

FY 2008 Technology Fee Proposal

Submitting Organization:

Major Unit: Robinson College of Business
Department: Risk Management and Insurance

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1. Project Short Title

<i>5-8 Word Project Title</i>

<u>Expanding Student Access to Financial Data for Risk and Firm Analysis</u>
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2. Total Requested

Fiscal Year 2008

\$36,180

3. Executive Summary

Project Description (three or four sentences)
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The purpose of this project is to enhance student learning at both the undergraduate and graduate levels by providing access to real-time and historical financial data and other information on securities, other investments, and firms (insurance, financial and non-financial). These information sources will allow students to both apply and test financial models using “real world” data, as well as other assignments and research. Access to the online services and databases specified in this proposal will accomplish this goal.

4. Project Description

The Robinson College of Business has sought to teach models and concepts that can be immediately adapted for use in the “real world” as well as be on the cutting edge of business education and research. Our Department has sought these same objectives as we have successfully strengthened and revamped our academic programs in quantitative risk analysis, risk management and insurance, actuarial science and financial planning. A significant element of these programs is the analysis of real-time and historical financial data and other information on securities, other investments, and firms (insurance, financial and non-financial). This project will allow our students to efficiently access, download and analyze these data and information associated with their financial modeling, course exercises and research. This will significantly aid our students in acquiring the knowledge and skills required for success in their career paths and further enhance the performance and attractiveness of our academic programs. Other departments in the College also will be able to take advantage of these resources to augment their programs.

The specific items in our project include the following:

Bloomberg Terminal: Specialized computer terminal with direct line access to real-time and historical data on publicly-traded securities, transactions, news & research, and analytical programs.

SNL Financial Database Subscription: Corporate, financial, market and merger-acquisition data, news and analysis for insurance, banking/financial services, and other key industries.

Insurance Financial Database: Extensive, detailed financial data on insurance companies (not available from public sources) that covers all aspects of their financial condition, operations, investments, transactions & performance.

A.M. Best Insurance Information Resources: On-line and CD-Rom resources containing analytical reports and financial ratings/profiles of insurance companies and industry trends and performance.

We should note that as students now have ready use of computer equipment, their most pressing need is access to detailed data/information compiled and maintained by proprietary data/information providers that must charge fees to fund the costs of providing these services.

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

IS&T: <u>IST08-087</u>
Facilities: <u>14676-07</u>

- 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. At this point in the evolution of collegiate academic technologies, access is important: access to productivity tools, discipline specific software packages, computers and printers, internal and external databases, introductory and advanced training, and access to networks (from home or from campus). Therefore, high priorities should be given to the use of technology fees for these purposes.

- 7. Relevance to Strategic Plan(s)

Our proposed project relates directly to several elements of both the College and the Department strategic plans. The College strategic plan states its dedication to “leading edge education ...in a practice-rich environment” and its optimal use of technology as one of the strategies to achieve this objective. The Department’s vision is to become the “world’s leader in risk management scholarship and education.” We have made substantial progress in achieving this vision in terms of building our faculty and revamping our academic programs to be on the cutting edge of risk management and insurance, quantitative risk analysis, actuarial science, and financial planning. Analysis of financial data and other information on firms using state-of-the-art methods and tools is an essential element of the utility and attractiveness of our academic programs. The proposed project will help us fill a significant gap in the resources available to our students and optimize all aspects of their learning experience.

- 8. Impact on Students Served

We have experienced significant growth in our revamped programs and also have attracted students from other disciplines to certain courses we offer. As a result of the changes we have implemented, the 358 students who currently have declared themselves to be majors of at least one program offered by the Department represent a 22 percent increase relative to appropriate measures three years ago. In addition to courses for our own majors, the Department teaches more than 15 sections of 2 popular survey elective courses per year in the undergraduate program that students from around the College and University take.

