GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Proposal for the Use of FY2003 Technology Fees

Submitting Organization(s): Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
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Contact Person Email: rmoore@gsu.edu, cblasdell@gsu.edu
Contact Person Phone: 404-651-3756, 404-651-0833

1. Project Short Title

| Student Learning in the New Building |

2. Total Requested Amount (reference to funding for “Years Following” removed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$294,222</td>
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3. Executive Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description (Three or four sentences)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The AYSPS has ingeniously squeezed functionality for student learning needs out of temporary spaces since its formation in 1996, but space constraints have limited our ability to provide students a substantial return on their tech fees. With the recent Regents signing of our lease, and the move-in date to our new building at #2 Peachtree Street Annex set at summer 2003, we have the opportunity to substantially increase our student learning spaces. We propose three student learning areas in the building - an open access student lab, a research methods/econometrics lab, and a cyber student lounge. These student areas will expand on work done in our temporary labs (the IEM lab, the econometrics lab, and the PAUS lab), which have been funded by an assortment of department, college, QIF and Tech Fee Funds, and will allow us to catch up to the credit hour growth (AYSPS credit hours up 19% from Spring 2001 to Spring 2002) that we have experienced.</td>
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4. Project Description

The Open Access Student Lab will combine functions from the makeshift "PAUS" and "IEM" labs, supporting student research, interactive exercises and quizzes, WebCT work, Iowa Electronic Market (IEM) active learning, and other applications.

The Research Methods & Econometrics Lab will expand on functions taking place in our temporary econometrics lab. This will provide instructional support for econometrics, applied economics, and quantitative methods courses, serving students in the AYSPS and the Robinson College. Specialized software includes GAUSS V2.5 to V2.6.0 +Technical support, GAUSSX, Inter-cooled Stata, SpaceStat, Stat transfer, and LIMDEP.
Together, 63 NOVA workstations in collaborative-style horseshoe arrangements will efficiently manage cables, recessed monitors will encourage group discussion, and projectors (funded elsewhere) will support visualization of advanced concepts. Standard hardware and software configurations will exist for each lab-the open access lab with standard PCs, and the Research Methods/Econometrics lab with PCs with advanced processing power. GLA application support and hardware support are discussed in section 14.

The **Student Cyber Lounge** will provide network seating for 16 students with laptops, plus 20 desktop computers, and will facilitate online research, group collaboration, and tutoring.

The odd assortment of desks and computers from the temporary PAUS, IEM and econometrics labs will be re-allocated to individual student workstations throughout the building.

5. Relevance to Regents Guidelines

Our proposal is consistent with the Regent's guidelines as each of the student learning areas is for student use, enhancing their educational experience and giving instructors additional freedom to experiment with new technologies. The two labs are an essential component of our instructional programs, allowing students to study together in close proximity to faculty, and creating a rich environment for learning.

The typical lecture-approach used to teach economics can best be described as "chalk and talk." However, the Iowa Electronics Market (IEM) and other active learning tools allow us to put a large number of students into the economic environment being studied, so that they can see how the market or organization works from the inside. When the theories being taught are confirmed, they become more credible (especially since many of the strict assumptions are not maintained in practice). When the results are unexpected, students become involved in figuring out why things turned out as they did.

This will quite naturally provide added value to the educational experiences of our students, as encouraged by the Chancellor's stated goal. These enhancements to the labs will assist students in meeting the educational objectives of their academic programs (paragraph 1) by making them active participants in the economic environments being studied. This will also increase the interaction between students (and between students and their instructors) by giving them a common experience from which to base discussion both in class and outside of class. The technology fee revenues will be used for hardware for special purpose laboratories used by students (paragraph 3) as described above. Moreover, the revenues will be used to provide staffing that clearly will provide added value to students (paragraph 6) by allowing us to staff the labs with graduate student assistants that will help the students to complete the exercises. We believe that the graduate student staffing will also encourage those students who are reluctant to try new technology to use the lab.

The open access student lab provides an active learning environment and supports instruction in principles of economics as well as other undergraduate and graduate courses. Such a space is essential given the more than 5500 students that enroll in AYSPS undergraduate and graduate courses during the year. Moreover, the availability of an open access lab in the AYSPS building will facilitate the interaction of students and faculty since all AYSPS faculty will be housed in the building.

The Research Methods/Econometrics 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. GRA support will provide needed assistance to students. These are largely consistent with RG #4 and #6.

