Student Tech Fee (STF) Oversight Committee

Minutes of Meeting: September 9, 2014

Voting Members Present: Jane Cassidy, Brian Nichols, Thomas Smith, Neal Stoltzfus, Clayton Tufts, Olivia Olinde, John Woodard, Andrew David proxy for Taylor Cox, and Andrew Mahtook

Guests: Dan Layzell, Kurt Keppler, Stanley Wilder, Pam Nicolle, Elissa Plank, Kelly Blessing, Brian Antie, Megan Gallo, David O’Brien, Michael Smith, Michelle Zavala-Cardona, John Duplantis, and Brian McNamara

Materials distributed:
Minutes from March 20, 2014 Meeting
Current Financial Status Report & Unallocated Spreadsheets
Public Access Lab and Wireless Expansion Update

I. Welcome and Introduction.
The meeting was chaired and called to order by Jane Cassidy at approximately 3:00 p.m.

II. Old Business.

A. Approval of the March 20, 2014 Minutes (Jane Cassidy)
Neal Stoltzfus motioned to approve the minutes; Brian Nichols seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Public Access Lab Update (Michael Smith)
Last semester, the STF approved the closure of public access labs in 358 Union (28 computers) and 241 Middleton Library (156 computers). The remaining public access labs include 141 Middleton Library (139 computers), 1302 Patrick F. Taylor Hall (93 computers), and Business Education Complex Lobby (15 computers). ITS also continues to maintain and support several different STF funded labs and stations around campus.

The committee first discussed the closure of the computer lab in Middleton Library. Stanley Wilder, Kelly Blessing, and Elissa Plank from Middleton Library voiced feedback heard from the students on campus about the closing of the computer lab. Many students expressed displeasure toward the library for the lab closure. Stanley Wilder observed Middleton Library lab usage graphs provided by ITS, and questioned if the graphs showed usage volumes too high to justify shutting down the lab entirely. The committee informed the Middleton employees that the decision to close the lab was a well thought out, calculated decision. John Woodard talked about research from a survey led by Thomas Rodgers and the STF Committee last year. Data from the survey suggested that the lab closures would be beneficial to students across campus, because the savings could go toward improving the wireless needs on campus and space/furniture from the labs would be available for students to use with their laptops.

After discussion, the committee decided that the main goal was to better disclose to students the reasons for closing the lab and how those resources were reallocated. The committee resolved that the Student Government Association and Stanley Wilder will work together to send a message to students to explain this change, and to identify remaining public access labs as well as stations set up for printing. They will also try to alert freshmen of the Gear-to-Geaux resources available to them in the library.

C. Wireless Expansion Update (Michael Smith)
The Union and Coates Hall wireless projects have been completed. Wireless projects are underway for Middleton Library, Lockett Hall, and Campbell Auditorium with start dates set for Tureaud Hall and the Business Education Complex. ITS plans on it taking until the end of the academic year to complete the wireless project for all buildings scheduled.

D. Discipline Specific Discussion (Jane Cassidy)
Proposals will be submitted through Community Moodle. Professors are instructed to complete the required forms and submit proposals to their deans. Deans will review all proposals they receive and rank them in order of priority. Deans will then upload the proposals to Community Moodle, so that they can be reviewed by the voting STF members.

The committee plans to discuss criteria for rating projects at the next meeting. Discipline Specific proposals will be due October 15th. The committee will meet after the due date to vote on projects that will be funded. Individuals who submit proposals will be notified in December about whether or not their proposals will be funded.

III. New Business

A. Current Status Report (John Duplantis)

John Duplantis gave an overview of the current financial status. Tommy Smith contributed with background information and an explanation of the timing of the STF’s revenues and expenditures.

The STF ending balance as of June 30, 2014 was $1,031,816 including Veterinary Medicine, while the LSU Campus portion was $724,178. For 14-15 excluding Veterinary Medicine, the estimated new STF Fee Revenues are $3,955,000. The STF previously committed $4,674,741 for FY 14-15 projects. The remaining uncommitted funds for FY 14-15 are $4,437. The total uncommitted funds in Veterinary Medicine are $350,568.

IV. Next Meeting Date

The next STF Oversight Committee meeting will be scheduled on a Tuesday in early October at 3:15 p.m. in the Academic Affairs Conference Room (135-F Thomas Boyd Hall).

V. Adjourned

Tommy Smith motioned to adjourn; Brian Nichols seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:10 p.m.

Reminders: Please forward all agenda items and handouts to Jane Cassidy or John Duplantis a minimum of one week prior to the meeting.

Student Representatives: If you are unable to attend the meeting, please send an alternate representative to ensure a quorum.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Cassidy, Chairman
Minutes recorded by Brian McNamara