We anticipate that most if not all of our Department majors, as well as other students taking upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses, would utilize the resources encompassed by this project. Students in our

quantitative analysis programs/courses and doctoral program would make especially heavy use of these resources. Access to many of these resources would be via the Internet while others would be provided through dedicated computer terminals in our Department student labs and other resources from students' on-campus and off-campus terminals.

In addition to students from the Risk Management and Insurance Department, students in other majors are likely to find these new resources attractive – particularly those in the Departments of Finance, Real Estate, and Economics. Thus, the potential to have an impact on a wide range of students is significant.

9. Justification of Funding Requirements for Fiscal Year 2008

Provide a specific description of the funding requirements for FY 2008 in the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet below. You must use the same terminology as in the Project Description (page 2, #4) to allow each itemized line to be traced back to the items and functionality appearing in the Project Description. Failure to do so will negatively affect consideration of your proposal. Itemize and total the following categories of expense. If necessary, add lines to the table below corresponding to accounting objects of expense. **Please note that any equipment items less than \$4,999 should be categorized as “supplies.”**

Object of Expense	Itemized Descriptions	Quantity	Per unit price	Extended Total
Supplies (Note: PCs under \$5,000 go here. Also, use standard dollar amounts and replacement thresholds from sections 11/12, or provide explanation in sections 11/12.)	Item 1 A.M. Best Key Rating Guide (CD-Rom)	1	\$360.00	\$4,380.00
	Item 2 A.M. Best Aggregates & Averages Property Casualty Insurance (On-line)	1	\$715.00	
	Item 3 A.M. Best Aggregates & Averages Life-Health Insurance (On-line)	1	\$715.00	
	Item 4 A.M. Best's Insurance Reports Property-Casualty (On-Line, CD-Rom)	1	\$1,295.00	
	Item 5 Best's Insurance Reports Life-Health (On-Line, CD-Rom)	1	\$1,295.00	
	Item 6			
	Item 7			
Equipment	Item 1 Bloomberg Terminal	1	\$22,800.00	\$22,800.00
	Item 2, etc			
Software (Note: Include Vendor and Product Name.)	Item 1 SNL Financial - SNL Unlimited	1	\$6,000.00	\$9,000.00
	Item 2 NAIC Insurance Financial Data	1	\$3,000.00	
	Item 3, etc			
Maintenance or Contractual Services	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
Board of Regents Guidelines state "In almost no cases should technology fee revenues be used for ... space renovation, or other items or activities that do not have a direct and immediate impact upon students instructional objectives." (See Attachment 1, #8)				
Construction Services (Requires review of Planning & Facilities)	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2			
	Item 3, etc			
Network Connections and Infrastructure Costs (Requires review of UCCS)	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2			
	Item 3			
	Item 4, etc			
Physical Security (Note: Costs normally should not exceed 2.5% of Total Requested.)	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2			
	Item 3			
	Item 4, etc			
Other Expenses (explain)	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
Board of Regents Guidelines state "Technology fee revenues may be used - with caution - for new staffing that is either temporary or ongoing." (See Attachment 1, #6)				
Staff Salaries	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
Fringe Benefits	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
		Hours/wk	Hourly Rate	
Student Assistant Salaries	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
Graduate Student Assistant Salaries	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
TOTAL				\$36,180.00

10. Consequences of Partial Funding

State what the consequences would be on the effectiveness and viability of the proposal if it were only funded in FY 2008 at the following percentages of the requested total:

Only 75% funded: The project would still be viable at a 75% funding level. To stay within this funding level we would remove the A.M. Best data products and the NAIC Financial Database and use funding from other sources of \$1,665 to cover the gap between the cost of the remaining items (\$28,800) and the 75% limit (\$27,135). This would bring the total cost of the project for the Tech Fee Grant to \$27,135.