A number of undergraduate and graduate students from other departments and colleges take our
econometrics and applied courses. A large number of students from RCB, particularly from departments of Accounting, Risk Management & Insurance, and Finance, take these courses. A number of Economics faculty serve on dissertation committees of RCB students. Moreover, graduate students from Georgia Tech and Clark Atlanta take our econometrics and related courses on a regular basis. These students will have access to our specialized computing resources. This is also consistent with Regents guideline #3 to balance competing demands for broad access and specialized resources.

6. Relevance to Strategic Plan(s)

As stated in the strategic plan, AYSPS was formed to "coordinate institutional policy-focused efforts" and "to foster interdisciplinary collaboration." The strategic plan goes on to specify that programs should foster "opportunities for collaborative research and scholarly interaction... between faculty and students" and a "student body that participate actively in scholarly pursuits." As AYSPS grows, it continues to excel at providing this type of collaborative, active learning environment for its students. Growth of the student learning areas is especially important as we prepare for "additional growth in student enrollment and student research." (Predictions of approximately 24% growth in Georgia high school graduates to 2010 are cited in the strategic plan.)

The research methods/econometrics lab addresses the need for "improvement of technology support for instruction." The school's focus in combining solid research with practical policy education requires a unique computing environment. Our instruction methods emphasize real-world applications and data analysis that have policy relevance, and as such it is vital that students not only understand "how", but also "why." Working with real models, and having frequent access to nearby faculty and on site GRA support, students learn both the "how" and the "why."

The strategic plan's call for access to technologically supported, media-equipped rooms is directly relevant to the formation of the open access student lab. Hands on experiences in the labs will foster a "learning-centered academic culture." Projects such as the Iowa Electronics Market are key ways in which we foster "exploration and use of new learning methods and technologies." High speed access to an increasingly sophisticated and growing number of WebCT-enhanced courses is vital to attracting "students who are increasingly technologically sophisticated." Grad student support will be in place for new adopters to WebCT, instructors will be nearby during office hours, fellow students can meet for group projects, etc. Regarding GLA support in the labs, the strategic plan states that "Training and access to improved facilities and technology support will be an important enabler for electronically mediated learning."

AYSPS continues a strong history of this student-faculty collaboration with its centers in environmental, health, fiscal and international policy, especially involving students (30 scholarly papers, 13 presentations at professional conferences, and working abroad in 4 countries, in 2000). In order to attract the types of students who can excel in this work, and in order to make these relationships most beneficial, students should have ample access to advanced computational resources. Unique involvement for real-life policy work exists for those who study and collaborate with faculty at the campus location.

With more students involved in the creation of learning tools, it is especially important that we provide ample computer time for course development. Given the resources, this modern generation of instructors can help us develop a new "learning infrastructure."

The student lounge will offer a "learning-centered environment" in which students collaborate based on their different "intercultural and international perspectives." It will be an ideal place for the growing student groups that create "connections among graduate, professional, and undergraduate studies," which occur in nonprofit studies, aviation studies, human resource development, etc., to meet and strengthen.

7. Impact on Students Served

All students in AYSPS programs and courses will benefit from the student learning areas provided in the
new building. With AYSPS credit hours up 19% from Spring 2001 to Spring 2002, and 9% the year before that, with expectations of high growth in future high school graduating classes, and with a new course in the core, it is essential that the student learning spaces that have been planned as part of the new building be outfitted with the type of networked computers and media rich environments that students demand. The principles of economics courses are required of all students completing a bachelor's degree in business administration, and many students pursuing other majors take one or both courses. During the 2000 calendar year, the introductory economics sequence had a total enrollment of 4,166 students (2,144 in macroeconomics and 2,022 in microeconomics). It is essential that an open access lab be provided to facilitate learning outcomes in these courses as well as other courses in the curriculum. The accessibility of open access computers to the new Aderhold center will reinforce the growth of additional nodes of student computing activity on campus.

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 would provide a space for tutorials and specialized introductory sessions on the software doctoral students need for their methods classes. The Research Methods/Econometrics lab is used to support instruction in a variety of courses. 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. Computer hardware and software are extremely essential for students working on their senior projects, M. A. Theses, and Ph.D. Dissertations.

