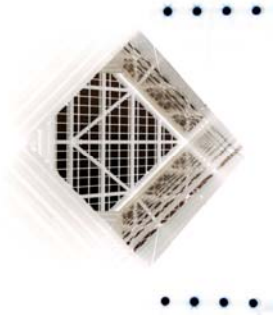


SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

VISION PLAN AY 2005-2006



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Summary:

The School of Architecture is dedicated to providing secure, reliable, and relevant information technology to its students as an integral part of our educational mission. The ever-increasing use of and reliance upon computing technology within the School and in the professions that we teach make the seamlessness of this integration, and its success, all the more important.

Recurring Funding Requests:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| Cyclical Replacement of Equipment | \$80,000 |
| The increasing utilization of both Computer Lab and Studio computing resources in combination with the growing computational power required by contemporary modeling, analysis, and visualization software necessitate the continued funding of student computing resources in the School. | |
| Software Acquisition & Licensing | \$55,000 |
| Our commitment to providing students with access to the various design, analysis, and visualization software packages used in industry is a linchpin to their successful professional education. | |
| Network Infrastructure | \$25,000 |
| The expansion, maintenance, and cyclic upgrade of existing networks in the School's four buildings is critical to fulfilling our mission. | |
| Computer Lab and IO Central Staff | \$30,000 |
| In order to provide the necessary level of service for the Computer Lab and IO Central (our central printing, plotting, scanning, equipment checkout, and helpdesk facility), we are committed to hiring Graduate Assistants for approximately 1200 hours per long semester (in addition to the 5 teaching assistant positions provided by the School for this purpose). | |
| Digital Fabrication | \$15,000 |
| In order to protect the School's significant investments in Digital Fabrication, recurring funding to provide maintenance contracts on our hardware, software, and systems is required. | |

New Recurring Funding Requests:**Operating Systems Specialist (FTE) \$65,000**

This funding, annual salary plus fringe benefits, and the commitment to its associated recurring costs are vital to the ability of the School to meet its critical educational needs. This request is consistent with the Provost's commitment to provide additional support infrastructure for the School's new degree programs, our substantial increases in graduate student enrollment, and with the stated need for additional IT staffing in the School's previous vision plans.

Project Funding Requests:**Digital Fabrication \$45,000**

The capacity to produce physical models in three dimensions directly from computer-based designs is one of the most exciting areas of growth in the School. The next phase in our implementation of digital fabrication facilities in the School is the acquisition and installation of a three-axis small-format CNC Router. We believe that this technology is essential to keeping current with architectural practice and the growing emphasis on digital design within the field. This funding request is consistent with recent discussions between the Dean of the School of Architecture and the VP for Information Technology.

Centralized Portfolio Quality Printing \$20,000

In order to provide the high volume and high quality letter and tabloid size color output required for the production of portfolios and other presentation materials and maintain a reasonable per-page cost for students, the School needs to invest in new high-end color laser printers for our central printing facility.

Classroom & Review Presentation Systems \$35,000

Our two large auditoria are in need of a serious technological overhaul, including a systems redesign and the acquisition and installation of new equipment to improve the usability and reliability of the teaching technology. In addition, we plan to upgrade at least one review facility with projectors so that digital-intensive studios will have a review facility appropriate to their design and presentation methodology.

Sutton Hall Infrastructure Upgrade \$100,000

The partial network upgrade of Sutton Hall in AY 2003-04 has been a tremendous success. The computer lab and studios now have rudimentary fast Ethernet capabilities which have alleviated the avalanche of network failures that plagued the School in previous years. However, this partial solution has only emphasized the need for a complete SCS (Structure Cabling System) within Sutton Hall. Sutton Hall operates the only remaining Thick Ethernet Trunk on campus, this antiquated network is simply unsupportable.

Total ITAC Funding Request: \$470,000

Appendix A – Review of Technology Infrastructure and Support Services:

Computer Lab

The School of Architecture Computer Lab, located in Sutton Hall 1.102, provides dedicated computational, input, and output resources to all students enrolled in classes within the School. There are over sixty standard PC workstations, sixteen standard Macintosh workstations, and seventeen special application or peripheral workstations. The computer lab is open 104 hours per week during long semesters, from 8:00 AM to Midnight Sunday through Thursday and 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM on Fridays and Saturdays.

