

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE REPORT JUNE 30, 2007

The Student Technology Fee was initiated by the ASG in March 1998 to enhance the computer and network technology available for students at the University of Arkansas. The services identified in the student technology fee resolution were:

1. Increased access to the campus computer network
2. Increased lab support services, including extended operating hours
3. Improvements in campus computing facilities
4. Installation of wireless network access in classrooms and other areas of campus
5. Initiation of faculty computer training to facilitate the integration of computing in class curricula and research

A committee of five students, two faculty members and two Computing Services representatives was designated as an advisory committee to oversee the expenditures of fees. The committee collaborates with University Computing Services to select projects to be supported by the fee in keeping with the ASG resolution.

At each Technology Fee Advisory Committee meeting, the status of projects is reviewed and an account of the expenditures and encumbrances is provided by Computing Services. Funds are only expended as approved by the Tech Fee Advisory Committee and the funds are not commingled with other sources of funds. Computing Services contributes personnel services to manage and implement Tech Fee projects which enables very cost effective use of Tech Fee funds.

Funds were used in the first years of the Fee to create and maintain the General Access Computer Lab in the new Student Union and in subsequent years the Mullins Library and the Gregson Hall Enhanced Learning Center. Remote network access to the campus network for student use was supported by the Tech Fee and has added great value to the UA community. Multi-Media Resource Center support for students has evolved as a means for helping students use professional and personal software products for presentations, projects, applications, etc.

During the most recent years, the Student Technology Center in the Arkansas Student Union has become a source of hardware, software and support for students and checkout services for projectors, laptop computers and digital cameras. The wireless network was engineered and installed in the AR Union, Mullins Library and in the campus green spaces where students congregate with support from the Student Technology Fee. Video services using the internet have become an increasingly important resource for communications and preparation for future academic and employment opportunities. In the past two academic years, funds were expended to create a video conference center in AR Union Room 506 and a video interview facility in the Career Development Center.

The 2007 Technology Fee Advisory Committee voted to move ahead with development of wireless network systems. Student representatives asked that available funds be expended to increase wireless services in building areas where students congregate for instruction and social activities. Investments will be made to install those wireless network services in all UA schools and colleges to provide access during the fall semester of 2007.

Upgrades and operational costs for services created by Technology Fee projects are supported by the Tech Fee in future years. In fiscal year 2006-2007, more than one-half of the funds from the Technology Fee was used for software, operation, maintenance, and supplies for the General Access Computer Labs (GACLs) that were created by the Tech Fee. GACLs provide services for the majority of student on the UA campus. All students has access to current versions of Symantec Client Security anti-virus and firewall software that is purchased by Tech Fee Funds for GACL computers as well as the students' personal computers. Training and educational services are provided by workshops and personal assistance at service points such as residence halls, General Access Computer Labs, the Student Technology Center and the Multi-Media Resource Center to effectively use resources.