

**DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL INNOVATION AND ASSESSMENT
VISION PLAN • 2005–2006**

SUMMARY OF REQUESTS

DIIA integrates pedagogy, instructional technology, and assessment to promote effective and innovative instructional and evaluation practices in support of the University's core purpose and values.

For 2004–05 DIIA and its Center for Instructional Technologies received \$715,621 in ITAC funding, \$405,671 for recurring operating costs, and \$309,950 for one-time capital expense projects. DIIA is requesting \$1,364,000 in the 2005–2006 ITAC Vision Plan. This represents a 5% decrease from the request for 2004–2005. Of the total 22 requested items, 3 are student programs (\$287,000), 4 are for faculty support (\$215,000), 8 for both students and faculty (\$493,000), 5 for network, servers, hardware, and lab (\$318,000), and 2 for operational support (\$51,000).

TOTAL REQUEST FOR 2005–2006 **\$1,364,000**

Ongoing Operations **\$921,000**

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| ~FAST Tex program | \$90,000 |
| Blackboard support and development | \$50,000 |
| Technology assessment support | \$55,000 |
| Multimedia e-space learning and teaching lab operation | \$105,000 |
| Large class technology support | \$38,000 |
| TA/graduate student instructor Teaching with Technology certification | \$25,000 |
| Expanding faculty development workshops | \$62,000 |
| New technology evaluation and development | \$78,000 |
| Salary increases for current technical staff and student assistants | \$26,000 |
| Lifecycle funding of staff equipment | \$100,000 |
| Professional development and training | \$25,000 |
| Online lecture streaming and course development | \$35,000 |
| World Lecture Hall maintenance | \$10,000 |
| Ongoing Course Assessment system (OCA) | \$162,000 |
| eGradebook support and development | \$60,000 |

Proposed New Ongoing Operations **\$330,000**

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| Course management system (CMS) exploration and development | \$50,000 |
| Course-Instructor Survey process streamlining and automation | \$60,000 |
| Online CIS pilot | \$100,000 |
| Course conversion for transformative learning online | \$120,000 |

One-Time Capital Expense Projects **\$113,000**

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| Multimedia e-space learning and teaching lab | \$30,000 |
| Mobile assessment, training, and production lab | \$25,000 |
| Server room modification, networking, hardware, and storage | \$58,000 |

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

Ongoing Operations **\$921,000**

~FAST Tex program **\$90,000**

Based on an assessment study of this program, additional staffing of experienced students are needed to provide support for over 50 projects, impacting more than 30,000 students. Includes lifecycle replacement of equipment and hardware and software upgrades.

Blackboard support and development **\$50,000**

Continuing funds are needed for a training specialist hired to provide support for faculty using Blackboard.

Technology assessment support**\$55,000**

Continuing funds are needed for an evaluation specialist to provide assessment-specific support for faculty. Duties include evaluating effectiveness of online courses and lectures, new and existing online resources, new multimedia instructional materials, and ~FAST Tex projects; providing IITAP entry consulting.

Multimedia e-space learning and teaching lab operation**\$105,000**

Continuing funds are needed for a systems analyst, computer programmer, and part-time lab proctors to manage and operate the lab.

Large class technology support**\$38,000**

In collaboration with LAITS, DIIA will work with a part-time graduate student intern to coordinate and offer technology console training for faculty, and to produce best practice examples and other online resources for effective teaching using classroom console technologies (PowerPoint, document camera, video, Web sites). An online scheduling and survey system is needed to manage and support large classroom activities to promote student collaborative learning.

TA/graduate student instructor Teaching with Technology certification**\$25,000**

DIIA, in collaboration with the Office of the Provost, Office of Graduate Studies, and the International Office, has developed a series of workshops focused on teaching with instructional technologies. The series will lead to a certification in technology-enhanced teaching methods and create a pool of qualified graduate student instructors for large classes, as well as train future faculty skilled in using technological innovations in teaching and student learning. A 1/2 FTE instructional designer will be required to offer the sessions twelve times a year.

