

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROPOSAL

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY'S BEST
OPPORTUNITY
FOR USING IT TO ENHANCE TEACHING
AND LEARNING

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BRIEF SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The school's current equipment and technology does not provide the best teaching and learning environment that could be provided. Lack of a technology fee, lack of updating and improving equipment and a lack of training opportunities for instructors on how to use the technology in the classroom does not allow for the advancement of technology in the classroom. The benefit of our recommendation is to provide the students of this university with the best education that they can receive through the use of technology.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The purpose of this extremely informative report is to find various ways to enhance education and improve learning in the classroom by implementing technology. A huge obstacle within our journey is that the current budget does not allow for advancement of technology in the classroom to better learning and improve teaching. Using the university's resources and collecting additional aide from outside sources will catapult our progression of reaching this higher technological goal.

The funds will cover certain aspects such as purchasing the actual hardware and software that are only a few steps within the process. Unfortunately, the instructors themselves have absolutely no idea how to work the present technology. This problem indicates that another portion of the funds will be used to actually teach the professors and instructors various technologies that will give our students

an upper hand over most. Supplying the knowledge to our teachers inadvertently presents the knowledge to us, the students.

The importance of solving our present problem, which is the lack of funds to support technology, is critical to the academic progression and advancement of students. Tackling this issue will set students on a higher plateau within technology which is rapidly overcoming society. The problem consists mainly of funds not being collected and/or distributed properly, and has nothing to do with the willingness to learn and excel. With assistance from various resources and our consistent perseverance our problem will be solved.

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS

The first part of our research was to show some examples of technology being put to good use at other universities. We feel that these other schools may have thought of some ideas that could be very useful in our schooling environment. Some of the other schools that we have researched have been using technology in many different ways. By researching these different schools we can present what has worked for them and will lead to the further strengthening of our ideas.

The first school that we looked at was the University of Florida. They have devised a plan to improve the overall quality of their university through technology. Within the timeline of twelve months they plan to restructure the campus Office of Information Technology (OIT) around services. They are going to offer new campus wide services such as e-mail, collaboration and file services, and web hosting. They plan on using these expansions to create new job opportunities at the same time. They will need more people to help with desktop support and upgrading or replacing all of the computers campus wide. This plan seems to be very well thought out and detailed with a budget and an example timeline.

The next school we looked at is the University of Miami. This university offers a wide range of services. They offer computer classes for the campus community. They offer an automatic backup service to protect the students and faculty. We have found that this school is pretty much where we are as far as the use of technology in the teaching and learning environment. They offer many of the services that we offer to their campus community.

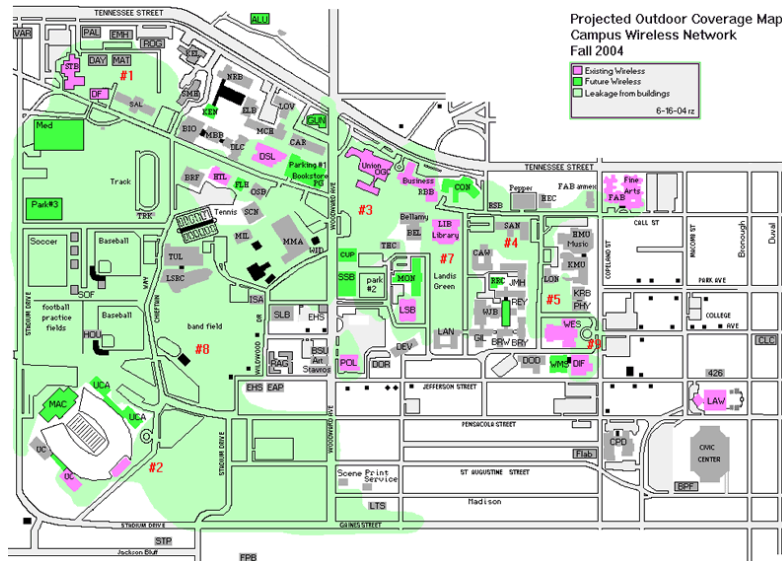
From the research we have found most schools are constantly looking for ways to update and improve their facilities. All of the universities are currently battling with out dated hardware, expensive software licenses, and facilities that are inadequate. This is an ongoing challenge that most universities are faced with. Florida State University is working to stay at this same level. The Center for Research of Innovative Technologies for Learning is a research project headed up by the Learning Systems Institute at Florida State University. It provides a great example of a collaborative effort on the college's behalf to increase technology within the classroom. Their main goal serves to find and study more innovative ways to use technology while researching the benefits and effectiveness of current technology in the classroom. Schools all across the country are implementing similar research groups and panels to examine the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

While the first part of our research was to show how important it is to keep up with the current technologies, the second part of our research was designed at finding a way to strengthen the skills of the teachers and students.

