

School of Architecture

Information Technology Vision Plan

2002-2003

Introduction

Our continuing goal is to provide our students with practical and challenging training in the use of information technology that reflects the state-of-the-art architecture and planning practice and establishes a foundation for their practice in the future. This goal is being achieved. Our challenge has become the maintenance of high standard and quality in the effort.

Funding

Information Technology Fee

The School of Architecture depends heavily on Information Technology fee funding to accomplish our acquisition and maintenance of computer resources. During the past several years, the ITAC has been generous with funds to implement our various computing vision plans. \$25,000 of the direct allocation has been set aside for repair and maintenance of existing equipment. The cyclical and special allocations have been used to acquire new equipment and setup new facilities. The following table presents the ITAC funding for the School of Architecture in the past three years.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Direct Allocation</u>	<u>Cyclical and Special Allocations</u>
1999-2000	\$25,000	\$90,000
2000-01	60,000	45,000
2001-02	63,000	200,000

SOA Instructional Technology Fee

The School of Architecture implemented an Instructional Technology Fee for students in the 1995-96 academic year. This fee is now completely allocated to computer support salaries and is no longer considered in budgeting for equipment acquisition.

SOA Special Equipment Fund

A portion of the School of Architecture's annual operating budget has been a Special Equipment Account. The Special Equipment budget amounts to \$100,000 per year. The following table presents the percentage of the Special Equipment budget devoted to various categories during the past three years.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percentage of Special Equipment Budget</u>		
	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-01</u>
Network Infrastructure			56.2%
Classroom Facilities		3.9%	23.1
Staff Computers	20.5%	19.8	10.4
Faculty Computers	41.1	23.6	8.5
Shop Equipment	0.5	3.6	1.8
Student Computers	36.7	45.5	
Office Equipment	0.2	2.6	
Photography Equipment	1.0	1.0	

Current Status of Technology Projects

Instructional Computer Labs

The School of Architecture has instructional computer laboratories in Sutton Hall that function as open use facilities for our students when not reserved for classes. There are more than sixty Macintosh and PC workstations dedicated to GIS, CAD, 3D modeling, animation, computer imaging, and desktop publishing in these facilities. Computer Lab equipment is replaced on a three year basis.

Design Studios

The design studio is the major pedagogical venue for School of Architecture students. Currently we have computerized nine out of the thirty studios in the School. Each computerized studio has one workstation for every two students. This year we have started a collection of laptop computers that are assignable to an additional design studio. The four sections of our second-year Design III studios are now computerized and their visual communications course is emphasizing computer applications. Studio equipment is replaced on a three-year basis.

Technology Classrooms

Faculty in the School of Architecture have had a tradition of using 35mm slides in their classes and lectures for more than fifty years. Thus our support consoles have mostly consisted of slide projectors. The projection system in Jessen Auditorium was upgraded just last year. We are now beginning a series of installations to provide technology consoles in our auditoriums and lecture classrooms. Goldsmith Auditorium is currently being upgraded. We will follow up in the next few years with smaller consoles in our other classrooms.

Networking Infrastructure

The School of Architecture occupies all or part of four buildings on the west side of campus (GOL, SUT, BTL, WMB). The Goldsmith Hall network upgrade has just been completed with 100Mb switches and CAT5 cabling to all rooms. The network supporting the SOA offices in Battle Hall is scheduled to be upgraded in 2002 when the General Libraries plans a new switch for the Architecture and Planning Library. The West Mall Building has a variety of technologies to match its' various constituencies; after the third floor remodeling is completed this year a comprehensive upgrade will be planned. Sutton Hall is still utilizing a fifteen-year-old shared 10Mb network of thick ethernet cabling with fan-out hubs. A wireless zone is proposed to alleviate the traffic until CAT5 recabling can be afforded.

Digital Assets Collection

Our Digital Imaging project is steadily progressing. Web-based access to the catalog containing entries for 100,000 slides--about half of the collection--is now available. Thumbnail and web-quality resolution copies of 28,000 images are on-line. We have been supporting a new initiative to address the needs of digital asset collections in various departments across campus.

ITAC Funding Requests

Sutton Hall Wireless Network \$ 50,000

Sutton Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus. The network in Sutton is aged as well. Unfortunately, with massive concrete columns and beams the building does not lend itself well to recabbling. We propose a wireless network.

Digital Assets Collection \$ 50,000

We need to settle on an industrial strength database to house the catalog of our digital slide collection. We are currently using FileMaker Pro, having upgraded from Data-Ease in the recent past. The slide collection is variously estimated at 200,000 to 300,000 slides, there are now 100,000 entries in our catalog. This ongoing project needs funding for digitization, cataloging, and access development. We would like to join with other groups on campus to specify and acquire the hardware and software to centrally maintain and access digital asset collections on-line.

Technology Classrooms \$ 30,000

We are currently modernizing our main auditorium (GOL 3.120) with a technology console similar to those installed across campus by the College of Natural Sciences. We plan to add smaller consoles to our instructional classrooms in Sutton Hall as funding permits.

Large Scale Imaging Facility, Print Center \$ 80,000

Geographical Information Systems have become increasingly important to city planning and urban design. The need is emerging to capture and manipulate large-scale images--such as maps and aerial photography. Wide format (36") equipment will also be useful for archiving and reproducing architectural construction documents.

As our students have become accustomed to computer-aided design, we have identified a growing demand for high quality visual output. We need a professionally staffed print center where output is dependable and an accounting system to track individual usage. We propose and would support an ITS operated high quality print center on our premises.

Cyclical Replacement of Equipment \$ 100,000

We will replace almost fifty high-end workstations in design studios and computer laboratories this year.

TOTAL REQUEST \$ 310,000