Academic Affairs
Capital Equipment Fund (CEF)
FY07 Planning Process
April 2006

Academic Affairs is at an important crossroads in terms of financial planning for equipment purchasing and maintenance. In the past, capital needs have been funded ad-hoc. Multi-year planning has not been feasible.

In January 2006, national benchmarking was completed for all Stockton programs with the University of Delaware Cost Study Database. The results show that, for almost all programs, the non-salary budget, which includes equipment purchase and maintenance, has been severely under-funded.

President Saatkamp and the Cabinet have approved a new Capital Equipment Fund (CEF) for Academic Affairs to begin in July 2006. This new and substantial revolving fund supports equipment purchases, scheduled and unexpected repairs, replacements, renovations and contingency funds. A similar structure may be possible for future years, although the continuation is yet to be confirmed. For the upcoming fiscal year, these funds are in addition to existing commitments to Computer Services and will be focused on the academic divisions.

The proposed Capital Equipment Fund allocation for next year is a substantial increase over this year’s capital equipment budget.
Funding of this magnitude offers great opportunity, and brings with it substantial responsibility for careful and prudent management of funds.

Effective use of the CEF will require attention to decision-making processes, stakeholder input mechanisms and assessment/evaluation methodology to insure continuous improvement.

Governance and Accountability

The CEF provides a substantial opportunity to make lasting change in resources available to students, faculty and staff. A transparent, flexible and inclusive decision-making process will expand its ultimate impact.

- Some needs facing Academic Affairs are urgent: examples include repairs to performing arts facilities and aging laboratory equipment.
- Some needs are strategic: examples include investment in lab / classroom equipment to help spur graduate and undergraduate enrollment growth.
- Some needs are ongoing and predictable: examples include desktop computing, academic computer labs and replenishment of consumable supplies.
- Used wisely, the CEF would enhance College revenue by attracting new students, helping retain existing students, improving the quality of academic programs and supporting the scholarship and research of faculty and students.
Proposed CEF Goals

Goal 1: State of the Art Educational Experiences
Stockton College will provide all students with rich, varied and customized educational experiences to effectively prepare graduates for career opportunities.

Goal 2: Effective Technology Use for Teaching, Learning, Scholarship and Research
Stockton College will enable all faculty, staff and students to fully utilize technology for teaching, learning, scholarship and research, administrative support, and communication.

Goal 3: Continuous Improvement of Equipment Planning and Purchasing
Stockton College will make purchasing, repair and renovation decisions that are timely, forward-looking, reflective, responsive and transparent.

Proposed CEF Purchase Evaluation Criteria
CEF purchases and expenses will be evaluated twice a year based on the following criteria:

1. How well do expenditures address student needs?
2. How well do expenditures address faculty and staff needs?
3. How do expenditures ensure reduction of long-term repair and maintenance costs?
4. How do expenditures reflect investments that may contribute to future revenue streams?

CEF Stakeholder Events

Students, Faculty, Staff and Administrators are invited to three identical Stakeholder Sessions to learn more about CEF and have an opportunity to comment on the draft planning documents.

Stakeholder Session 1: Tuesday, April 25, 4:30 pm TRLC
Stakeholder Session 2: Wednesday, April 26, 2:30 pm TRLC
Stakeholder Session 3: Thursday, April 27, 4:30 pm WQ103

Comments can also be submitted via a web suggestion box.