Departmental reports and plans

I asked each department to provide a brief statement describing their expenses for FY 99-00 and plans for next year. The following is what I have received.

Agricultural Economics

FY 2000:
The report of expenditures provided shows that the Agriculture allocation from computer fees is used in the department of Economics to support the computer lab supplies, software updates, equipment repairs, data service charges or telecom charges. Since we are budgeted in LAS as well, we have split labor cost and supply costs between the two allocation. So the lab monitor salaries are currently paid from the LAS allocation.

Plans:
The Department of Economics anticipates using the fees for FY01 in the same manner as we have during FY00.

Ag Education and Studies

FY 2000:
Outcome of Project

The purpose of this project was to replace older 486cpu non-Y2K systems in 206F Curtiss Hall with Pentium III systems containing CD-ROM, zip drives, current software, a color scanner, and laser printer. CAC funds were combined with funds from the College of AG and Departmental funds. Due to the changes in hardware prices and the combination of funds, the results were 8 Pentium III 450MhZ and 1 Pentium III 550MhZ custom-built systems with 17” monitors, CD-ROM, Sound, Zip Drives, large hard drives, a color scanner, and a networked laser printer were placed in this lab. The systems run standard CAC-supported software.

Current Status

The nine new Pentium III systems and associated software are currently located in 206F Curtiss. This lab also contains three other Pentium II systems with the same software. The system connected to the color scanner also has Photoshop. All systems contain zip drives. The lab is open 8-5 Monday - Friday since the building is locked after hours. No classes are scheduled in the lab.

Funds spent on 6/30/00 are part of the AG450 Lab update to handle GPS. These items are the makings of the workstation (AMD K7-800) that will process the GPS data. Additional items will be purchased during the next few months to complete the project.
Plans:
The majority of current funds along with the remaining grant funds will be used to enhance the GPS project at the AG450 Farm Lab as per our proposal. Any remaining departmental general funds will be used to maintain / repair / enhance systems in the 220 Lab as needed. If any general funds remain, they will be saved for the purchase of a new file server for the student labs in the next year or so.

No changes are anticipated for the 206 lab since it was new this past year.

**Ag & Biosystems Engineering**

**FY 2000:**
The $1,000 spent last year was used to partially fund the departments annual cost of licensing AutoDESK software (Including AutoCAD). AutoCAD is used in AST 281, a required course for all AST majors.

Plans:
1. Partial Funding of annual AutoDESK licensing. Same as last year. (Appx. $2000)
2. Purchase of a PC. This computer will be placed in 125E, the departmental open lab for students. It is identical to 6 other machines that have been ordered for that room. (Appx. $2500)
3. Purchase of a laser printer for 125E computer lab. (Appx. $1500)
4. We will probably use some of the funds for purchase of supplies for the computer labs, primarily paper and toner for the printers. (Appx. $2500)
5. Partial funding of Alan Kuuttilla’s salary (System Support Specialist) to cover work done in the instructional computer labs. (Appx. $1000)
6. The remainder will be held in reserve for purchase of large items for the student computer labs (i.e. servers, computers, printers).

**Agronomy**

**FY 2000:**
Last year we used the money to upgrade existing computers and added 5 new machines. The fees also helped in paying for lab monitors, to provide help to students and also provided security in the room. We also upgraded the printer in the room with a new one. In addition to that we also added a slide and flatbed scanner in the room for students to use.

Plans:
During the next year we are hoping to move the lab to a different location in the building, thereby adding more computers. With this we will have the ability to split the room in half, which will allow us to conduct classes one side while still being able to allow students to use the computers on the other.
We also hope to add a server down there so that students can access to pictures and other items, which will help them in preparing presentations for class.
Animal Ecology

FY 2000:

Expenditures in FY 2000 supported the Science II Microcomputer Facility (SCIIMF), which is a public computer lab in Science II, and computer facilities in Room 106, Science II. The SCIIMF is used mostly by undergraduates in Animal Ecology, Entomology, and Zoology and Genetics and is supported jointly by these three departments.

The SCIIMF Computer Lab is staffed by monitors who assist students. Some of the salary and benefits for these monitors were covered with student computer fees. Expenditures totaled about $2,600. This lab continues to be heavily used by our students on an open-lab basis as well as for in-lab instruction for courses required by our undergraduates. It was upgraded with funding from CAC last year and now has fast PCs and software such as ArcView, through a licensing arrangement with the campus GIS lab.

