Engineering Student Technology Committee

Meeting minutes for February 28, 2001 - Engineering B214 Conference Room - 8:00am

Present: Tim Feather (ME), Jennifer Flint (ECE), Dr. Gessler (Assoc. Dean),
David Hodge (ChemE), Mike Holland (ME), Prof. Labadie (CE),
Eric Mui (ECE), Prof. Nassar (ECE), Mark Ritschard (ENS),
Jason Smith (intra), David Wiegandt (ECE)

Absent: Torrey Burgess (ME), Prof. Dandy (ChemE), Prof. Fitzhorn (ME),
Alejandro Flores (CE), Lance Parker (ChemE), Jenny Po (ChemE),
Bethany Schilleman (CE), Marcel Zibognon (CE)

- Introductions and attendance
  A round of introductions got everyone acquainted.

- Corrections to previous meetings minutes (2-21-00)
  The following people were also absent at the 2/21 meeting:
  Dr. Gessler, Jenny Po, and Mark Ritschard

Various corrections were made regarding discussion and approval of proposals. To simplify, the action on all proposals follows:
LabView - fully funded
GIS Software - withdrawn by Prof. Labadie
GPS - fully funded
ECE License Fees - discussed
GIS Lab - funded at $8,000
Aspen - discussed
Circuits Lab - discussed
Wireless design - fully funded
ME Laptop - not a valid request
Glover workstations - not discussed
Glover 146c - not discussed
UNIX workstations - not funded
Pro Engineer - fully funded
CAD/CAM/CAE - fully funded
Portable - not a valid request
Magazine - not a valid request
Defective Monitor - not discussed
WMEP lab - discussed
Software installation - not discussed

A total of $19,595 was approved.

- Continue discussing proposals
- Vote and finalize allocated money to proposals

Discussion continued on the undecided proposals, with Ritschard providing information on the remaining balance of each department's tech fund as well as how those funds can be spent.

ECE License Fees - Nassar moved and Ritschard seconded that the proposal be 50% funded, i.e., $6,050. The motion passed with Feather and Smith dissenting

Aspen - Ritschard moved and Nassar seconded that the proposal be 50% funded, i.e., $3,000. The motion failed with only Ritschard and Nassar voting in favor. Mui then asked for a vote on 75% funding and it passed with a majority.

Circuits Lab - Nassar moved and Wiegandt seconded that $13,355 be allocated to this proposal and $8,000 to the Glover workstations proposal. The motion passed with all voting in favor except for Gessler who abstained

ME Laptop - Ritschard clarified for the committee why the request was not a valid Technology Fund expenditure, primarily because the proposed use is focused on faculty instruction rather than student lab use.

Glover workstations - funded at $8,000 (see Circuits Lab)

Glover 146c - general discussion revealed that the committee did not think the upgrades were necessary

Magazine - Ritschard also clarified the reasons for the request not being a valid expense. Because the use of the computer is for publication of a magazine, rather than coursework, the request would not pass scrutiny

Defective monitor - denied by consent

WMEP lab - It was noted that the lab was originally funded by outside grants and that no unique software runs in the lab. Additionally, the Electronic Classroom is just down the hall. Smith moved and Holland seconded that the proposal not be funded. The motion passed unanimously.

Software Installation - Wiegandt reported that the price was less than $3,000. However, the committee agreed that the proposal was incomplete and should not be funded.

Total approved funds this week were $30,405. Combined with last week's
total of $19,595, the committee has fully the final $50,000 of this year's $420,000 fund.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 14. Discussion will focus on whether to increase the tech fee.

Submitted by
Mark Ritschard

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"He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."
- James Elliott