

ESTC Minutes
Engineering Student Technology Committee
February 14, 2023
4-5pm Scott Bio 203

Present:

ATS : Nick Falk, Eric Goldenstern, Prof. Steve Miller
CBE : Parsa Ghadermazi
CEE : Julie Robinson, Jiate Li, Branch DeMersseman
ECE : Aaron Davis, Amin Mahdian
ME : Miguel Valles Castro, Ross Leopold (Chair), Jaren Fleischman
SE : Prof. Daniel Herber, Fletcher Ouren
SBME :
Ex-Officio : Kelley Branson (ETS)
Guests : Nick Stratton (ETS)

Absent:

ATS :
CBE : Prof. Chris Snow
CEE : Prof. Jordan Jarrett
ECE : Luke Shuttleworth, Prof. Mahdi Nikdast
ME : Prof. Kirk McGilvray
SE :
SBME : Jaiden Oropallo
Ex-Officio : Prof. Karan Venayagamoorthy (Academic Affs)

Old Business & Welcome

Welcome and Minutes

- Ross welcomed everyone. A sign-in sheet was passed around. Kelley brought in Girl Scout Cookies.

- The minutes from the October 28, 2022 meeting were 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 & Announcements

none

New Business

- *Note any ESTC positions not filled. (CBE undergrad - both ; SE graduate ; both intra-departmental)*

Many positions were filled...still a few openings...any nominations?

May scrap intra-departmental (meant to capture Systems Eng., but is now a program)

- *Titan-Anderson proposal (Kelley & Nick)*

Main motivator: removal of Glover building and relocation of Eng Tech Services.

Trying to rearrange where all things go/relocated. Fit into new, limited space.

Took inventory of used space, felt that BC Infill would be good opportunity to relocate space in Titan and re-envision the computer lab usage. Looking toward less physical seats being needed (Chairs)...how to use resources inovatively in light of changing needs.

Idea: what if we take the standard Titan computer lab and repurpose it...put help desk in there.

Take a portion of Titan down to the BC Infill.

Could then house high-powered workstations like Magellan, look into VR stations like some other Departments have done. Similar to mechanical 3D printing studio—open format, broad scope of use. The new VR equipment can be used with/without workstation equipment. This would dovetail into plans for post-Anderson building, looking ahead to new kinds of spaces that allow for students to interact with Tech...kind of a blank slate.

University Tech Fee Advisory Board (UTFAB): Proposals now being accepted for use of Tech Fee funds. Make this open to the rest of campus (like the 3D printing studio). Helps partner with main campus, good timing since foot-traffic in the labs is currently lower. UTFAB wants to see its investments benefiting the entire student body.

Re-configure Titan to be more of an ETS lab location. Funding for it would need to continue for now. ETS takes over Titan and locates it in the BC Infill. Would like to put in 6-10 workstations.

The Dean approves it, but up to the student committee to make the decision.

Even non-engineering students are benefiting from these.

Note: BC Infill is filling in the space in between the Engineering wings. Internet café is in the A-B infill. B-C area was also in-filled. Upper level has historically been used by students.

Usage has gone down in recent years, and there is still Internet Café for open use plus the Magellan Lab, and Viking electronic classroom (which is an open lab and can be used), ECE labs. Will involve thin clients which don't take as much room. Putting more of those in the BC Infill could make that space more popular for things like Senior Design.

The labs in Scott Building get moderate usage.

Office hours are not really the main intent for lab spaces.

What makes the BC Infill so nice is its openness, white boards, nice space. (Good design ideas for other spaces). Each space has its designated role...sometimes just want to sit at computer with no distractions, sometimes want to have the whiteboard space, sometimes want a mixture of the functions).

How to manage the reservations of equipment? These logistics haven't been thought through yet, but can be.

Motion: to go forward with proposal for Titan being taken over by ETS, and for ETS to repurpose the BC Infill (per Dean's approval) in the May/June timeframe

Goes to vote, approved unanimously

- *Overview of the FY24 Budget we'll be working on in the coming weeks.*

- *Explanation of our revenue / how generated*

Spreadsheet shown by Kelley. Single file contains the full budget with calculations. FY23 are static numbers now.

- *Explanation of the main budget sheet expenses*

FY24: This year business expenses went up....things cost more in general, especially software (e.g., Microsoft)! Some of the incoming budget is lower because of lower enrollment. Replacement plan for all switches upstairs in the data center.

- *Explanation of Strategic Initiatives*

Trying to get 100 Gbps speed around the data center

- *History of Department Allocations, I2P Lab and Assistive Technology Fee (non-negotiable)*

- *Our negative (in the budget - not in the account). We'll need to balance this.*

Right now have a budget of -48K (!)

Some low-hanging fruit: defer network upgrades (50K)..?

- *A quick look at the other sheets (Lab Equip, Loaner Pool, Servers, Software, Wages, Students, Departments and Enrollment)*

Expenses Include: New computers in the various labs, including a thin client (== a box without storage that gets you into the U: drive shared storage...like a "middle man" interface to the high-powered compute servers). Loaner pool includes projectors and laptops. Servers are paid for by college and students. Includes yearly maintenance. Software, wages. Departments get an allocation total of 70K, 3K based to each Dept, with the remaining divided by size of Departments in equitable way.

Right now, there is a mix of U: drives (56% students) and V: drives (44% college expenses) for the racks.

Most of the new space will be research.

\$88/rack-Unit per year. Will go up to \$100/rack-Unit per year.

- *The process! Checking the boxes as we work through and approve each line item.*

What is the 3D printing lab used for? Kelley will follow up with Steve Johnson for more details and invite him to a future meeting.

- *The current state of the College CFT Account*

Balance of ~450K

- *This is different than the budget!*

The budget is like a roadmap, the account is what really happens!

The latest account (in the works through Jan, but not reconciled) Central services and systems is what is given to ETS to support all storage, linux compute pool, window support, replacement plan, everything in the labs. We treat this as a pot of funding. Nick has about 254K to spend on the lab replacements this year (of that 450K budget)...orders in May, replacements in June.

Server replacement budget is 171K, but our service maintenance to a 127K hit, so only have about 40K left...we don't have enough to cover the server upgrades.

ATS: still have 3.5K to spend, EE has 7.7K has funds, etc., These funds can get rolled over but need a plan otherwise it can get audited.

- \$75K gift from the College last year

Last year we were not close to balancing the budget, so College gave 75K to balance the budget. Pushed it into a different account a "12-" account to hold.

- Used equipment is gravy into the account

Put check marks in spreadsheet columns as they are reviewed and approved. Decide on things like software, Department allocations, etc.

Go out to T: drive, copy the FY24 Budget file over to your local computer (do not edit the files on the T: drive!) Come back to next meeting with ideas on what to approve and where to change.

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 23. 1-2pm. Scott Board Room (205)

Meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm.

Respectfully submitted by Prof. Steve Miller with modifications and additions from Kelley