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ESTC Minutes
Engineering Student Technology Committee
February 10, 2026
3-4pm Scott 203 & Teams

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Present:
ATS : Nick Mesa, ~~Spencer Jones~~, ~~Prof. Maria Rugenstein~~
CEE : Alex Johnson, ~~Prof. Ryan Smith~~
ECE : ~~Vosidjon Abduvahobov~~, ~~Natalie Ingegneri~~, ~~Prof. Ali Pezeshki~~
ME : Tessa Bailey, Shane Sisler, Mayank Mate, Prof. Bonnie Roberts
SE : Tillie Pinkowitz, Dixie Poteet, Prof. Steve Conrad
SBCE : Soumik Ghosh, Santiago Zimbron-Leon, Prof. David Wang
Ex-Officio : Kelley Branson (ETS), Prof. Sam Bechara (Assoc. Dean for Undergraduate Affairs)
Guests : Nick Stratton (ETS), Lisa Metz (ETS), Nick Stratton (ETS)

Old Business & Welcome

Welcome

Meeting called to order by Tillie. Welcome back.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes from the November 13, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved. This 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.

Unfilled Positions

> SBCE undergrad
> CEE undergrad
> CEE grad
> ECE grad

New Business

Overview of the FY27 Budget and Approval Process

Kelley shared the FY27 budget explaining how revenue is generated (and why we don't get all of it due to add/drop) from student CFT and a small amount (<10%) from used Labs equipment sales. The budget for the next fiscal year (FY) is created from a copy of the previous year and updated. The ESTC has the power to modify the budget line

items but often allows most things to remain since they are currently there and supported (like the computing in the Internet Cafe and Magellan). In an "easy" budget year, our projected expenses for next year cause our budget to start off in the "black" or positive. In harder years, we may start off in the red or negative and must zero out certain line items or reduce other costs. Example - we have reduced department allocations for most of the last five years.

She showed how some line-item expenses for the current year are used to update parts of the FY27 budget spreadsheets like the removal of lost Labs spaces (Anderson, Titan and the ERC design studios), and purchases that have come through this fiscal year which are used to update next year's budget such as some of our student portion of College software.

She brought up each sheet in the FY27 budget. Central Services is what ETS manages for the students and is the largest part (Labs, electronic classrooms and design studio hardware and software; Virtual Classroom, Windows and Linux Compute Server farms, student shares of infrastructure...). Server items are located in the Scott Data Center. The Loaner Pool offers laptop and projector checkouts for students. Wages are those for student employees in ETS and staff who directly work for student software and hardware. Department allocations are provided for each department. Idea 2 Product (I2P) Lab has been supported at $30K each year. A new addition beginning in FY27 is $5K yearly for the Drone Center AeroLab voted on last year. Software allocation may be a bit low again. Special Projects are urgent or emergency requests usually from ETS.

The FY27 budget is currently starting out in the black with $34,015 to allocate. This could change as software and hardware are renewed in the next few months and will see price increases.

Our job is to go through each line item on the FY27 budget and discuss it. A motion must be made to approve the line item and a "second" must follow with a majority vote to officially approve the item. Then a ✅ is made next to the line item. We continue doing this until the entire budget is approved. If we are still in the black, we can allocate that to things like increasing line items (like department allocations) or set the funds aside for a special project like the Future Technologies Building.

Special Project: Scott Data Center UPS Replacement

Kelley explained that ETS has a special project she wanted a vote on since it is more than urgent but less than an emergency. The UPS and flywheel that power the data center is old, out of warranty and if we should lose power, may not keep power going until the diesel generator is online. ETS has been trying to replace this for more than six months and finally has a design and quote from CSU Facilities. It replaces the flywheel with batteries and replaces the UPS itself with a 500KW unit. CFT has traditionally paid for 56% of data center infrastructure which includes server racks and

power equipment. For this $500,000 (approximate) UPS replacement which will provide twice the power we currently have to support more high performance and AI computing, the ESTC's portion would be about $280,000. Kelley suggested that with all of our encumbrances and forecasts on the current account, she believes the account would still have more than $200,000 left.

Motion was made to provide $280,000 for the UPS replacement, seconded and the vote was unanimous for approval.

Current State of the CFT Account (2591300)

The CFT account is DIFFERENT than the budgets we create. The budget for a given year is a roadmap of how the different entities are allowed to spend out of the account.

Travis Rogers sends the departments an account summary and what they have left each month -- February's will be coming soon. Please help your department spend the funds you have.

At the time of this meeting, the account had about $680K left plus $75K in another static account. This includes known encumbrances but not the "forecasts". A forecast may be the VCL server replacements that will be ordered in the spring. The budget tells us what we have to spend. What actually is spent (larger or smaller) is shown in the account.

Budget work

We began our FY27 Budget work with Business Expenses.
　　　　- Business Expenses
　　　　　　　This is a percentage of enrollment. Passed.

Line items remaining:
　　　　- Computer Lab Equipment
　　　　　　　　　Maintenance
　　　　　　　　　Furniture
　　　　- Server Equipment Replacement
　　　　- Network Equipment Replacement
　　　　- Server Maintenance
　　　　- Loaner Pool
　　　　- Staff & Student Wages
　　　　- Software
　　　　- I2P Lab

Department Allocations Rule Change

Tillie proposed a new rule that will require that by mid-March before Kelley submits the annual University CFT Report, departments must do one or more of the following:

- spend all or part of their allocation
- encumber all or part of their allocation
- report to Kelley what will be spent before June 30
- report to Kelley (or the ETS Director) what they plan to carry over to the next
       fiscal year with details of the plan(s)

Failure to do this will result in the department losing their (remaining) allocation to the general CFT pool.
The 2026 deadline is March 10.

February 12 note from Kelley: All departments were notified of this rule individually by email on February 11 by Kelley with a cc to Tillie. Recipients included ESTC reps, dept heads, dept managers and dept lab managers (if they have one).

Kelley will follow up beginning of March to help those departments who need it.

This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Spring Call for ESTC Strategic Initiative Proposals

Because it is projected we will still have significant funds left in the ESTC's account this year, Tillie suggested forming a spring strategic initiative subcommittee who will work with department lab managers and others. A call for proposals will not go out until we have a better idea of what we'll actually have.

The subcommittee is Tessa, Shane, Alex, Dixie, Soumik.

Upcoming Meetings
All 3-4pm in Scott 203 (and Teams by request)

- February 17
- March 3
- March 10
- April 7
- April 21

Meeting was adjourned close to 4pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tillie Pinkowitz, Soumik Ghosh and Kelley Branson