Room 106 Science II is used by graduate students in the Department of Animal Ecology. Most of the expenditures were made to upgrade the hardware. We purchased a Dell Dimension computer with a Sony monitor. We upgraded the room to fast Ethernet (100 mbps) and purchased replacement Ethernet cords. We replaced the toner cartridge for a laserjet printer and a color printer. We also paid for software leases for SAS, a statistical package. The aging laserjet printer had to be serviced a couple of times during the year.

Plans:

We plan to invest in additional new hardware for 106 Science II each year. We anticipate spending about $3,000/year to support the SCIIMF Computer Lab. Minor expenditures will be miscellaneous items, such as updated software, toner cartridge replacements, paper and equipment repair. Some funds will be held in reserve to allow for unexpected expenses.

Animal Science

FY 2000:

Student computer fees were used in support of the two student computer labs in rooms 1 and 124 Kildee. The equipment in room 1 was nearing the end of its useful life. Memory was upgraded at the beginning of the year to help extend the machine life for another year. Some minor computer and printer repairs were performed throughout the year in room 1. In May, a major grant was received from CAC to replace the computers in room 1. As part of the upgrades for the next school year, one scanner was purchased for the computer lab in room 124 Kildee and two scanners were purchased for room 1 Kildee. An Ethernet switch was purchased for room 1 to allow the new computers to connect at 100MHz rather than sharing two 10MHz lines. Thirty new headphones were purchased for the anticipated group of 30 new computers for room 1. Finally, the first two computers of the proposed 30 new computers for room 1 were purchased.
Plans:

The grant received from CAC in May 2000 to purchase 30 new computers for room 1 Kildee promised a cost share of $25,000 from our college allocated student computer fees. Although some of these expenses have been covered in the current fiscal year, most will occur in next fiscal year. We will continue to hire work-study students for laboratory security and minor support of the student computer laboratories for our evening hours. Since computers in both labs are either new or one year old this year, we do not expect much equipment repair. Most expenses will be involved in setting up the thirty new computers and related hardware in room 1 Kildee.

**Biochemistry, Biophysics & Molecular Biology**

**FY 2000:**

We used student fees to establish a new computational laboratory in support of bioinformatics and structural biology. The laboratory is located in the basement of the Molecular Biology Building. It is open to undergraduate students and graduate students, and it supports courses, which are a part of the new BCB program. The laboratory was funded from three sources: (1) LASCAC, 202-04-36, $7,250.00. (2) CAC, 202-17-10-99-0013, $28,950.00. (3) IGERT, 420-46-57, $26,355.68. In addition to the BCB laboratory, the computer laboratory on the first floor of the Molecular Biology Building continues to operate in support of the Biology Program, serving primarily undergraduates, who are in that program.

**Plans:**

At this time we do not anticipate the need for a special college grant. The funds provided to BBMB by formula allocation will be held in reserve for hardware repairs.

**Entomology**

**FY 2000 Use:**

We used student computer fees in the Department of Entomology to improve our student computing lab and our teaching laboratory. A new computer was purchased for the student computing lab as well as printing supplies.

A college grant, initiated at student request, was used to purchase a video projector for the teaching lab. In addition to being used for teaching, this lab is also used by students to give seminars and presentations using the new projector.

**Plans:**

We plan to modernize the student computing lab by purchasing a new PC and/or large screen to replace a first-generation Pentium computer, replacing a current small screen with a larger model, and bringing the software up to current standards (Office 2000).
Food Science & Human Nutrition

FY 2000:
Last year's student fees were used to maintain software licenses for programs used in classroom instruction, printing supplies (paper and printer cartridges) for the student computer lab in 2311 Food Sciences, and the Vincent connection to Durham for using SAS. Funds were being saved to purchase SAS for each of the PCs in 2311 Food Sciences to eliminate the need for the Vincent connection. In the meantime, the college has assumed responsibility for this student computer lab and has installed SAS on all but 2 of those PCs.

Plans:
This years funds will be used to maintain the software licenses for programs used in classroom instruction. The remaining funds will be used to purchase new teaching software, laptops for classroom instruction, or multimedia projectors for classroom instruction.

Forestry

FY 2000:
Student computer fees were used to add a piece of one Gateway computer to the student computations room in 227 Bessey Hall. Departmental funds were added to the student portion of the fee so that the total addition to the computations room consisted of 5 Gateway computers and two HP printers. All computers are used by both undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Forestry. We did not receive a special college grant last year.

Plans:
At this time, I anticipate that we will continue to use the student computer fee allotment to upgrade equipment in the student computations room. We have not yet evaluated our specific needs to know whether the purchase will involve additional Gateway computers, or addition of Macintosh computers to our student "Audio/Visual" room.