8. Justification of Funding Requirements for Fiscal Year 2003

Provide a specific description of the funding requirements in FY2003. Itemize and total the following categories of expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object of Expense</th>
<th>Itemized Descriptions</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Extended $ Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>GLA support - application experts</td>
<td>80 hours per week</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hardware/network support – 2 student assistants</td>
<td>40 hours per week</td>
<td>$24,960</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>63 NOVA computer stations and seating, providing effective cable management and enabling recessed monitors</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>$48,968</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 computers for open access lab - standard PC configuration ($1,800 ea)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>$55,800</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 computers for research methods/econometrics lab - computers with advanced processing abilities, $2,245 each</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>$71,840</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tables and chairs to enable use of 16 network ports for laptops</td>
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<td>$7,404</td>
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9. Consequences of Partial Funding

In order to provide functionality to students with investments already being made (The Board of Regents has signed a lease with the Georgia Building Authority, and GSU will pay for use of the square footage, whether or not the space is outfitted for use), it is of primary importance that we outfit the labs as planned. Students require the assistance of experts in the types of software provided in the labs, at all times the lab is operating.

75% funding would reduce the effectiveness, but not the viability of the project. This level of funding would reduce the amount of computer workstations devoted to student study, and would reduce the amount of GLA assistance to students. Students would have to increase sharing of computers, thus having less time to do online research, collaboration, instructional tool preparation, etc. They would be less inclined to do research on campus, thus missing out on opportunities that proximity creates for collaboration with faculty experts and relevant policy applications in the centers.

Only 50% of funding would greatly reduce the effectiveness and the viability of the project. We would move into a new building in which students do not have access to spaces that have been specifically designed for them, and GSU would pay GBA for use of the area needlessly.

10. Standard Dollar Amounts

In constructing the budgetary requests in step 8 above, computer workstations should be budgeted at the following levels:

- Windows/Intel processors workstation, including monitor: $1,800
- Apple Macintosh models: $3,170

Requests departing from the above standard amounts require documentation of the specific programmatic need that requires departure from this standard. (See Attachment 2: Standard Windows/Intel instructional workstation.) Please explain any requested departures below:

Students in the Research Methods/Econometrics lab, and advanced students working on desktop workstations in the Student Cyber Lounge require enhanced processing capabilities, as they work with specialized software including GAUSS V2.5 to V2.6.0 +Technical support, GAUSSX, Inter-cooled Stata, SpaceStat, Stat transfer, and LIMDEP. Monitors in high density areas should be flat screen, as they put out substantially less heat. Our senior level students are involved in empirical research (mostly on Georgia) using large data sets. This requires powerful computers as well as suitable computing software...
and environment. In particular, our graduate students require computers and software for number
 crunching and advanced word processing for their dissertation work.

11. Standard Replacement Thresholds

n/a

12. Prerequisite, Non-Technology Fee, Funding

n/a

13. Matching Funds

State of Georgia funds are supporting renovation work on the building, and other GSU funds are
supporting installation of the network and the audio/visual package for the building, which includes
projection and control equipment for the two labs.

14. Staffing and Other Support Availability

GLA support in the dedicated student labs will provide application support, answering student questions
and facilitating a collaborative yet studious working environment. Support in the open access student lab
(current IEM and PAUS labs) will be broad based, covering popular software, WebCT, and basic computer
troubleshooting, as well as specialized learning environments such as the Iowa Electronic Market. GLA
support in the research methods/econometrics lab (current econometrics lab) will be specialized, providing
assistance with econometrics software and the computational environment, and maintaining program
manuals in hard copies and on the web. GLAs will provide a ready conduit for feedback from students to
faculty, and as such, faculty will be “tapped in” to new, emerging uses for the lab. Consistency in computer
hardware/software configurations will enable efficient maintenance of the labs, minimizing troubleshooting
time and maximizing instruction time. Due to the consistent hardware and software setups within the labs,
GLAs will create and refer to standard operating instructions.

Two half-time student assistants are necessary to support the growth in dedicated student machines in the
new building. They will ensure standard configurations on the machines in the labs, trouble-shoot
problems that arise, and will provide preventive maintenance. They will also work on scattered individual
student workstations in the building. (Due to a high variety of hardware and software needs by individual
students in health and experimental economics, planning, nonprofit studies, etc., a wide assortment of
hardware/software configurations exists.)

The GLAs and hardware support student assistants will be managed by existing AYSPS personnel, and
will work closely with the department technology committees, and the college system support group, web
cooridnator, and information manager.

