

TO: Dr. Patrick Burns, Vice President for Information Technology  
FROM: Audrey Twiford, chair, Engineering Student Technology Committee  
DATE: January 23, 2007  
RE: Charge for Technology increase for the College of Engineering

Dr. Burns,

The Engineering Student Technology Committee (ESTC) respectfully requests that you forward our request for an increase in the charge for technology (CFT) for all engineering students to the appropriate administrators here at CSU and on to the Board of Governors.

The ESTC, in conjunction with the Engineering College Council (ECC), requests an increase in the CFT for all engineering students of \$28 per semester, with the exception of Atmospheric Science. For the Atmospheric Science students, the proposed increase is \$12 per semester. After the increase, the new charge will be

- \$170 per semester for all engineering students, excepting Atmospheric Science
- \$154 per semester for Atmospheric Science students

#### **Process**

Throughout the fall semester, a total of six proposals were submitted to the ESTC. The committee agreed that the every proposal had merit, but the combined cost of the

*Open Fora*

The ESTC convened seven open fora for discussion of these proposals. At each forum, the proposals were presented as shown in Appendix A. After the presentation, all students were asked to vote on each proposal individually. The votes were summarized from all sessions, with the percentage showing students supporting the proposal:

Network upgrades and replacement plan:	100%
Computing equipment for Elec. & Computer Engineering:	75%
Software allocation increase:	100%
Lockheed Martin Design Studio improvements:	92%

Unfortunately, only 24 students attended the open fora. As a result, the ESTC asked Mark Ritschard of Engineering Network Services to visit engineering classes, present the same information as in the open fora, and then take a straw poll. Professors of 9 courses accepted the invitation for a visit. A total of 638 students heard the presentations in the 9 courses, and, due to the fact that courses were chosen across majors and vertically within the same majors, it is estimated that the overlap of students hearing the presentation more than once is approximately 50. The percentage supporting each proposal in the straw poll of the 638 students was:

### Student Voice *Web Survey*

The ECC and ESTC agreed to jointly sponsor a web survey that would solicit feedback from all engineering students. The results from the survey initially showed support for all of the proposals. Digging a little deeper, however, revealed that

Atmospheric Science students were largely *not* in favor of most of the proposals. To illustrate the breakdown, the support for the proposals is reported first for non-Atmospheric Science students and secondly for Atmospheric Science students.

Network upgrades and replacement plan:	82%, 64%
Computing equipment for Elec. & Computer Engineering:	58%, 8%
Software allocation increase:	72%, 32%
Lockheed Martin Design Studio improvements:	81%, 8%
Academic Village equipment:	51%, 4%
Strategic Initiatives funding:	63%, 4%

### *Committee Deliberation*

Based on the survey results from Atmospheric Science students, the committee discussed how to proceed with that department in particular. The debate centered on

whether to propose an increase for all students or whether to single out Atmospheric Science for a separate fee. Although the software increase proposal received only nominal support from Atmospheric Science, the committee agreed that it is the one proposal that benefits that department the most, in that Atmospheric Science shares in college license agreements. Given that the network upgrade received fairly strong support, the committee voted to propose a separate fee increase for Atmospheric Science. The combined cost of the two proposals is \$12 per student per semester, therefore the

committee proposes a \$12 increase for Atmospheric Science students, from \$142 per semester to \$154 per semester.

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