

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Wireless Microphone Replacement for Moving  
Image Arts/Music Media

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Title

**Assistant Prof. Geoffrey Marschall**

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Name of Submitter  
*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

**College of Liberal Arts**

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Organization

Title: Wireless Microphone Replacement for Moving Image Arts Date: January 15, 2020  
Name (Contact Person): Geoffrey Marschall, Assistant Professor  
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Department/College/Org: English, College of Liberal Arts

**ABSTRACT (250 words or less):**

This grant proposal requests funds for ten sets of wireless microphones to replace the microphones which are currently owned by the University and due to FCC regulations will become illegal to use after July 13, 2020. These wireless microphones will provide students experience working with industry standard equipment. These will be used to teach Moving Image Arts students in our MIA 325 Sound and Story class and MIA 356 Digital Production II class and then used for their narrative and documentary film projects in other Moving Image Arts classes. The improved quality of their work will help them apply to festivals and provide them with experience they can put on their resumes when applying for jobs after graduation.

**A. Purpose of Grant**

The purpose of this grant is to replace wireless microphones which will be illegal to use after July 13, 2020. With the broadening need of wireless signals for cell phones, police bands, and other emergency services, the FCC sold the 600hz frequency to cell phone companies for development of 5G networks. Originally this frequency was used for film and TV broadcast wireless microphones. The wireless microphones the school currently uses are on these frequency ranges so can not be used legally after this summer. These are standard production tools for narrative films, documentaries, commercials, and news pieces so it is important that we train our students on this equipment and they practice with them for class assignments.

**B. Impact on Student Body**

This request supports the goal of the Moving Image Arts concentration by providing them with one of the major tools of cinematic storytelling. These microphones have become an essential part of film production because they allow the filmmaker to record dialogue and interviews while the actor or interviewee moves around freely in the filming location. It provides better audio quality than other microphones because it can be placed closer and in these situations and improves the quality of the production. Quality sound production helps student films stand out when submitting to festivals and competitions. They will have better opportunities to win grants and awards with the better sound quality from these microphones.

This equipment will increase the job opportunities for students after graduation. They will learn how to use the equipment, avoid common production problems, and position them for best recording quality. They can bring this experience to any job they apply for including film production, streaming and TV production, news broadcast, and promotional video production.

These microphones will be used immediately by these classes:

MIA 325 Sound and Story  
MIA 320 Film Development and Distribution  
MIA 352 Digital Video Production  
MIA 356 Digital Video Production II  
MIA 360 Directing the Narrative Film  
MIA 462 Documentary Production in the Arts and Entertainment  
MIA 465 Capstone  
MIA 466 Capstone

These microphones can also be connected to sound systems when we have guest speakers and presentations.

### **B. Projected Lifetime and Enhancement**

The students will receive proper training to make sure the use of this equipment doesn't put unnecessary stress on the equipment. By purchasing digital wireless systems instead of different radio frequency systems we will be avoiding further decisions from the FCC as more and more frequencies are taken over for business and emergency services.

Digital Wireless Microphone Systems            10+ years

### **C. Persons Responsible for Implementation, Installation, Maintenance**

The requested equipment will be stored in the Equipment Room, located in V.L. Wharton room #323. The faculty of Moving Image Arts, Senior Instructor Conni Castille, Assistant Professor Virgile Beddok, and Assistant Professor Geoffrey Marschall, will give permission to the students to use. Dr. Michael Gervais in the Communication Department will oversee the maintenance and student access to the equipment along with student employees.

### **D. Equipment Justification**

**-Sennheiser AVX-ME2 SET Digital Camera-Mount Wireless Omni Lavalier Microphone System with Case Kit**

This set includes an omni-directional lavalier microphone, digital wireless transmitter, digital wireless receiver, microphone clip, rechargeable battery pack, and all other necessary accessories to secure the transmitter and receiver to the actor or camera respectively. Omni-directional lavalier microphones are small microphones that clip to the actor or interviewee's clothing. While it is omni-directional to pick up sound in all directions, it is only sensitive enough to clearly record very close sounds. The lavalier microphone attaches to the digital wireless transmitter which is hidden on or near the actor or interviewee. The wireless transmitter sends the signal to the digital wireless receiver which is plugged into the camera. The rechargeable battery pack is included and this whole set works together to provide high quality audio recording. By using a digital signal, this system won't interfere with cell phone signals or emergency service broadcasts. Also as a digital signal it will form a strong pairing between the transmitter and receiver by automatically connecting on the strongest digital frequency. This

system includes a hard case to protect it during transport and use. We will buy ten of these kits. This will provide enough for in-class demonstrations. They will be used by pairs and small groups for outside of class assignments but many classes will need to use them often at the same time so this will provide enough for multiple groups.

Personnel and maintenance are already paid for as this equipment will replace current RF wireless microphones managed by Dr. Gervais and the student employees in Wharton Hall's Equipment Center.

## Budget Proposal

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**1. Equipment                    \$7,739.90**

	Price/Item	Cost
Sennheiser AVX-ME2 SET Digital Camera-Mount Wireless Omni Lavalier Microphone System with Case Kit (10 kits)	\$773.99	\$7,739.90



- 2. Software                    \$0.00**
  - 3. Supplies                    \$0.00**
  - 4. Maintenance              \$0.00**
  - 5. Personnel                   \$0.00**
  - 6. Other                        \$0.00**
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