15. Space Availability

Space availability has been an enormous constraint on the AYSPS in previous years. Our request this
year is in response to our summer 2003 move-in to our new building. (Furniture and computers will need
to be purchased well in advance of our move-in date.) Temporary labs in RCB and UL will then be
available for other uses.

16. Impact on Facilities

The impact on facilities of these labs has been adequately considered. Facilities and Design has led GSU
design efforts through final design. The building air conditioning, electrical and voice/data network system
designs have been planned with consideration of these labs. With the recent signing of the lease at the Board of Regents, we look forward to a summer 2003 move-in date, and as such, must purchase furniture and computers well in advance. State of Georgia funds are supporting the cost of the actual renovation work in the building. Between GSU and GBA, non-technology fee funds have been identified for basic hooking up of the building to the GSU network, cabling in the building, and the building A/V package, to include projector systems and instructor control units. The AYSPS move to its new building will free up area for other colleges on the 10th and 12th floors of Urban Life, and on the 6th and 14th floors of RCB.

17. Impact on Computing/Network Infrastructure

IS&T has been involved throughout the design stages, to final completion, of the building network, to include the student learning areas. Between GSU and GBA, non-technology fee funds have been identified to support the necessary computing/network infrastructure, including hooking up the building to the GSU network and cabling in the building. Proper air conditioning of computing areas has been planned into the new system for the building.

18. Post-Project Assessment Criteria

Student dedicated labs are used throughout the day by undergraduate and graduate students, student questions are encouraged and answered by graduate lab assistants, impromptu tutoring sessions occur between students, use of relevant online policy materials in class assignments continues to grow. Students learn through active learning assignments, practice quizzes, development of learning tools, and application of advanced research methods. Through active collection of comments and questions by the graduate lab assistants, faculty and administrators identify emerging needs of the students, and uses for the labs. The student cyber lounge in the former bank vault will foster an environment rich for collaboration between undergraduates, graduates, and faculty.

19. Review and Acknowledgements

As the items that are being requested for consideration for FY2003 Student Technology fees will actually be installed in the renovated 2 Peachtree Annex Building, there will be no additional impact on network design or capacity.

Bill Paraska
Director, University Computing and Communications
Information Systems and Technology
(404) 651-0881

Cynthia, I am sure that you and Chris have made the necessary arrangements to cover all impacts on the facility related to furniture.

Kim

I am coordinating tech fee proposals for the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, and ask your assistance in the form of acknowledgement of our proposals that relate to our future building. With the recent signing of the lease at the Board of Regents, we look forward to a summer 2003 move-in date to the future AYSPS offices at #2 Peachtree Street Annex. With the assistance of Chris Hughes and Mark...
Roberson in your offices, we have finalized plans for the new building, which includes two student labs on the 7th floor, and a student lounge on the vault floor. In keeping with our summer 2003 move-in date, and with the knowledge that we will need to purchase furniture and computers well in advance of our move-in date, we are putting forth our tech fee proposals now for furniture and computers, which will enable us to move out of our current locations on the 10th and 12th floors of Urban Life, and on the 6th and 14th floors of RCB, and into our new space.

Chris Hughes and I have worked extensively with Mark Roberson of IS&T to ensure that the building has the proper network infrastructure to support these functions. Between GSU and GBA, non-technology fee funds have been identified for a) basic hooking up of the building to the GSU network, b) cabling in the building, and c) the building A/V package, to include projector systems and instructor control units. State of Georgia funds are supporting the cost of the actual renovation work in the building, to include these areas. Additionally, the new air conditioning system in the building has been designed to accomodate these planned areas.

Please respond back to this email with your acknowledgement that the the impact of our tech fee proposals on facilities, and that the impact on the computing/network infrastructure, has been adequately considered during planning stages of the building, and that you see no problems with moving forward with our proposals.

I appreciate your assistance with this. Please know that it has been an absolute pleasure working with Chris Hughes and Mark Roberson in your offices. They are both very efficient, knowledgeable and considerate, and have had great patience during the past year in working with this project.

Cynthia Blasdell
College Web Coordinator
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

>>> Roy Bahl 03/04/02 05:24PM >>>
Bob: Regarding the tech fee proposals for the student labs and lounge with workstations in the new building - This is absolutely essential. Services for student printing are also important. Roy