Learning Center will be funded by the use of the Student Technology Fee.

### **Wireless**

- Funding is also recommended for additional technical and hardware support for the wireless network. Student usage will be increased by making available additional laptops and wireless computer network access cards through the Library loan program. This initiative builds upon innovative investment piloted by the College to increase student access to e-mail and internet connectivity.

### **System Support**

- The technology system, to be effective in service to the students and faculty for academic usage, needs to be adequately maintained and enhanced. An effective and reliable network is critical. This requires support staff, maintenance, and upgrades.

The computer technology is of very little value if it is interrupted, unstable or inconsistent. In this regard, funding is allocated for defraying the increased costs for maintenance of the campus network. To ensure adequate support for the infrastructure and growing areas of applications, funding is provided for technical support for asynchronous learning, student computer usage and maintenance of classroom equipment in the media distribution system. Staffing support will be funded to increase Web presence for student related activities.

### **Student Activities**

- Technical support and upgrades for the computer systems which service the students in the Campus Center is provided in the 2003-04 Student Technology Fee recommendations. This includes providing an independent server storage for student clubs, technical support and equipment for WSIA, tablet size printers for student publications, along with computer upgrades and peripherals for the Student Government offices. The budget includes the renovation of the Bijou Lounge and install wireless connections in the Quiet Room study lounge.

### **Effective Use of Technology**

- Recognizing that technology is only as valuable as the ability of the user to understand and apply it to their educational and academic needs, resources are recommended for the Student Information Technology Skills Initiative. It has been designed to introduce students to the use of technology and to assist students in understanding and applying this technology in the most advantageous way in their academic efforts.
- Effective and innovative use of technology in the classroom is an important part of enhancing the level of classroom instruction and enriching the student experience in learning and in use of technology. Faculty development programs are important to the success of this effort. Programs in on-line instruction are being developed and evaluated within selected disciplines and programs. The College's Center for Excellence in Learning Technologies (CELT) plays a significant role in faculty development to incorporate technology into teaching and to utilize Web-based technologies into course development and management. The resulting incorporation of technology into lesson plans, class discussions and research assignments will maximize the technological application to students. The Center will incorporate student involvement and it is anticipated that students will be employed with remuneration in the implementation of initiatives that evolve from this faculty technology development.
- The budget includes a new project, Degree Works, Degree Audit Systems for online student advisement.

### **IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES**

The implementation of these recommendations and the coordination and direction of student access to technology shall be the responsibility of the Office of Information Technology under the Vice President for Technology Systems. Assigning primary responsibility to a single entity ensures accountability, leadership and

responsiveness. They will work in a collaborative manner to ensure effective implementation.

In addition to the areas noted above, the Office of Information Technology will explore all aspects of the initiative to determine how student involvement can be maximized by their service in areas such as peer mentors, technical assistants, technology support staff, distance learning facilities, etc.