

ESTC Minutes
Engineering Student Technology Committee
March 12, 2021
1-2pm
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present:

ATS : Kevin Yang, Prof. Michael Bell

CBE : Lauren Robertson, Mason Vess

CEE : Lily Drum-Parce

ECE : Drew Rackow (Chair), Peter Walsh, Yifan Yang, Prof. Ryan Kim

ME : Olivia Brown, Prof. Haile Endeshaw, Sydney McDonald

SBME : Will Raymond

SE : Jayesh Narsinghani

Intra-departmental :

Ex-Officio : Kelley Branson (ETS)

Guest : Laura Marker (ETS), Nick Stratton (ETS), Shaila Parashar (ETS)

Absent:

ATS : Lee Brent

CBE : Yan Wang, Prof. Jean Peccoud

CEE : Claire Paschke, Danny White, Prof. Ryan Morrison

ECE :

ME : Michael Sartini

SBME :

SE : Hamza Ahmed, Prof. Jim Cale

Ex-Officio: Dr. Anthony Marchese (AD)

Old Business & Welcome

Welcome and Minutes

- Welcome everyone!
- The minutes from the March 5, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved and will be posted to the ESTC website by Kelley. These and other ETSC documents are available to ESTC members at the following:

<T:\Committees\ESTC>

If you are unable to get into this drive space, let Kelley know.

Old Business

- Department Allotment Reports

ATS \$2620 + \$15,808.05

ATS plans to spend \$18,791.65 to purchase a GPU node for inclusion in the

asha HPC cluster. Permission was granted by Laura Marker to go into the red into next year's allocation for this.

CBE \$1930

Jean Peccoud and Lauren Robertson reported that CBE will have their plans to Kelley the week of March 15.

CEE \$18,650 + \$660

CEE will bring their report to Kelley the week of Mar 15 per Ryan Morrison.

ECE \$10,810

Will be purchasing Analog Discovery portable test bench kits for student ECE labs which will deplete these funds. Peter will get a quote from John Seim for these so Laura can pre-encumber the expense. UPDATE - these kits will cost \$9,870 which is close enough for the small carryover to be ok.

ME \$0 (good job!)

SBME \$2500

no report.

SE \$3600

A pre-encumbrance has been created to carry these funds over to purchase computers and monitors in their new work areas.

New Business

Budget Work

Other Allocations -> Software (\$98,300) – With the removal of Adobe, total cost will be about \$8K less than last year. **Unanimously approved.**

Central Services -> Computer Lab Equip. Replacement (\$180,200) – Nick reminded everyone that the Powerhouse computer lab will no longer be funded per request from Mechanical Engineering. We will keep the line item there but zero it out per request from Drew. **Unanimously approved.**

Central Services -> Computer Lab Maintenance (\$48,100) – Nick explained that this is for printer repairs, paper, ink, etc. Laura suggested redistributing equipment, maintenance and furniture since this area is in the red. Nick pointed out that we cannot do this because the replacement plans for furniture and equipment are on different year-cycles and carry over and these can vary quite a bit. Laura suggested doing pre-encumbrances for these if possible simply to show what the carryover is for. Nick, Laura and Kelley will discuss offline as it does not affect the budget and Kelley suggested not making changes during a pandemic year. **Unanimously approved.**

Central Services -> Computer Lab Furniture Replacement (\$25,000) – No furniture will be replaced this year. Furniture in the labs supporting computing is replaced on different time cycles so the funding is banked for the years in which they happen. The pre-encumbrance for this may not make sense because furniture can go 10 years before replacing. Some discussion. Like above, Nick, Laura and Kelley will

discuss offline. **Unanimously approved.**

Central Services -> Server Equip. Replacement (\$182,300) – The budget sheet for this is quite dynamic and keeps track of things purchased to support academic and research infrastructure, servers, etc. so that ETS has everything in one place. Pay attention to the Student Share column when you view the budget. Shaila Parashar, Systems Group Manager, suggested a tour of our data center in the fall for those members in their first year. The Linux Compute Pool got a new robust GPU in the fall and is being heavily used. Two additional robust workstation-class GPUs are partially in and waiting on the GPUs themselves. These will likely go into and remain in the Windows Compute Pool. All three of these were funded 50% by an UTFAB grant Kelley got. All server resources are on a replacement plan and the funding is carried over like the Labs equipment, above. Example, the VCL and Windows Compute Pool servers are replaced every four years -- half of them every two years. **Unanimously approved.**

Central Services -> Server Maintenance & Support (\$32,172) – This is another category in which maintenance items eb and flow - some renew every year, some longer. This budget sheet is updated whenever new equipment or maintenance items arrive which drives these budget items. **Unanimously approved.**

Central Services -> Network Equipment Replacement (\$50,000) – This encompasses network switches and equipment throughout the college. The college's new data backup system, VEEAM, is being put into place with ACNS. There will be network costs associated with this. Last year this \$50K budget item was set to zero due to the pandemic and budget concerns. The Systems Group would like it back because of these expenses. Drew recommended we discuss it at the next meeting since we were running out of meeting time.

Next Meeting

Upcoming ESTC meetings:

March 23, 4pm Teams

April 6, 4pm Teams

April 27, 4pm Teams

A Teams invite was sent already -- ping Kelley if you did not receive this.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:01pm.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Walsh with additions from Kelley Branson