UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

V. L. Wharton Hall 213 Classroom PC Computer Replacement

Title

Michael Gervais, Allen Latour, & Dr. Bill Davie

Name of Submitter

(Faculty or Staff Only)

Department of Communication

Organization

Title: V. L. Wharton 213 Computer Replacement   Date: 7/7/16

Name (Contact Person):   Michael Gervais

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Department/College/Org: College of Liberal Arts, Department of Communication

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The purpose of this STEP grant is to replace the outmoded PCs and computer networking in the Department of Communication's computerized teaching lab in V. L. Wharton Hall 213. The existing computers were installed in 2003 and have far-exceeded their 5-year life cycle, and the networking and routing was installed in 1998. V. L. Wharton Hall 213 is the only computer lab in the building for the Department of Communication. Currently, there is little use of the lab by instructors and students because of the age of the computers and compatibility issues with the software.

Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole

This grant aims to replace the current 19 PC computers and update/repair the computer networking in V. L. Wharton 213. In keeping with the 5-year life cycle plan for computers on campus, these PCs are in desperate need of replacement.

V. L. Wharton Hall 213 is the only computer lab in the building for the Communication Department. Due to the outdated computer technology, this classroom is under-used by faculty members and students. The small size of the lab (18 students) ideally provides a smaller teacher-to-student radio than many other computer labs and lecture classes. This should allow for increased student-to-teacher and student-to-student interaction, which tends to foster greater learning outcomes.

The PC computers in V. L. Wharton Hall 213 are currently over 13 years old, and the warranty on them expired years ago. The computers are still operating with the Windows XP platform for which Microsoft discontinued its support of maintenance in April of 2014. Without updates for software and viruses, the computers pose a risk to the security of the campus network. Due to the age of these computers, internal components are prone to failure and cost ineffective without necessary repairs or replacement of parts. When they do fail, it reduces the number of available computers for classes to utilize for instructional and testing purposes.

The computer networking also requires upgrades and repairs. The existing network connections were installed with the original cables from 1998 using an Ethernet hub at the back of the classroom. The deterioration of the cables over the years has reached a point where the current connections are no longer effective and new networking is required with updated computers for a fully functional teaching environment. Replacing these workstations and the network system will allow students and faculty to facilitate this needed computer lab within the Department of Communication.

Projected lifetime of enhancement: 5 – 6 years

Person(s) responsible for

> **Implementation:** Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.
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> **Installation:** Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.
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> **Maintenance:** Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.
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> **Operation:** The Department of Communication's faculty, staff, and their students will utilize this equipment. With updated technology, this lab will be staffed by Graduate Assistants to monitor the room during open lab hours.
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> **Training (with qualifications):** No training required.

Discuss all previous funded STEP projects: The Department of Communication received a Fall 2015 STEP grant, "Completion of SMART Classroom Technology in Burke-Hawthorne Hall (117 & 250)," by Gervais for $36,000 to upgrade to SMART technology in Burke-Hawthorne rooms 250 and 117. The

department also received a Fall 2014 grant, "Audio Instructional Lab Upgrade (Burke-Hawthorne Annex)," by Gervais and Davie for $6,280 to upgrade software and equipment for the audio production labs in the Burke-Hawthorne Audio Annex.

Budget Proposal

1.   **Equipment**   **$19,190: 19 Standard Dell Optiplex 3020 desktop PC computers**
                          $7,800: Network switch and optics
                          $6,000: Network drops
                          $2,178: Uninterruptible Power Supply
                          $1,200: Electrical costs
                          $350: Patch panel
                          $252: Neat patch cable management rack
                          $180: 2-post equipment rack

2.   **Software**   **$0**

3.   **Supplies**   **$0**

4.   **Maintenance**   **$0**

5.   **Personnel**   **$0**

6.   **Other**   **$0**

TOTAL: **$37,150**