

IT GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION FORM
Instructional Technology Working Group
2014-2015 Academic Year
January 30, 2015

Title: Replacement of Classroom Projectors

Recommendation:

For FY 14/15 the committee recommends that up to \$280,000 in Student Success Fee funding be designated to replace outdated VGA projectors in TELS rooms and the existing Epson 6110i projectors due to low brightness and poor image quality. The committee further recommends that any surplus funds (if any) from the replacement of lectern computers also be applied to the recommendation in order to replace as many projectors as possible. Priority to provide funding next year for upgrading new classroom and lab spaces.

Background/Findings:

In FY 13/14, the committee had recommended the full upgrade of eight classrooms and 50 projector replacements. (The projectors purchased last year were XGA.) After evaluating the size of the equipment replacement backlog across campus and the possible impact for faculty and student in upgrading over 100 classrooms, the committee determined that a more effective course of action would be to replace as many projectors as possible with units that will project a high quality image, can work with the existing lectern cabling/equipment, and will have technology that is ready for the eventual upgrade to high definition source.

As outlined in last year's recommendation, across campus there are many classrooms that have very old and poor quality presentation equipment. Walking through the halls of many buildings it is common to see classes being taught in a darkened room, as the existing projectors in these rooms are so dim that the images would not be readable in any other lighting conditions. These projectors are often five or more years old and are only capable of projecting a lower resolution XGA image that has long since become an obsolete standard for all major laptop manufacturers. Like televisions, almost all laptop and projector technology today have moved to wide angle 16:10 type formats. Image resolution has also significantly improved from the 1024x768 standard that was the prior norm. High definition images not only make the viewing of projected content easier and clearer, it is the de facto standard for most video content created today. Lastly, the currently deployed projectors typically project at around 3,500 lumens while newer projectors are often capable of 6,500 lumens making it possible to teach with the lights on in the classroom.

Targeted for replacement via this recommendation are 117 rooms distributed across the colleges as follows.

College of Agriculture	7 rooms
College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences	20 rooms
College of Business Administration	8 rooms, 9 projectors
College of Education and Integrative Studies	8 rooms
College of Engineering*	9 rooms
College of Environmental Design	17 rooms

College of Science	38 rooms
Collins College of Hospitality Management	2 rooms
University Library	1 room, 2 projectors
Shared	7 rooms

*Note: The College of Engineering replaced 6 TELS classrooms with college funds last fiscal year.

The above list of rooms covers all 43 remaining TELS spaces that have a projector. Via the three recommendations, all of the TELS rooms would get a new computer, projector and video input switcher.

Working Group Members:

Shanthi Srinivas (Co-Chair), Academic Affairs	Jasmine Andino , ASI
Kevin Morningstar (Co-Chair), Information Technology	Andrew Campa , ASI
Olive Yoa Li , College of Agriculture, Assistant Professor	Goodness Daramola , ASI
Muditha Senanayake , College of Agriculture, Associate Professor (on Sabbatical for Fall – not voting)	Sydney Ferguson , ASI

Ruling:

For	5 (all voting members)
Against	
Total Votes	
Abstain	

Working Group Comments:

Name	Comment
Name	Comment

Working Group Section

Comments:

Discussion of how to proceed with the upgrade of classroom projection equipment occurred over three meetings on October 30, November 20, and December 11. The members considered several approaches including the classroom rebuild approach last year. Other members advocated for providing funding to put AV into classrooms and labs that currently don't have any equipment. At the final meeting, the committee evaluated four recommendations, one of which was to designate \$75,000 for three new standard classrooms. After evaluating the impact of this proposal, the committee was unanimous in recommending the mass projector replacement for this fiscal year with the priority to provide funding next year for upgrading new classroom and lab spaces.

The recommendations were approved by all members present and voting at the meeting; one member who was not present met with Co-Chair Morningstar and voted with the majority. Pending approval by the CIO and IT Governance Executive Committee, the staff have been meeting with vendors from Epson, Panasonic, and NEC to determine the projector that would provide the highest quality image, best warranty, and pricing that would enable the replacement of the maximum number of projectors possible.

All of the projectors will be hung from the existing ceiling mounts. The work would be performed by CPP IT staff and can occur at any time. When the projectors are installed in conjunction with the new lectern computers that are also recommended by the committee, they will be set to project at the highest effective resolution using the existing VGA cabling. In time the classrooms will need to be rewired to support either HDMI or HD-BaseT. Classroom screens will also need to be adjusted as the 16:10 format produces an image that is wider, but not as tall. In order to provide an even larger image the classroom screens will need to be replaced with 16:10 format projection surface.

Regardless of which model is selected, these projectors will provide an immediate improvement to the image quality and the equipment will be ready for subsequent improvements in the video source and size of the projection screens. The committee believes that this approach can, in one cycle, make a substantial and noticeable improvement to the classroom learning environment for our students and faculty.