GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Proposal for the Use of FY2004 Technology Fees

Submitting Organization: Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

Contact Person: Jeff Pruett
E-Mail: jpruett@gsu.edu
Telephone: 404-653-9686

1. Project Short Title:

   GLA Funding for AYSPS Labs

2. Total Requested:

   Fiscal Year 2004
   
   $38,000

3. a.) Executive Summary:

   Project Description (three or four sentences)

   GLA funding for:
   1. PAUS Open Access Lab
   2. Econometrics Lab
   3. IEM Lab

   b.) Project Description

   The departments of Economics and PAUS provide 3 labs for student learning. The GLA’s main
   tasks include supervision of the lab, assistance to students with use of specialized computer
   software and instructional applications, and maintenance of program manuals, both in hard copies
   and on the web.

   Last year AYSPS was awarded $38,000 for GLA lab support (Proposal $2.5.1).

4. Record the review numbers assigned by UCCS and Facilities. Their assessments
must be included in Sections 15 and 16. N/A

5. Relevance to Regents Guidelines

Our proposal is consistent with the Regent's guidelines as the student learning areas are for student use,
enhancing the educational experience of students and giving instructors additional freedom to experiment
with new technologies. The labs are an essential component of our instructional programs, allowing
students to study together and engage in hands-on training with real-world applications.

The lab has a large group of discipline-specific software, including econometrics packages, technical word processors and programs for numerical and symbolic computation. This is consistent with Regents Guideline, henceforth RG, #2. Pursuant to RG #1, students will have access to primary productive tools and resources of the University. Students are also trained in the use of specialized programs, such as GAUSS, LIMDEP and Scientific Workplace, and other computing and networking resources. GLAs provide needed expertise to students on both the intricacies of the specialized software being used, and on the instructional applications learned during the hands-on experience with the software. These are largely consistent with RG #4 and #6

6. Relevance to Strategic Plan(s)

AYSPS’ focus in combining solid research with practical policy education requires a unique computing environment. Our instructional methods emphasize real-world applications and data analysis that have policy relevance. GLAs fill an important role in the instructional process. Students see examples of advanced computation and learn about research in class, they read step-by-step procedures in books, and then they practice these steps in the lab. It is in this lab during hands-on experience, that many student questions arise. It is important to have an expert in the software being used, and in the general lessons being taught, who is available for questions. It is also important that the hardware and software used in the lab works properly, so that the opportunity for learning is not wasted. On-site assistance is an enabler for students who are reluctant to try new technology.

7. Impact on Students Served

The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies labs are used by students in a wide variety of courses and programs.

The applied economics and econometrics courses constitute the majority of economics course offerings at the undergraduate (second through fourth year), masters, and Ph.D. level. All B.S.U.P.S., M.P.A., M.S.U.P.S., and Ph.D. in Policy students have two-semester required sequences in research design, statistics, and/or econometrics. The undergraduate and master’s students need frequent access to SPSS, and the doctoral students need ready access to Stata. As Stata is not available through the university computer labs, the research methods lab provides a space for tutorials and specialized introductory sessions on the software doctoral students need for their methods classes.

The statistics and econometrics courses are ECON 4950 Econometrics and Applications, ECON 8740 Statistical Foundation of Econometrics, ECON 8750 Econometrics, ECON 8760 Advanced Econometrics, and ECON 8770 Topics in Econometrics. Students in policy-oriented courses analyze real world data using specialized econometrics software packages. Our applied and policy courses range from undergraduate to advanced graduate level including economics courses in labor, public, urban, international finance, environment & resource, health, applied macro, monetary, and development policy. In addition, computer hardware and software are important for students working on their senior projects, M.A. Theses, and Ph.D. Dissertations. Our senior level students are involved in empirical research using large data sets. This requires powerful computers as well as suitable computing software and environment.

A number of undergraduate and graduate students from other departments and colleges take AYSPS econometrics and applied courses. A large number of students from RCB, particularly from departments of Accounting, Risk Management & Insurance, and Finance, take these courses. Moreover, graduate students from Georgia Tech and Clark Atlanta take AYSPS econometrics and related courses on a regular basis.

8. Justification of Funding Requirements for Fiscal Year 2004
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object of Expense</th>
<th>Itemized Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>$ Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GLA Support Economics Labs</td>
<td>GLA II (20 Hours) 3 Semesters</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLA Support PAUS Lab</td>
<td>GLA II (20 Hours) 3 Semesters</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Consequences of Partial Funding

Partial funding would reduce the hours in which the lab would be staffed. Students would have less opportunity to do hands-on learning in the lab with GLA assistance for computer software questions and instructional application questions.

*Only 75% funded:* The project would remain viable.

*50% funded:* The project would still remain viable.

10. Standard Dollar Amounts

N/A

11. Standard Replacement Thresholds

N/A

12. Prerequisite, Non-Technology Fee Funding

N/A

13. Matching Funds

N/A

14. Staffing and Other Support Availability

Hardware support will be provided by the college's PC support staff.

15. Space Availability and Impact on Facilities

N/A


N/A

17. Post-Project Assessment Criteria

N/A

18. Review and Acknowledgements