Expanding faculty development workshops**\$62,000**

Expanding faculty development workshops to offer them several times a year will prepare more faculty to be ready to work with their department and college instructional technology units and to participate more effectively in the various DIIA incentive programs including ~FAST Tex and IITAP. Funds would be used to provide faculty experts and consultants to conduct workshops. Additional funds are needed for summer retreat workshops, following a successful collaborative model with COFA and COLA. It will provide equipment and software for faculty, as well as a staff-project manager.

New technology evaluation and development**\$78,000**

A student developer will be hired to explore the potential of Flash video and other media using a Flash media server. DIIA needs to purchase software frameworks and libraries such as the JSML Java statistics library. Based on successes with mixes of wireless and portable technologies, a variety of hardware solutions should be tested in classroom settings. Two faculty members will be compensated to participate in prototyping of emerging classroom technologies. Specialized software and hardware are needed for exploration of immersive interactive multimedia solutions for learning using gaming technologies. A pair-programming station, ceiling-mounted dlp projector, six webcams, and software are needed to use agile development methodologies and enhance collaboration.

Salary increases for current technical staff and student assistants**\$26,000**

The request represents an anticipated 3 percent raise for technical staff and student assistants.

Lifecycle funding of staff equipment**\$100,000**

DIIA staff hardware, software, and peripherals require timely upgrades and replacement in order to properly serve our clients. We are continuing a three-year replacement cycle.

Professional development and training**\$25,000**

The request supports training, developing, and delivering conference presentations, and making journal submissions to document and share what we learn.

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| Online lecture streaming and course development | \$35,000 |
| A mobile lecture webcasting system has been successfully piloted in a large classroom at UT, with positive results for over 500 students. New equipment, servers and tool licenses are needed to expand and streamline this system. Student assistants will be hired to facilitate production, accessibility compliance, and continued collection of assessment data for new and existing online courses and resources. Assessment data to be collected will help determine feasibility of installing and implementing webcasting units in technology classrooms campus-wide. | |
| World Lecture Hall maintenance | \$10,000 |
| The widely praised World Lecture Hall Web site needs ongoing funding for software tools to actively harvest and filter third-party sites in order to maintain a rich and prestigious resource at an acceptable technological level. | |
| Ongoing Course Assessment system (OCA) | \$162,000 |
| Continuing funds are needed to coordinate, enhance, and support UT Austin's Web-based Ongoing Course Assessment system to provide both qualitative and quantitative statistical data to assess teaching effectiveness by both faculty and students. | |
| eGradebook support and development | \$60,000 |
| Continuing funds are needed to coordinate, enhance, and support UT Austin's Web based eGradebook system. Faculty can manage course assignments and each student's related grades throughout the semester. These grades can automatically calculate final grades and integrate directly into the Online Grade Submission system. | |
| <i>Proposed New Ongoing Operations</i> | <i>\$330,000</i> |
| Course management system (CMS) exploration and development | \$50,000 |
| The new version of Blackboard is built on a core system that can be expanded and customized. For custom modules that require in-house development, DIIA requests one new Java/JSP skilled programmer. | |
| Course-Instructor Survey process streamlining and automation | \$60,000 |
| DIIA will hire one full-time systems analyst to streamline the entire CIS process from the distribution of the paper forms to data gathering and generating results. Enabling automatic creation of results on the Web for deans, chairs, and faculty would allow faculty to make meaningful and expeditious changes to their courses, and to adjust before the beginning of the next semester based on student feedback. | |
| Online CIS pilot | \$100,000 |
| DIIA will hire a full-time systems analyst and part-time graduate research associates to design a pilot to determine if return rates justify using an online course instructor survey as part of UT faculty assessment. | |
| Course conversion for transformative learning online | \$120,000 |
| DIIA will hire an instructional designer and a Web developer to work directly with faculty and graduate student instructors to develop rich learning environments that incorporate multimedia and interactive elements to enhance the effectiveness of the instructional process and improve classroom efficiency. | |
| <i>One-Time Capital Expense Projects</i> | <i>\$113,000</i> |
| Multimedia e-space learning and teaching lab | \$30,000 |
| The DIIA multimedia lab will be transformed into an experimental teaching lab. Three courses a year can be conducted in the lab and will be designed by a team of faculty and instructional technologists to experiment with technology-enhanced learning in the small classroom setting. All lab furniture will be mobile and modular to allow a flexible physical setting. Depending on the teaching strategy, the lab can be adapted to | |

