The Computation Advisory Committee
TechStarter Idea Generation Process – Stage 1

The Computation Advisory Committee (CAC) oversees all of the student technology monies on campus. As the pace and breadth of educational technologies has rapidly quickened, the committee has developed a process to deploy these substantial funds to projects that will positively affect the student educational experience. The objectives of the new process are:

1) Create a simple mechanism to have ideas submitted to the committee.
2) Allow anyone in the university community the ability to submit an idea.
3) Have ideas continually evaluated during the Fall and Spring semesters.

To accomplish these goals, the CAC partnered with IT services to use their successful Techstarter website (http://www.techstarter.iastate.edu/). Techstarter was patterned off sites such as Kickstarter to allow innovative ideas to be easily submitted to various entities within ISU. Submitting a Techstarter idea is easy and fast and will allow the CAC to evaluate ideas from all areas and stakeholders on campus. The full process can be seen in a flowchart available on the CAC website (https://www.it.iastate.edu/committees/cac/).

The following is information to help you in creation of an idea to be considered by the CAC.

What should be in a CAC Techstarter submission?
The intent of this process is to allocate one-time funding for a project that will have a substantial impact on the student educational experience at ISU. In addition to a short description, pictures, video links, or website links can be included to help make your idea clear. It is strongly recommended to include a value statement in your writeup. Consider questions such as:
- What will this idea/technology enable?
- Why is this valuable to student learning?

How long should a CAC Techstarter submission be?
By using the Techstarter site, the CAC intends for submissions to be short, most likely a paragraph or two. The committee is looking for concise idea statements that show potential for positive impact on the student educational experience at ISU. Specific details are not needed at this point. If the idea is selected by CAC to be developed into a proposal more details will be requested.
How the CAC Evaluates Techstarter Ideas
The CAC will evaluate Techstarter ideas every month. Please see the flow chart for a graphical description of the process. If the committee deems an idea appropriate for consideration, then it will be scored on two criteria. These criteria, along with discussion by the committee, will determine if the idea should move to the proposal stage.

Determining if an idea is appropriate for the CAC to consider – The idea needs to be centered around educational technology as defined by CAC guidelines. If the idea does not fall under these guidelines, then it will not be considered further by the committee. Please review the appropriate expenditure guidelines for further information (https://www.it.iastate.edu/committees/cac/).

Techstarter Evaluation Criteria

Potential Impact on Student Educational Experience
(1-5, 1 being lowest impact)
- Could this positively affect a large population of ISU students?
- Could this positively affect a more restricted population of students but fill a substantial need for student learning?
- Does the idea, process, or technology have the potential to improve the educational experience for a student at Iowa State in a meaningful way?
- What communities will this potentially serve?

Stakeholders Potentially Affected
(1-5, 1 being lowest effect)
- What groups of student stakeholders does this project have the potential to positively affect?
- Is this potentially cost-effective?