Object of Expense	Itemized Descriptions	Quantity	Per unit price	Extended Total
Supplies (Note: PCs under \$5,000 go here. Also, use standard dollar amounts and replacement thresholds from sections 11/12, or provide explanation in sections 11/12.)	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2			
	Item 3			
	Item 4			
	Item 5			
	Item 6			
	Item 7			
Equipment	Item 1 Bloomberg Terminal	1	\$22,800.00	\$22,800.00
	Item 2, etc			
Software (Note: Include Vendor and Product Name.)	Item 1 SNL Financial - SNL Unlimited	1	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
	Item 2	1		
	Item 3, etc			
Maintenance or Contractual Services	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
Board of Regents Guidelines state "In almost no cases should technology fee revenues be used for ... space renovation, or other items or activities that do not have a direct and immediate impact upon students instructional objectives." (See Attachment 1, #8)				
Construction Services (Requires review of Planning & Facilities)	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2			
	Item 3, etc			
Network Connections and Infrastructure Costs (Requires review of UCCS)	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2			
	Item 3			
	Item 4, etc			
Physical Security (Note: Costs normally should not exceed 2.5% of Total Requested.)	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2			
	Item 3			
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	Item 2, etc			
Fringe Benefits	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
		Hours/wk	Hourly Rate	
Student Assistant Salaries	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
Graduate Student Assistant Salaries	Item 1			\$0.00
	Item 2, etc			
TOTAL				\$28,800.00

Only 50% funded: The project would still be viable at a 50% funding level. To stay within this funding level we would confine our request to the Bloomberg terminal. We would other funding sources to cover the \$4,700 gap between the cost of the terminal (\$22,800) and the 50% limit (\$18,090). This would bring the total Tech Fee cost portion down to \$18,090.

under \$5,000 go here. Also, use standard dollar amounts and replacement thresholds from sections 11/12, or provide explanation in sections 11/12.)	Item 2				
	Item 3				
	Item 4				
	Item 5				
	Item 6				
	Item 7				
	Equipment	Item 1 Bloomberg Terminal		1	\$22,800.00
	Item 2, etc				
Software (Note: Include Vendor and Product Name.)	Item 1				\$0.00
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	Item 2				
	Item 3				
	Item 4, etc				
Physical Security (Note: Costs normally should not exceed 2.5% of Total Requested.)	Item 1				\$0.00
	Item 2				
	Item 3				
	Item 4, etc				
Other Expenses (explain)	Item 1				\$0.00
	Item 2, etc				
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Staff Salaries	Item 1				\$0.00
	Item 2, etc				
Fringe Benefits	Item 1				\$0.00
	Item 2, etc				
			Hours/wk	Hourly Rate	
Student Assistant Salaries	Item 1				\$0.00
	Item 2, etc				
Graduate Student Assistant Salaries	Item 1				\$0.00
	Item 2, etc				
TOTAL					\$22,800.00

11. Standard Dollar Amounts

N/A

12. Standard Replacement Thresholds

N/A

13. Prerequisite, Non-Technology Fee Funding

N/A

14. Matching Funds

N/A

15. Staffing and Other Support Availability

N/A

16. Space Availability and Impact on Facilities

This project has no impact on facilities (form attached).

17. Impact on Computing/Networking/Information Security Infrastructure

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-CWH) , No impact – KEC

Assessment:

External Connections (Charles Hollingsworth):

Impact: (No-CWH)

Assessment:

DVR Installations (Mark Roberson, Tammy Clark, Charles Hollingsworth):

Impact: (No-CWH), No-MR

Assessment:

Lab and Classroom Configurations (Joe Amador):

Impact: Yes/No NO
Assessment:

18. Physical Security Needs

N/A

19. Post-Project Assessment Criteria

Within 1 year of establishing data access we will review course syllabi and poll instructors and students on their use of these new data resources to be able to assess and report on the extent of use of these resources. It also may be possible to obtain data on student use of certain data resources from data providers. We will establish reasonable benchmarks for gauging success in consultation with our instructors.

20. Review and Acknowledgements

N/A