Willing to pay extra fee in tuition for technology	83%
Teacher does not know how to use all of the technological equipment	87%
Improvements students would like to see	Better wireless, More discounts, Free printing in lab
Students on campus at least 12 hours per week	65%
Own a computer	52%
Own a laptop	43%
Live off campus	74%
Use a computer on school work	99%

Survey results completed by 75 students

This second part of our research was set on improving what we already have available at Florida State University. We first wrote and organized a survey that was handed out to 75 students across the FSU campus that range in many different majors and career paths. This survey showed that 83% of students would be willing to pay an extra fee in their tuition in order to improve some of the technology issues that our associated with the students of this campus. Of this 83%, over 65% of these students are willing to pay up to 30 dollars extra a semester. Most of the students surveyed feel that this fee would be well worth their money if the school could upgrade the wireless system, get rid of the printing fees in the labs, and/or make better discounts available through the computer store and on software. Students feel that the wireless on campus does not cover some of the main areas that they feel should have wireless, such as some of the classroom locations. Our survey showed that most students are willing to pay for advancements in technology if they are able to receive some of the benefits that could be provided.



Purple represents wireless available in Fall 2004

According to the survey that we handed out, 87% of the students agreed that most of their teachers do not know how to use their technological equipment correctly. Most of the classrooms come standard with computerized projectors that can be connected to multiple computers. Though this is a definite improvement in using technology, it can often prove confusing for inexperienced instructors. An increased struggle involved in enhancing teaching and learning in the classroom is the fact that a majority of the instructors are unsure of how to use the technology correctly. Often, teachers have gone for years with little or no need to learn how to use such technological equipment. 42% of students believe that their teachers do not take full advantage of the technology that is available for use in the classroom. This is steadily increasing the demand for seminars and workshops on using technology in the classroom. Many different organizations are now beginning to offer different ways of increasing instructor's knowledge of technology. One way to increase a teacher's confidence in using technology in the classroom is to offer many different workshops and seminars.

There are many organizations that specialize in such events. One organization is Sun Associates. Their main goal is to provide teachers with the opportunity to learn about new technology available to enhance and use educational technology successfully. Sun Associates provides a list of workshops offered to educational professionals nationwide. They offer classes ranging from using technology with limited resources to integrating the internet into classroom activities. Since these classes are offered nationwide, it would be in Florida State University's best interest to make workshops such as those listed available to its employees.

Another organization is The Florida Center for Instructional Technology. Their website has an ample amount of information available to instructors, including many publications about using technology within lesson plans. They also offers many workshops and are more than willing to assist different schools and districts with technology integration. The Center is located in The University of South Florida and this is where all of their workshops take place. Most are around 6 hours long and cost about \$50. They offer a large range of topics from pod casting to using video equipment.

Setting aside money to pay for such workshops would show to be a great advantage in increasing productive use of technology in the educational setting. Creating these incentives, such as providing workshops free of charge for teachers to learn how to use equipment correctly, will greatly increase instructors confidence and ability to teach. Giving instructors, administrators, and technology specialists an opportunity to attend informational workshops is the most beneficial way to increase the usage of technology to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom.

CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

Through the research that we have presented, Team Roosevelt feels technology is what will define the future. As shown, there is a desire for most students to improve on the technology that is

available around this university. Our research also shows that there are many key tools in the world that can be used to our benefit. We just need to have the desire to improve upon what we already have in place. It is important that we proceed in finding the best resources that are available to help the students of this university. Placing money aside for a technology fee would provide the chance for many of the technological advances that this university may immensely need right now but it is just not in the budget. Secondly, by using this money we could update all of the existing equipment that we have available and provide students with more motivation to use technology today. Finally, it is important that we are able to provide training for the teachers. We need to learn to make full use of all of the technology that we already have in place on this university. By following these three items, Florida State University will be providing the best teaching and learning environment that technology is making available.