

## **Background/Chronology**

### **Spring Semester 1997**

The Student Government Association Senate drafted and passed a bill authorizing a technology fee of \$20 per student per semester. To be implemented beginning in the Fall of 1998. One unique feature of the bill specified one-third of the fees collected would be spent on student labor to train student workers to assist their fellow students with the technology.

Shortly after this bill was passed, the Legislature passed an Act authorizing all State Universities to implement a technology fee. In order to comply with the Act; the SLU Student Government Senate rescinded its own legislation and began negotiations with the Administration for a new Technology Fee Agreement. The process could not be completed before the end of the Semester; however, negotiations continued throughout the Summer session. The agreement was completed, but could not be voted on until the beginning of the Fall Semester. The SGA Senate finalized the agreement with the Administration and voted to pass the bill in Mid-September of 1997. In accordance with the Legislative Act, a fee of \$5 per semester hour, with a cap of \$50 was voted in. Payment of the Technology Fee began Spring Semester of 1998.

A Technology Oversight Committee has been formed and is made up of the SGA President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and two Senators. University Administration representatives are: Vice-Presidents for Academics, Student Affairs, and Administration/Finance, Dean of Student Life and two staff members; Assistant Vice President for Technology, Director of Academic Services, and Director of Academic Computing Services. The Committee meets once every semester (Fall and Spring) to review the status of the Agreement, establish priorities, and approve future plans, projects, and expenditures. The Technology Fee Agreement is audited by the Internal Auditor for Fall, Spring, and Summer Semesters. (See Attachment 1; *SLU Technology Fee Agreement*)

You have a record of the total amount collected in each of the following semesters and we are including here a breakdown of what was actually spent.

### **Spring Semester 1998**

A total of **\$475,570** was spent. The following is a summary of projects and expenditures:

Student Labor	\$ <b>100,871</b>	for 83 Student Technology Assistants + 12 Grad Assistants
Supplies/Software	\$ <b>60,796</b>	for networking equipment, and software for 10 labs + 8 dorms
Computer Equipment	\$ <b>313,903</b>	for upgrading 8 labs and 8 dorm labs.

### **Summer Semester 1998 (1<sup>st</sup> session; June)**

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A total of **\$58,222** was spent. The following is a summary of projects and expenditures:  
Student Labor           **\$40,182** for 46 Student Technology Assistants + 8 Grad Assistants  
Supplies/Software      **\$ 9,594** for networking equipment and software for 10 labs  
Computer Equipment    **\$ 8,446** for equipment for 3 labs

**Summer Semester 1998 (2<sup>nd</sup> session; July)**

A total of **\$49,175** was spent. The following is a summary of projects and expenditures:  
Student Labor           **\$13,200** for 38 Student Technology Assistants + 8 Grad Assistants  
Supplies/Software      **\$ 4,008** for networking equipment and software for 10 labs  
Computer Equipment    **\$ 31,967** for upgrading 3 labs

**Summary of Technology Fee Projects January 1998 Through July 1998**

Student Labor            **\$ 154,253**  
Supplies/Software \$   **74,398**  
Computer Equip. **\$ 354,316**  
Total **\$ 582,967**

(See Attachment 2: *Internal Auditor's Report* )

**Planned Projects for 1998-1999**

The Technology Oversight Committee met in April of 1998 and approved a budget of \$1,350,000; based on anticipated revenues projected from Fall/Summer registration enrollment figures. (See Attachment 3: *Technology Fee Projected Budget, 1 July 98 - 30 June 99* and Attachment 4: *Technology Fee Budget 1998-1999*).

**Future of the Technology Fee at SLU**

The Technology Fee Agreement for SLU states that the fee will be reviewed at least every year. The \$50 cap was determined to be sufficient to meet the technology needs of the students for two years. It was agreed to consider raising the fee, if necessary, at that time.

Open lines of communication between the Student Government representatives have produced feedback to the Administration. SGA representatives approved a full time staff Coordinator for Student Productivity Services. The salary and office operating budget was approved and allocated from the Technology Fee. Student representatives also have been active in the budget planning phases, and planning for training of Student Technology Assistants. A committee is being formed to work with Financial Aid to establish new guidelines, policies, and procedures for Student Technology Assistants, which now number over 100.

Over \$40,000 was budgeted for Student Technology Assistant training and certification. Southeastern has become an Authorized Testing Site for the Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) program. Approval will soon be received to become an Authorized Training Site for the MOUS program. All Student Technology Assistants will receive training and attain certification. As the program expands, certification will also be offered to all students.

**Several initiatives**, specified in the agreement have been implemented or begun:

Internet Access at reduced rates has been made available to all students, faculty, and staff through an agreement with I-55 Internet Services. The selection was made after a Request For Proposals was evaluated by a select committee. The beginning rate is \$17.00 per month (3000 accounts) with a one dollar per month reduction for every 1000 accounts established. The rate could be \$9.95 if 10,000 accounts are established.

Voluntary leasing of notebook computers for students is a goal for Fall Semester 1999. Phase I is faculty leasing; an Invitation to Bid is in review at this time. Phase II will pilot several target groups of student in the Spring of 1999. Phase III will be the roll-out planned for Fall of 1999.

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Attachments included with original memo