Proposed MCC Technology Fee Guidelines

Technology Fee Rationale and Purpose

Many higher education institutions find it financially difficult to provide adequately for the increasing computing and technology needs of their students. MCC's unique focus and mission make it especially difficult to support rapidly changing technologies since significant needs exist in all programs. MCC is considering the idea of assessing technology fees, as many public institutions have done, to address these needs based on the following issues:

- Technological skills provide fundamental advantages in the job market and play an increasing role in all areas of day-to-day life.
- The State of Hawaii and MCC have many fiscal demands that make it difficult to maintain state-of-the-art technological environments for instructional programs and general student use in a time of rapid technological change.
- Although increasing numbers of students own personal computers, the cost to acquire all personal resources necessary to fully meet the demands of a rigorous educational program remains prohibitive for most students. Supporting the personal computing resources owned by students through provision of campus and Internet network access, dial-in services, software licensing, server support, and end-user support requires increasing investment in computing and networking infrastructure.
- The technology needs of differing programs and options may be unique requiring specialized software, hardware, or other technological resources that are not readily accessible or affordable to students.
- MCC is committed to ensuring that students have appropriate access to resources required to meet the needs of their academic program.
- Increasingly, the electronic delivery and/or availability of course materials may reduce some expenditures required of students for materials such as lecture and course notes, textbooks, manuals, and copying charges.

Therefore,

- to provide state-of-the-art instructional technology,
- to provide equitable access to technology resources at MCC,
- to adequately develop and maintain the infrastructure required to support the growing number of students wanting to connect their personal resources to MCC
Draft Technology Fee Proposal - 2

- to maximize the impact of both student-owned and institution-owned computing resources,
- to further provide MCC students with a competitive advantage, and
- to enhance and direct adequate funding to these purposes,

the collection of a technology fee is recommended. The fee is not intended as a use fee and therefore is to be assessed to all students regardless of academic option, specific course enrollment, or whether they use resources acquired throughout the expenditure of technology fee revenues. Revenues derived from the technology fee are intended to augment funds already expended for instructional technology and technology infrastructure. Technology fee revenues are not to be used to supplant or replace current or future budgets, fundraising efforts, or other income sources for technology support and projects.

Guidelines for Use of the Technology Fee

Technology fee expenditures are intended to benefit students throughout their academic careers at MCC by providing access to resources that might otherwise not be available. Therefore, to ensure that technology fees are expended legally and appropriately, the following guidelines are established outlining authorized and prohibited uses of the technology fee.

Authorized Uses of Technology Fee

1. Purchase, lease, and maintenance of computer hardware, software, and peripherals. Resources acquired must be routinely available to multiple students in campus public or departmental laboratories or must be a shared resource such as a server or shared resource computer that
provides service to, or supports, lab computers, student-owned computers, or student users. Examples include computer hardware, hardware upgrades, application software, software upgrades, licenses, scanners, plotters, laser printers, interface electronics for special needs, color printers, furniture for computer labs, classrooms, backup units, utility and support hardware and software.

2. *Purchase, lease, and maintenance of central or departmental resources that provide, support, or protect access to the campus network from student-owned computers.* Examples are modems, terminal adaptors, terminal servers, telephone lines, cable connections network interfaces, routers, bridges, network wiring, diagnostic hardware/software, security software, security systems.

3. *Purchase, lease, and maintenance of instructional technology that substantively improves the learning environment for students.* Examples: Digital cameras, computer projection systems, videoconferencing equipment, library technology, electronic subscriptions, electronic classroom technology.

**Prohibited Uses of Technology Fee**

1. *Purchase, lease, or maintenance of equipment and software not directly used to student benefit.* This includes specialized resources primarily used by faculty or only infrequently used by students, computer systems primarily intended to support or conduct administrative business for the
institution, and any equipment to be located in the office or on the desk of any individual faculty, staff, administrator, student, etc.

2. **Purchase, lease, or maintenance of equipment primarily intended to support research projects or activities, or grants.**

3. **Purchase, lease, or maintenance of miscellaneous items such as:** general furniture for offices or classrooms, office supplies, remodeling, travel, photocopying.

**Continuance of Technology Fees**

The existence/amount of the Technology Fee will be reviewed annually; the Technology Fee Committee (see below), the Associated Students of MCC, and the MCC Budget committee will review the success of how the fee is administered.

**Administration and Distribution of Technology Fees**

The Technology Fee Committee is established to solicit, review, and select proposals requesting expenditures of technology fee revenues and will function as a sub-committee to the MCC Technology Support Committee. Since these revenues are derived from a targeted student fee, student participation and oversight is deemed essential in the authorization of fee expenditures. Faculty and administrative involvement are required also to ensure that long-term program interests are considered appropriately. Therefore, the committee shall consist of two (2) MCC full-time students appointed by the AS Government and four (4) institutional representatives from the Technology Support Committee.
appointed by the MCC Chancellor. In addition to those 4 appointments, the Chancellor shall appoint a committee chairperson. The chairperson does not routinely vote on issues considered by the committee, but may vote whenever an issue considered by the committee results in a tie vote. The Committee shall establish operating policies and procedures within the following guidelines:

- The Committee shall establish proposal requirements and timelines
- The Committee shall solicit and review proposals at least once per semester
- The committee shall operate under and observe all policies and procedures of the institution.
- The Committee shall work with the Chief Financial Officer to establish technology fee revenue projections to determine the availability of funds in any given year.
- The Committee shall accept proposals from any academic program, department, organization, Computing Services, the Library, or any official MCC student organization.
- The Committee shall work closely with the Technology Support Committee, Computing Services, Media Center, and other appropriate organizations to evaluate the technical aspects of proposals and to determine if there are external factors that may impact the viability of a proposal being implemented.
- No Committee member may vote on a proposal in which they have a vested interest or a conflict of interest, though they may participate in discussion. A faculty member may not vote on a proposal submitted by his or her program, department, or division. Student members may not vote on proposals submitted by their option area or by any student organization to which they belong.
- The Committee shall accept and encourage proposals that request matching funds so long as the full proposal meets the guidelines for expenditure of technology fee revenues. Such proposals may leverage all available resources and maximize the use of technology fee funds.
- The Committee shall accept proposals that request funding over multiple years since such plans may maximize efficient investment in technology in an incremental way. A proposal may request capital funds for year 1 and maintenance and supports for subsequent years, which may be viable for the lifetime of the equipment.
- The Committee shall encourage that proposal be fully-costed to include maintenance, upgrade, and operating costs over the expected lifetime of equipment.
The Technology Fee Committee shall be responsible for the distribution of the fee revenue. It is anticipated that the committee will decide on the appropriate balance between central computing infrastructure needs and departmental computing needs, including requests from support departments such as the Library. Providing access to students is the goal of the fee. The distribution may vary each year depending upon the submitted proposals and funding decisions of the Committee.

**Basis of the Fee and Amount**

The Technology Fee shall begin at a flat rate of $3.00 per credit, assessed to all students. There is not any distinction between resident and non-resident students. The Technology Fee amount shall begin Fall 2006.

**Projected Revenue for the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year**

In academic year 2005 – 2006 MCC students carried 50,078 credit hours. Using these numbers as a basis, at $3 per credit hour, revenues would be $150,216 per year.

**Fee Refunds**

Technology Fee refunds shall be prorated the same as tuition refunds. Students requesting refunds must present documents proving a withdrawal has been processed by the Registrar's Office.
KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE TECH FEE?

COME INTO THE LIGHT
FIND OUT MORE

MCC TECH FEE OPEN FORUM
MARCH 14 NOON
KA`AIKE 105
Press Release:

Technology Fee Open Forum March 14 at Noon in Kaeike 105

Did you know that as many as 80% of the computers in The Learning Center are on their last legs and there is no money to replace them? This situation is similar across campus. There are no funds to replace or repair an equal percentage of computers in The Business Lab. Classroom technology is suffering drastically campus wide.

Ever notice all those Mitsubishi monitors stacked up in the halls? They're all dead, and there is no money to replace them either. Can you get wireless access everywhere on campus? NO, because there aren't enough wireless access points, and no money for those either! My point? In the very near future, MCC students’ access to technology will be even worse than it is today. Far worse, for our equipment is failing and there are absolutely zero funds available to remedy the situation. This will severely impact our graduates’ competitive advantage and possibly even our accreditation.

Some have asked about the State’s multimillion-dollar surplus. “Shouldn’t the legislature see the problem and spend some of the funds on technology?” Of course. But the state has many other pressing fiscal responsibilities. I wouldn’t hold my breath waiting for the state to bail us out of our looming technology crises.

MCC is not alone, many higher education institutions find it financially difficult to adequately fund the increasing computing and technology needs of their students. You can find several thousand community colleges that assess a tech fee if you simply Google “Technology Fee”. It may come as a shock but many of these colleges’ tech fees were recommended and implemented by their own student governments because they recognized the problem and set out to repair the situation. MCC’s unique focus and mission make it especially difficult to support rapidly changing technologies since significant needs exist in all programs.

MCC is considering the idea of assessing technology fees, as many public institutions have done, to address these needs based on the following issues:

- Technological skills provide fundamental advantages in the job market and play an increasing role in all areas of day-to-day life.
- The State of Hawaii and MCC have many fiscal demands that make it difficult to maintain state-of-the-art technological environments for instructional programs and general student use in a time of rapid technological change.
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services, software licensing, server support, and end-user support requires increasing investment in computing and networking infrastructure.

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- To provide equitable access to technology resources at MCC,
- To adequately develop and maintain the infrastructure required to support the growing number of students wanting to connect their personal resources to MCC
- To maximize the impact of both student-owned and institution-owned computing resources.
- To further provide MCC students with a competitive advantage, and
- To enhance and direct adequate funding to these purposes,

the collection of a technology fee has been recommended by the MCC Academic Senate. The fee is not intended as a use fee and, therefore, is assessed to all students regardless of academic option, specific course enrollment, or whether they use resources acquired throughout the expenditure of technology fee revenues. Revenues derived from the technology fee are intended to augment funds already expended for instructional technology and technology infrastructure. Technology fee revenues will not to be used to supplant or replace current or future budgets, fundraising efforts, or other income sources for technology support and projects.

The guidelines for managing the account are currently being discussed by the MCC Technology Support Committee along with representatives of Student Government. One thing that is very clear is that there must be student input regarding how the revenues are used.

Here is a hypothetical sample of what a $3 per credit fee could buy in its first year:

- Complete replacement of all computers in The Learning Center and Business Lab.
- New printers, scanners, digital cameras, DVD players, sound systems, and color televisions for many areas on campus.
- Complete wireless access campuswide.
- Reduced copying fees in many locations on campus.

That's all in the first year. In the second year new routers, cabling, and other infrastructure work could be done to speed up our networks and we could refurbish two computer labs (or even install two new labs). Year three? What
would you like to see? Of course there needs to be student input as to what equipment we actually do acquire but this gives some indication of what a small fee could do to ensure students’ access to state-of-the-art technology in the future.

The small technology fee would stop our downhill spiral into technological oblivion and build an even better future.

There will be an open forum on March 14, 2006 at noon in Kaaike 105 for all to come and discuss the pros and cons of an MCC tech fee. Please come and bring your ideas!