IO Central

IO Central contains the centralized printing and plotting equipment for the School, large format scanning, equipment checkout (including digital cameras, LCD projectors, and laptops), and provides a central location for students needing IT assistance. The facility adjoins the Computer Lab and has the same hours of operation. It houses a central print server with queues for the various printers and plotters; including eleven plotters, 3 color laser printers, 3 black and white laser printers, a 42" large format scanner, and an InVision Si2 3D printer.

IO Staff

The Computer Lab and IO Central are staffed by a combination of graduate and undergraduate students. Five of the positions are funded by Teaching Assistantships, while the other seven are paid hourly from ITAC funds. One of the significant changes we have made is to have two IO Staff on duty during peak lab hours to accommodate our new equipment checkout functions and to provide better support and service to the user population.

Technology Classrooms

The School has two auditoria, seven classrooms/seminar rooms, and two studios with installed projection systems.

Network Infrastructure

Goldsmith Hall has up-to-date networking infrastructure, with a Gigabit backbone, Fast Ethernet to the desktop, and a Cat-5e SCS. The West Mall Building and Battle Hall have been updated to Fast Ethernet networks thanks to generous donations of old network equipment from ITS and the Department of Computer Sciences, their legacy Cat-5 cabling is now at its maximum potential. Sutton Hall has had a partial network upgrade but still requires a SCS and network equipment to bring it up to campus standards.

IT Staff

Director of Information Technology (Senior Systems Analyst)

Responsible for IT vision, management of IT staff, administration of ITAC and special equipment budgets, network administration, Server administration, software licensing and distribution, Computer Lab and studio workstation administration, computer support as described below.

Assistant Director of IT (Network Analyst)

Daily IO Staff supervision, Computer Lab supply management, security implementation, inventory, BevoBucks and print charging administration, faculty and staff computer administration, and computer support as described below.

Webmaster

Design and administration of the School of Architecture web site.

Table of Computer Support Escalation			
Tier \ Area	Computer Lab	Studios	Faculty/Staff
1	IO Staff	Asst. Dir.	Asst. Dir.
2	Asst. Dir.	Director	Director
3	Director	n/a	n/a

Proposed – Operating Systems Specialist

This position would take over Computer Lab and Studio computer administration, lower level server administration, practical software distribution, second tier computer lab, and first tier studio computer support.

Appendix B – Funding:

Information Technology Fee (ITAC)

The School of Architecture is extremely grateful for the generous funding that ITAC has provided over the past several years. ITAC is the primary budget used to provide the student computing resources and IT infrastructure in the School. It is hoped that the ITAC funding of the proposed Operating Systems Specialist position will dramatically improve the level of service and the educational impact of the various technologies at use in the School.

SOA Instructional Technology Fee

The School of Architecture implemented an Instructional Technology Fee for students in the AY 1995-96. This fee is primarily allocated to salaries for the Assistant Director of IT and the Webmaster and is not considered in budgeting for other purposes. We have submitted repeated applications to increase this fee, but have been denied. This has led to our request for ITAC funding of the Operating Systems Specialist position.

SOA Special Equipment Fund

A portion of the School of Architecture's annual operating budget is the Special Equipment Account. The annual Special Equipment budget is approximately \$100,000. This account is the primary source of money for faculty and staff computing, it is also used to support our AV and shop facilities and to subsidize essential technology programs not funded or partially funded by ITAC.

SOA IT Revolving Fund

All IO Central services are charged to students through the BevoBucks system. In addition, faculty and staff may use the input and output devices in this facility if they provide a UT account number. These funds go into the SOA IT Revolving account and are used to pay for toner, ink cartridges, paper, 3D modeling material, CD-Rs, and other consumables used in the operation of the Computer Lab and IO Central. Since our academic programs are very output intensive, the priority for these services is that they remain inexpensive and available to the students. Therefore the inflow of money is set at a cost recovery level for the consumables needed for operation, with equipment and maintenance costs subsidized by other budgets as necessary.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information or clarifications. Thank you for your attention to these matters and for your devotion to improving the state of Information Technology at The University of Texas at Austin.

Sincerely,



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