

**ESTC Minutes**  
*Engineering Student Technology Committee*  
November 13, 2023  
3-4pm Scott 203

**Present:**

ATS : Nick Falk, Eric Goldenstern  
CBE : Caroline Loewecke, Prof. Chris Snow  
CEE : Julie Robinson  
ECE : Luke Shuttleworth  
ME : Miguel Valles Castro (Chair), Brandyn Garcia, Michael Brown  
SE :  
SBME : Dmitri Svetiov  
Ex-Officio : Kelley Branson (ETS), Prof. Becki Atadero (AA)  
Guests : Travis Rogers (ETS)

**Absent:**

ATS : Prof Steve Miller  
CBE : Ben Sosa  
CEE : Jiate Li, Branch DeMersseman, Prof. Jordan Jarrett  
ECE : Aaron Davis, Amin Mahdian, Prof. Mahdi Nikdast  
ME : Prof. Kirk McGilvray  
SE : Fletcher Ouren  
SBME :  
Ex-Officio :

**Old Business & Welcome**

**Welcome and Minutes**

- Miguel welcomed everyone. Meeting called to discuss increase to CFT considering newest census numbers. Increase will be applied to the next fiscal year; the numbers are to be used as inference.
- The minutes from the October 5, 2023 meeting were approved pending an update to note that Dmitri Svetiov was not absent. These 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.

## New Business

### Increasing CFT for AY25

Student body census (refer to draft budget for FY25) total counts to ~2,900 students. With current charge (\$178.50/semester), intake for fees is ~\$923,000, dependent on add/drop. Assuming similar expenses as FY24, budget deficit is ~\$52,000. With the proposed 5% increase (additional \$8.92/semester), CFT revenue increases to ~\$970,000, bringing the draft budget deficit to ~\$6,000. CFT raise expected to cover rising costs and revenue loss due to add/drop via registrar reimbursements.

Discussion began with a question about budget surplus. Currently there is no avenue to reimburse students if a budget surplus occurs. Additional funds are traditionally diverted to calls for "strategic initiatives" which go toward the benefit of all engineering students and/or individual department projects. Outreach to the student body did not yield strong pushback; most students seem to understand the need to increase this fee. Actual student numbers may be lower or higher than the current census, which would further affect CFT revenue. This increase may also allow for long-cut budget lines to be funded (i.e. network hardware, lab equipment, department allocations, etc). These cuts have been backfilled to an extent, but all infrastructure needs replacement at some point. The account has generally been in better shape than the budget, but this is subject to change. It was also noted that the increase need not be 5%; it could be lower. Software remains a major and increasing expense, which may be revisited during further budget considerations. Further consideration is also likely to be given regarding the Anderson Lab, which was expected to be shut down but is now expected to continue. ESTC will be asked for input on further use of funds for technology innovation.

Based on the discussion, it was suggested that the CFT be increased to \$187.40 for FY25. A motion was put forward to increase the CFT to this amount. The motion was approved.

### ETS Updates

Kelley gave a few updates for the different areas of ETS.

- Systems Group - updates were performed on the network drives (including the U drives), network and the data center expansion is almost complete.
- Client Services - general updates to the Windows install image, nothing major.
- Academic Computing - Labs equipment replacements occurred per the plan. The 60" plotter which was removed from the budget for FY24 died and had to be replaced by a 65" plotter - funding was available. Nick is looking into technology innovations which will update labs primarily in Anderson (depending on the Glover demolition) and at the Academic Village which is partially funded by CFT.
- Travis sends monthly CFT account balances for each department - everyone on this committee should receive the balance for their unit.

### Next Meeting

Thank you to all who attended. Scheduling for further meetings expected to occur during Winter Break.

Meeting was adjourned at 3.48pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Eric Goldenstern with modifications and additions from Kelley*