Student Technology Fee  
Findings and Definitions

Findings: Equipment Use

1. Use of Equipment Funded by the Student Technology Fee

1.1. Technology Fee Intent.

The Student Technology Fee Committee recognizes and supports the original intent of the technology fee, which was to supplement rather than a replace state funding of educational technology.

2. Definitions of Criteria

2.1. Determining Criteria.

The following criteria are used in determining the degree to which technology is instructional in nature:

1. Whether and to what degree technology is available outside of scheduled class time.
2. Whether the technology will be located or used in an area that is primarily instructional.
3. The degree to which the equipment is inherently suited only for instruction.
4. Whether there are classes that are dependent on this equipment.

2.1. Time Criteria.

The time component is very influential in determining the instructional nature of proposed equipment. If a technology will be employed chiefly during scheduled classes, regardless of where those classes are held, it is considered instructional and is not within the funding purview of the STF. By chiefly we mean more than 50% of the time the equipment is available and accessible for student use. For example, a desktop computer, if available only during class time, would not supplement the classroom experience and would not be funded.

2.2. Accessibility Criteria.

If technologies are not accessible by students because they are located within rooms used primarily for instruction or administration, they would not be funded by the STF. More info on accessibility can be found in the STF Accessibility Findings document.

3. Findings.

3.1. The Student Technology Fee Committee feels that the appropriate use of these student-controlled funds is primarily for non-instructional technology. The STFC favors requests for technology that enhances the academic experience of students and that is easily accessible by students and that may be used in the ways students find most appropriate.

3.2. The Student Technology Fee Committee places a priority on funding initiatives that provide for technology that supplements the classroom experience rather than technology intended to be used mainly for administration or instruction, the latter purposes being more appropriately provided by traditional state funding.
4. Policy

4.1. Some technologies are inherently instructional by design. An overhead projector, even if accessible outside of class hours and in locations other than a classroom, is not well suited to non-instructional use. The STFC will not fund such equipment unless the proposal clearly shows that students will use the equipment primarily for non-instructional tasks.

4.2. The STF Committee recognizes that there may be occasions when generally non-instructional technology will be used for instruction. In such cases, those proposals that clearly demonstrate the most student control over the time, place, and manner of use will be given priority over those that are of mixed use or that do not indicate the degree of student control.