Horticulture

FY 2000:
Students requested additional Wintel computers for the open student computer laboratory in 156 Horticulture Hall. The departmental technology committee authorized the purchase of two HP Vectra VL8 computers for the student laboratory. The rest of the student computer fees were spent on replacing parts that were damaged by students over the course of the school year; paper and RAM upgrades for the computers were also purchased to accommodate student needs. A flatbed scanner was added to the lab for student use. Finally, the lab was upgraded to fast ethernet, and new network interface cards were purchased for the computers to enable use of this protocol.
Plans:

We received CAC funding to purchase a LCD Projector for the lab in 156 Horticulture Hall. It has been installed and is being used by faculty and students in classroom instruction. We have a number of computer monitors in the computer lab that need replacing, so part of the funding will go towards replacements. Also, we need to purchase a new printer for the lab, since one of the older printers has failed. Finally, we will continue to purchase paper and replacement parts, as well as software licenses/renewals, for the computers in the lab.

**Microbiology**

**FY 2000:**

For FY99-00 most of the student fees went towards upgrading the existing computers in the student computer lab with a newer operating system capable of running the newer software now available. The remainder of the fees went towards general upkeep of the existing machines, cleaning supplies, new mouse pads, and maintenance of the laser printer.

**Plans:**

For FY00-01 student fees would go towards buying new machines for the computer lab, replacing the older computers that can no longer be upgraded. A scanner would also be purchased for student use in the lab, along with graphics software for editing scanned images.

Funding has been awarded by the College of Agriculture for a wireless network to be implemented in the Science I building. This additional money will go to implementing that proposal which includes purchasing laptops for student use and wireless networking components. The wireless network is a solution to the lack of lab space available in Science I and would allow additional computers for student use.

**Plant Pathology**

**FY 2000:**

No expenditures recorded.

**Plans:**

**Objective:** Our goal is to provide our graduate students with access to an up-to-date computer facility in Bessey Hall for use in their research and coursework.

**Computer Facility for Plant Pathology Graduate Students (364 Bessey):** Equipment currently housed in this facility includes: two MacIntosh computers, and three Pentium computers running Windows, one laser printer, and flatbed and slide scanners. An Agfa slidemaker is connected to one of the Windows computers. All the computers have ethernet connections and are part of the departmental network. Standard software is available for molecular biology, statistics and data analysis, graphics and image processing, word processing, e-mail and internet access, etc. Our intention is to
continually upgrade the hardware and software in this facility. We will use our student computer fees to contribute towards the development and maintenance of this facility.

**Purchasing Plans:** During the current and coming years (2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003) we intend to use our student computer fee allocations towards upgrading the hardware and software in our graduate student computer facility. Our first priority is to upgrade most of the software on these computers (SAS, Microsoft Office, SigmaPlot, Photoshop, etc.). We will also plan to replace at least one Mac and one PC computer during this period. Since our allocations are rather modest, we will use other departmental funds in addition to our student computer fees to make these purchases.

**Sociology**

**FY 2000:**

The department operates a computer lab with 11 work stations. This room is heavily used for teaching. Five different classes reserve the room for direct instruction that involves the computer in analyzing data (an example would be Vern Ryan's class, Soc 310, Community). Other courses make assignments that require the use of the computers in the lab and the special programs that have been loaded on to them. To accommodate classroom and student use we have lab hours from 8:00am to 5:00pm. This requires a graduate student familiar with computers and the software to work as the lab monitor. The student computer fees from the general fund were used to pay the salary of this graduate student.

The department received a special college grant from Ag. The grant was combined with a special grant from LAS and money from the department to upgrade the lab through the purchase of ten new computer units.

**Plans:**

Based on the above specified computer lab needs we would anticipate using student computer fees toward paying the salary of the lab monitor.

**Zoology/Genetics**

**FY 2000:**

We purchased a Dell portable computer and an IoTech Datashuttle A/D data acquisition system. This system is in use by both graduate and undergraduate students. We applied to LASCAC and CAC last year to set up a portable data acquisition laboratory (4-6 systems) based on a laptop computer and portable A/D data acquisition system. Part of that proposal included purchasing one system using the AGCAC funds, which we have done. The systems that we envisioned would permit students to collect data under a variety of laboratory and field conditions which they can not currently do. Moreover, it would easily permit lecture hall demonstrations in which the students are directly involved.
**Plans:**

The proposals described above were not funded but we intend to reapply this academic year and now have a system in place as proof of concept. In addition, we are going to expand the proposals to include replacing the old 486 computers in our math laboratories (Math 181/182) with portable systems.