

Curriculum Technology Fee Analysis and Recommendation

Summary:

Over the past 4 years, Blue Ridge Community College has made significant investments in new instructional technology resources to leverage the effective use of technology in instruction. During this same period the technology fees paid by curriculum students has remained the same. Although we strive to keep fees as low as possible, in order to maintain our current level of instructional technology while also ensuring sufficient resources to invest in the future, we must adjust our curriculum technology fee to fund these increasingly essential instructional resources.

Recommendation: Adjust the curriculum technology fee to \$2.50 per credit hour up to a maximum of \$40. (*Per 1E SBCCC 700.3 adopted May 16th, 2014, the per semester maximum technology fee is now \$48.*)

Increasing Costs:

42% Overall Growth in Instructional IT Expenditures:

- **Moodle Rooms:** This premier 'cloud-based' Learning Management Platform to improve the online learning experience for our students was added in FY13.
- **Kaltura:** A 'cloud-based' online video streaming service allows instructors and students to leverage the power of video in their instruction.
- **Software Cost Increases:** The cost of many critical software systems have increased over the past 5 years including:
 - Adobe Software: Due to changes in Adobe's licensing model, the latest version of Adobe's software has nearly doubled in cost compared to 4 years ago.
 - Computer Aided Design Software: In order to better support current industry needs, BRCC now offers instruction using multiple CAD software systems. In addition, this software is now available in twice as many classrooms as in 2011.

Moodle and Kaltura contribute approximately 12% of the overall growth in instructional technology expenditures. The increased utilization of a variety of software products as well as general price increases comprise the remaining 30% of growth.

Decreasing Revenues:

- Over the FY11 – FY15 period, there has been a 6% decrease in actual curriculum technology fee revenues. This decrease is driven by declining overall enrollment as well as a shift towards less academic credits per semester

The Value of Technology Fees for Curriculum Students:

- OpenLab: Windows and Macintosh Computers loaded with instructional software and staff willing and able to assist
- 100 page print/copy credit: Curriculum students can print or copy up to 100 pages for free.
- Access to a wide variety of software on campus including:
 - MoodleRooms: A premier online Learning Management System
 - Kaltura: Online video streaming service
 - Autodesk Product Design Suite (aka AutoCAD)
 - Autodesk Entertainment Creation Suite
 - GibbsCam CAD software suite
 - MultiSim and LabView – electronics CAD suite
 - Adobe Creative Suite
 - Microsoft Office Suite
 - Microsoft DreamSpark (software development)
 - Microsoft IT Academy Online Courses