PROPOSAL TO THE COMPUTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SUPPORT FROM CENTRAL POOL STUDENT COMPUTER FEES

PROJECT TITLE:
Enhancing the Public Computing Lab at 206F Curtiss Hall

PROPOSING UNIT:
Agricultural Education & Studies Department

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEWING UNIT:
College of Agriculture

ADMINISTRATORS AND PROJECT PARTICIPANTS:

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David Acker, Ph.D.
Associate Dean-Academic and Global Programs
College of Agriculture

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Robert Martin, Ph.D.
Department Chair
Agriculture Education & Studies

PROJECT LEADER:

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Gaylan Scofield, Ph.D.
System Support III - AgEdS Dept
Interim Director Brenton Center
4 Curtiss Hall
ggs@iastate.edu
294-0045
PROJECT OVERVIEW AND EXPECTED BENEFIT

Agricultural Education & Studies Department (AgEdS) manages the public computing lab located at 206F Curtiss Hall. The facility provided by AgEdS is designed to address the general instructional and research computing needs of the university community. The site is used mainly by students in support of their class work.

The lab includes PCs utilizing the Windows operating system and includes software supporting several applications used by students from all academic areas. The lab contains a laser printer and scanner.

This proposal is a request to provide updated hardware to 206F Curtiss lab including new PCs utilizing the Windows operating system, black and white laser printer with duplexing, and color scanner. The current entry level P4 PCs within the lab are three years old and will need to be replaced to support increasing student demand for the latest processor and memory intensive audio/visual editing and production capabilities. The new computers will include DVD-authoring capabilities providing students with the ability to create movies and presentations. As the current systems will be out-of-warranty in July 2005, they will become more difficult and expensive to maintain. The existing black and white laser printer has become unreliable and is seven to eight years old and does not have the requisite processing power, memory, or print speeds to consistently serve users’ needs. The current flatbed scanner is not reliable nor does it support the higher scanning resolutions required by students today.

The number of potential users of the facility is large due to the general nature of the offerings provided. Data available showing informal headcounts of users within the lab indicate usage at or near lab capacity. The AgEdS Department teaches two service courses with multiple sections each semester (150-200 students) that will utilize these updates for class projects. The lab is the only available lab for students in Curtiss Hall. Students who are taking classes in the auditorium utilize the lab before and after class for assignments, email, and web browsing.

This proposal is primarily focused on upgrading and enhancing services provided in the 206F Curtiss Hall computer lab that is accessible to the entire ISU community during the hours of 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday (note building is not available to students in evening).

INNOVATIVE ENHANCEMENTS AND UPDATES

**New LCD monitors** - New LCD monitors will provide students with a greater amount of work space, reduce eye-strain, and provide a more comfortable computing experience.

**New Laser Printers** - New laser printer will allow faster printing (45 pages per minute) at higher resolution (1200dpi) preventing printing backlogs.

**New Media Formats** - The new PCs will have the ability to burn DVDs. Front-accessible USB, and audio ports will allow convenient access to enhanced multimedia features.

**Flatbed Scanner** - New flatbed scanner will be added to the lab with faster scan rates, higher
resolutions, and document feeder in support of increasing student demand for scanners to use in support of class projects.

**UNIVERSITY FACILITIES REQUIRED**

The lab located at 206F Curtiss (see Figure 1) is equipped with required facilities including power and network connectivity (100Mbps).

**SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE**

The public computing lab at 206F Curtiss is managed by the Agricultural Education & Studies Department. Direct support for the computer facilities and services are available from the departmental System Support Staff.

Expenses for printing supplies, network connections, furniture, insurance, and one-on-one student consulting assistance are all supported by the Agricultural Education & Studies Department.
### BUDGET

**Table 1: Full Itemized Budget (Entire Project Cost)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Central Pool</th>
<th>AgEdS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardware</strong></td>
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<td>Dell OptiPlex GX270, 17&quot; LCD</td>
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Figure 1: 206F Curtiss Hall Floor Plan
Support statements from students

I would like to extend my support for the update of the computer lab in 206 Curtiss. As a junior at Iowa State this lab has been a big help to me throughout my undergraduate years. The upgrades to these computers would be extremely helpful to students within the Department and the college of agriculture.

Dana Marshall
Junior -- Agricultural Communications / International Agriculture

I support the computer rearranging.

Tina Lewis
Iowa State University
Block and Bridle Spring Barrow Show Co-Chair

"The computer lab in 206 Curtiss is very useful for students who "live" on campus during the day. I, being one of them, use the computer lab frequently. However, I currently have to use other campus labs to supplement what the 206 Curtiss computers will not allow me to do. For these reasons, I am in strong favor of updating the student computer lab in 206 Curtiss."

Denise Whittle
Undergraduate Junior
Agricultural Education

I think it is a great idea and I support it.

Nathan Underwood

I strongly support the upgrade of the computer lab in 206 Curtiss. It is a great resource for many different students in the College of Agriculture, especially the Agricultural Education department. With a new upgrade, the lab would be that much more helpful in the learning experience of us students. It is a great idea.

Michael Cooley

This upgrade in the computer lab will only make Curtiss and the Ageds Dept stronger!

Rusty Gibbs

I would love a new updated computer lab in Curtiss. I have most of my classes in Curtiss or in the area and it would be nice to be able to go there during the day. Updated technologies are needed in that lab for it to be used to it's full potential.

-Val Krumm

I am in support of updating the technology in Curtiss 206. This lab has been very useful for me for my years at Iowa State and by updating the equipment it will remain useful for students and allow more options with the new software.
and capabilities.
Jamie Christiansen

I feel this is an excellent idea. It will be very helpful for students. I support this upgrade of computers and software.
Kristin Brown
Horticulture & Ag Ed

I would love to see some new computers in the 206 Lab. As it is the old computers do not have all of the capabilities of newer ones and replacing them would make the lab much more usable to all of the students. Sounds like an awesome thing to do.
Rachel Hecht

That sounds good to me. Have a nice day.
Tina Ketelsen

I definitly support this request! It sounds like a great idea and would be very beneficial to all students!
Thanks, Amy Burmeister

I think this is a great idea.
Casey Onstot

I support it.
Jonathon Myer

I support this request
Stephanie Hogan

I support the new computer lab. It will be very useful to students!
Tara Gilbert

Dr. Scofield,
I'd just like to say that it would be a great idea to upgrade the Curtiss computer lab. I started at Iowa State in Ag Engineering, and the computer in the Davidson lab were a great resource, as new ones in Curtiss would be also.
Daniel Whitaker

Yes, I support this update to the computer lab.
Landi McFarland

Sounds like a great idea and an excellent improvement for this computer lab and the students. I can't wait to see the addition. Thanks.
Kiel Fritz

I think this is a great idea and will be very convenient for students in the department and service courses. There are always projects that we need this type of software and you have to go to a special lab to use those programs. I think this will be a great benefit to students.

Thanks,
Monica Anne Ehrhardt