facilitate group work, peer-to-peer collaboration, presentation, training, or traditional lecture. All classes will be investigated and research findings will be shared. The goal of the project is to discover which teaching strategies are locally applicable and to inform planning purchases for the next 5–10 years.

Mobile assessment, training, and production lab **\$25,000**

Growth of existing programs such as IITAP, ~FAST Tex and summer orientation have necessitated conscripting staff hardware for short-term off-site use. The request is for 8 laptops (\$20,000) and a portable presentation system with A/V capabilities (\$5,000).

Server room modification, networking, hardware and storage **\$58,000**

DIIA must purchase VXA tape media for long-term archiving of completed projects and additional XRAID media storage for short-term mirroring with backups. In cooperation with TACC and ITS, the DIIA will continue to support the UTGrid initiative. The DIIA is currently at 100% network port use and existing outdated equipment needs to be replaced.

DIIA INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES SUPPORTED BY ITAC FUNDS

DIIA relies largely on the ITF allocation to fund our instructional activities, support the multimedia lab, and fund a large portion of our additional recurring expenses. For 2004–2005, DIIA and its Center for Instructional Technologies received ITAC funding of \$715,621, which represents \$405,671 for ongoing operations and \$309,950 for one-time projects. ITAC helps to fund the following programs and services:

- ~**FAST Tex**—Administer and monitor 61 faculty projects and employ 50 students; currently in progress
- IITAP**—Conduct the eighth annual instructional technology incentive program for UT faculty involving call for proposals, administration, management of a panel of national judges, and an open house at which all entrants are showcased and winners are announced
- Multimedia lab**—Provide the only high-end production facility open to all UT faculty and students for class projects; the lab is open 56 hours per week, staffed by a manager, technicians, and part-time proctors
- Courseware**—Provide training, second-tier expert consulting, and administration for Blackboard and other Web courseware tools
- Technical evaluation**—Conduct exploration and development on new and emerging technologies
- Database production and maintenance**—Build and maintain World Lecture Hall, EUREKA!, E-Portfolio and in-house databases
- Resource development**—Create Web site resources, tutorials, lab guides, journal submissions, and conference presentations
- Training**—Conduct workshops, on-site and lab-based training sessions for faculty and graduate student instructors, and for classes based on requests from instructors
- Ongoing Course Assessment system**—Allows faculty to solicit anonymous, secure student feedback online on an ongoing basis throughout the semester
- eGradebook**—Allows faculty to maintain course assignments, related grades, and calculate final grades for their students in a secure online environment.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES SUPPORTED BY LOCAL/SPECIAL FUNDS

DIIA receives student fee money and state-appropriated funds for developing policy for technology-enhanced learning and its other operations: credit-by-exam testing, petitioning, management of student credit-by-exam tests, test administration, computer testing labs, classroom scanning, administration of the course instructor survey, and online services that integrate student information.

DIIA does not receive other local money or special funding for operations that:

- Provide students and faculty reliable instructional technology services,
- Make possible direct access to online and multimedia learning and teaching technologies,
- Support and complement departments and colleges in their endeavors to promote innovation in instruction,
- Partner with colleges in the research and development of instructional technologies, and
- Collaborate with other campus entities in implementing technology grants.

Not represented in this plan are the following collaborative proposals:

- Wireless classroom response system—Natural Sciences, Engineering, and DIIA
- Instructional video infrastructure collaboration—Technology Deans Group Ad Hoc Subcommittee
- E-learning environment for faculty and graduate students—ITS, UT Libraries, School of Information, and DIIA