FY 2007 Technology Fee Proposal

Submitting Organization:
Major Unit: Robinson College of Business
Department: Economic Forecasting Center

Contact Person: Kristin W. Diver
E-Mail: kwdiver@gsu.edu
Telephone: 404-651-3288

1. Project Short Title

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5-8 Word Project Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Economic Reports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Total Requested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$30,532.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Executive Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description (three or four sentences)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Every year, roughly 400 graduate business students receive the Center’s quarterly economic reports the Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta and the Forecast of the Nation free-of-charge (usually sold to the public for a combined total of $250). These reports offer timely economic analysis, have won several awards for their accuracy and are a must for serious business students who want to better understand business economics. To provide this service to GSU’s students, the Economic Forecasting Center requires software and data to analyze economic information and produce these reports.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Project Description

Every year, roughly 400 graduate business students are given the opportunity to increase their business economic knowledge by using one of the most well-respected reports on the U.S. and Georgia economy: the Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta and the Forecast of the Nation, produced quarterly by the Economic Forecasting Center. In today’s fast-paced, competitive business environment, it is important for Georgia State students to receive the most accurate, up-to-date information to help them compete in an increasingly global environment. For example, the Forecast of the Nation was just recognized by Bloomberg for having the most accurate GDP so it is an incredible opportunity for GSU’s own students to receive a report like this free-of-charge that is recognized by such an elite and national business service.
Because of the cost, labor and time-consuming nature related to gathering and analyzing the latest economic data, the Economic Forecasting Center charges $150 per issue for the *Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta* and $100 per issue for the *Forecast of the Nation*. However, all Georgia State University students receive this report *free-of-charge*. Most GSU students collect these reports while attending the Center’s quarterly conferences, although many also stop by the Center’s office to collect a complimentary copy to use specifically for class project.

To produce the *Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta* and the *Forecast of the Nation*, reports, the Economic Forecasting Center must analyze hundreds of economic indicators. It is therefore critical for the Center to gather the latest and most accurate national, regional and local data, as well as use the industry standard in forecasting software. The forecast firm GLOBALINSIGHT provides both the technology to directly download the latest data and the software to analyze it. The purchase of the Aremos forecast software and macro data service is essential if the Center is to continue to produce reports for the university’s graduate business students as well as the local and national business community.

5. Record the review numbers assigned by IS&T and Facilities. Their assessments must be included in Sections 16 and 17.

| IS&T: IST07-022 |
| Facilities: 14034-06 |

6. Relevance to Regents Guidelines

[1] Technology fee revenues should be used primarily for the direct benefit of students to assist them in meeting the educational objectives of their academic programs.

By reading the forecast reports, students fulfill their economic research needs and obtain a better understanding of the economy in general. This knowledge not only assists the students in their coursework, but gives them the tools to be better prepared when entering today’s global competitive business world.

[2] Technology fee revenues should be used to assure that there are sufficient campus licenses for primary productivity tools such as those found in the Microsoft Office product suites for discipline specific software.

The forecast reports that the students use require an Aremos software license to run the appropriate forecast models and collect economic data.

[4] Technology fee revenues may be used for training of students and, to a lesser extent, staff and faculty.

The Center’s Graduate Research Assistants are trained to run the analysis and collect data by using the Aremos software. Over the last four years, 18 graduate business students have been fully trained to extract macro data, write economic analysis reports and assist in producing the forecast. These students have used these skills to further their employment opportunities after graduation.
7. Relevance to Strategic Plan(s)

The Economic Forecasting Center provides an analysis of the economy to a local, regional and national audience, as well as students and faculty. A clear understanding of the economy is crucial for our graduate students to increase their chances of employment in today’s competitive and increasingly global job market. By using free-of-charge the Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta and the Forecast of the Nation, graduate students will be better prepared to understand the importance of economics in the global business environment and how it intricately affect their business decisions. The purchase of the Aremos software license and data service will ensure that the production of these reports continues. It is the goal of the university and the college to produce the most capable, competent and intelligent students and providing resources such as the Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta and the Forecast of the Nation helps accomplish this goal.

8. Impact on Students Served

Every year, roughly 400 graduate business students are given the opportunity to increase their business economic knowledge by using one of the most well-respected reports on the U.S. and Georgia economy: the Forecast of Georgia and Atlanta and the Forecast of the Nation, both produced quarterly by the Economic Forecasting Center.

Additionally, the Center’s GRA’s have gained a considerable advantage by learning how to use the software. Over the last three years, 18 graduate business students have been fully trained to use the software, extract macro data, write economic analysis reports and assist in producing the forecast.

There is no special impact on the Center’s facility.
9. Justification of Funding Requirements for Fiscal Year 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object of Expense</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Per Unit Price</th>
<th>Extended Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Software</td>
<td>GLOBALINSIGHT Aremos Software</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$4,140.00</td>
<td>$4,140.00</td>
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<td>Maintenance or Contractual Services</td>
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<td></td>
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**Total:** $30,532.50

10. Consequences of Partial Funding

**Only 75% funded:**

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**Total:** $22,899.38

**Only 50% funded:**

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**Total:** $15,266.25

11. Standard Dollar Amounts

**NOT APPLICABLE**

12. Standard Replacement Thresholds

**NOT APPLICABLE – NO EQUIPMENT IS BEING REQUESTED**

13. Prerequisite, Non-Technology Fee Funding

**NOT APPLICABLE**
14. Matching Funds

After FY07, the Center expects to pay for the Aremos software licenses and data service through its Foundation Account.

15. Staffing and Other Support Availability

The Center’s staff will run the Aremos Program. No additional staff is necessary.

16. Space Availability and Impact on Facilities

This project does not impact facilities.


Information Security Review (Tammy Clark):
Impact: No
Assessment:

Wireless and Network Ports Review (Mark Roberson):
Impact: No
Assessment:

Server Connections (Charles Hollingsworth, Tammy Clark, Keith Campbell):
Impact: No (KC) (TC) (NO-CH)
Assessment:

External Connections (Charles Hollingsworth):
Impact: NO (NO-CH)
Assessment:

DVR Installations (Mark Roberson, Tammy Clark, Charles Hollingsworth):
Impact: No (mr) (TC) (NO-CH)
Assessment:

Lab and Classroom Configurations (Joe Amador/Julian Allen (MAC)):
Impact: Yes/No (YES – JA)
Assessment: if software is to be downloaded and used on UETS open access computer lab workstation, then coordinate with Robert Musick (1-4538) for installation policies/procedures/request otherwise no impact if NOT installed in lab/classroom computers.

18. Physical Security Needs

NOT APPLICABLE

19. Post-Project Assessment Criteria
In receiving the forecast reports free-of-charge, Robinson graduate business student benefit tremendously by increasing their understanding of the economy. The analysis in the reports helps students in their classes and has the additional benefit of enhancing their performance in their current or future jobs. The Center will consider the funds from the FY07 Tech Grant a success if some of these students return to purchase the forecast reports after graduation.

20. Review and Acknowledgements

Attach electronic notes or documentation showing that the following units or administrators have reviewed or acknowledged this proposal:

- Matching funds commitment from appropriate fiscal officer

N/A