“Promoting Academic Success for ISU Student Athletes: Utilizing Transportable Computer Access”

Submitted to the Computation Advisory Committee

March 3, 2006
**Project Title:** Promoting Academic Success for ISU Student Athletes: Utilizing Transportable Computer Access

**Summary:** Student Athletes at Iowa State University face unique challenges with respect to their ability to complete homework, study, and access important resources (ie. Internet) while engaged in off-campus athletic events. Presently, they have very limited access to laptop computers and the Internet while ‘on road trips’.

This proposal is intended to create a reasonable pool of laptop computers with wireless internet capability that will be available on a first come/first serve basis to more than 450 student athletes. Wireless connectivity will allow users to access the Internet to obtain course notes posted by Professors/Instructors (ie. webCT) and use other software to complete class work while traveling. A formal laptop ‘checkout system’ will be developed and maintained by Student Athletic Services staff.

**Priority Discussion:** This Proposal meets the requirements of Priority Initiatives 1, 2, 3, and 4.

1st Priority: This innovative proposal will create transportable computer access for more than 450 ISU student athletes from a broad range of academic majors.

2nd Priority: Akin to non-student athletes, ISU student athletes have made frequent requests to use laptop computers for course work while traveling to sporting events, etc. Their request for computers, support, and desire for academic success drives this proposal.

3rd Priority: While some laptops are available to students on a first-come/first-served basis, the pool of equipment is very limited. Funding of this proposal will be beneficial to many students.

4th Priority: While a new or specific computer lab is not created with this proposal, the funding of laptop computers and basic software will, in essence, be a new resource and essentially a “portable lab” available to ISU student athletes where ever they travel.
Proposing Units: Athletic Student Services
Academic Success Center/Dean of Students Office
Disability Resources Office

Responsible Administrative Units: Athletics Department
Disability Resources Office

Administrators and Project Participants:

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Sharon Paterson-McGuire, PhD
Interim Dean of Students

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Donald Reed, PhD
Associate Athletics Director

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Heather Phillips
Interim Director, Academic Success Center

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Steven Moats
Manager, ASC/Disability Resources
**Project Leaders:** Donald Reed, PhD, Associate Athletics Director, phone (515) 294-9324

Marlon Dechausy, Academic Coordinator, Athletic Academic Services, phone (515) 294-6835

Steven Moats, Manager, Disability Resources phone (515) 294-7220

**Project Overview and Expected Benefit:** Student athletes are faced with unique challenges with respect to being able to access the internet, write reports, etc. when they are traveling for University sporting events. Presently, ISU student athletes must rely upon their own resources to purchase laptop computers. And this presents a challenge for most of the 450 student athletes due to financial considerations. This project will create a bank of laptop computers for checkout by ISU student athletes to promote their academic success through the use of computer technology.

Athletic Academic Services will create and maintain a viable laptop "checkout" system available to student athletes on a 'first come, first served' basis. Disability Resources will provide software for text conversion on several computers and standard MS Office will be installed utilizing University licensing rights.

This innovative laptop check-out system will assist student athletes in better utilizing travel time (aka "road trips") and promote continued classroom success as they participate in inter-collegiate athletics. This proposal sets out a two year request for equipment and ADP support as a need for laptop computers will continue to exist and the number of student athletes taking advantage of this opportunity will likely increase as knowledge of its' availability increases.

**Budget:** See Attached Appendix.
Appendix:

**Full Itemized Budget Proposal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Cost/item</th>
<th>Total Cost/Year 1</th>
<th>Total Cost/ Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laptop Computers</td>
<td>10 x 2 years</td>
<td>$1465</td>
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<td>14,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDP support</td>
<td>10 x 3 years</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>$21,850</strong> year 1</td>
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**Minimum Feasible Budget Proposal**

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<th>Item</th>
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<th>Total Cost/ Year 1</th>
<th>Total Cost/ Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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