**Guide to Utilizing the Student Technology Fee and Explanation of Scoring**

***Fee Definition and Authority***

The Student Technology Fee (Tech Fee) is governed by Act no. 1450 of the regular session and is under supervision by each institution in higher education. This fee is considered a supplement to current funds allocated by the University and by grants. In October of 2012, the Nicholls State University Student Government Association voted unanimous approval for the assessment of a technology fee of $5.00 per credit hour, up to a maximum of $100.0 per semester, effective in the Fall 2013 semester. In a memorandum dated July 19, 1999, Mr. Bobby Jindal clarified fee expenditure guidelines that went into effect September 1, 1999. All Tech Fee requests must follow these guidelines.

***Committee Makeup***

Complying with guidelines issued by Mr. Jindal on July 19, 1999, the Student Technology Fee Committee s composed of nine (9) students and eight (8) faculty/staff members giving the students a majority. Student makeup is composed of the Student Government Association President (or designee) and Vice President, one (1) student from each college, for a total of six (6), and three (3) students at large appointed by the SGA President. The faculty/staff makeup is composed of 1 faculty member from each college, for a total of five (5), one (1) from the library, one (1) from Student Affairs, and one (1) from Student Life. The ex-officio members that do not have voting privileges include: Director of Academic Computing, Chief Information Officer, Member of University Administration, and all Instructional Technology Specialists and Computer Specialists from Academic Computing.

***Scoring of Proposals***

Points are given for each section and represent a weighted average. Sections with higher point totals indicate sections that are given greater consideration. Proposals are scored on a cumulative basis and are ranked by the total cumulative score. Those proposals ranking highest have the highest chance of being undertaken. The overall constraint is the amount of budget available for projects. In the event of a tie and only one project can be undertaken, the Tech Fee Committee will determine who shall get funded.

***Procedure for Funding***

As per Mr. Jindal’s guidelines, Nicholls State University has instituted a Student Technology Fee Plan. Line items inserted into the fee plan are composed of proposals from University Colleges, Departments, and the students.

The committee is first required to pass an overall budget that outlines the major categories of expenditures. In lieu of a Technical Review Committee, Academic Computing serves in this capacity and ranks the technical merit of each proposal and determines whether it fits into the overall plan for technology at Nicholls State University. If a proposal fits the description of technology, Academic Computing determines whether it is technically sound and whether human resources are available to implement and maintain all current production.

After the technical review is complete, the proposals are then submitted to the Student Technology Fee proposal subcommittee for consideration. The subcommittee scoring process usually takes place during November. The subcommittee makes their recommendations to the full committee where a vote is held to decide which proposals will be funded and for what amount. Upon approval by the committee, the proposal is inserted as a line item into the Student Technology Fee Plan. Normally in December, after the vote, the chairperson of the proposal will receive a letter stating the outcome of the proposal. Minutes of these minutes are kept, which detail the discussion and debates on specific items and of the budget.

***Presentation***

The selection subcommittee may request the applicant to give a 5-minute presentation to further explain their proposal. Applicant will be contacted by Administrative Assistant in Information Technology if presentation is required.

***Routing***

All proposals will be submitted by the requestor to the Dean or Director of that section. The Dean or Director will then evaluate the proposal and, if approved, he/she will forward the proposal to Information Technology at kim.nannie@nicholls.edu for further processing. This submission by the Dean or Director will serve as approval by that party. All proposals must be submitted by Friday, October 2, 2020 at 2:00pm.

***Proposal Package***

The completed proposal request must be submitted by the Dean or Director to the Administrative Assistant for Information Technology, Kim Nannie at kim.nannie@nicholls.edu by 2:00pm on Friday, October 2, 2020. All additional paperwork should be attached with the proposal document, including any quotes and/or sources of pricing generated while working on the proposal, especially for specialty items.

***Rewarding of Winning Proposals***

The money to purchase items awarded is from the current fiscal year’s budget; all attempts will be made to purchase prior to the June 30th purchasing deadline. However, projects funded should not anticipate delivery or completion prior to the start of the next semester. Academic Computing will set up a priority and distribution schedule. Completing all projects prior to the beginning of the Spring semester is impossible, as this does not give the staff of Academic Computing the necessary time to order, set-up, and test the equipment along with other time sensitive jobs already scheduled during that time. If these items are needed in a sensitive timeframe, please discuss with Academic Computing before the end of the semester to determine if it would be possible to be added to the schedule.

***Inventory of Awarded Items***

Items purchased for funded proposals will become the responsibility of the Department or College of the proposal. These items will be transferred to the appropriate inventory and any repairs after the end of the warranty period will be the responsibility of the Department or College. However, these items funded with Student Technology Fees must continue to adhere to the State’s Technology Fee guidelines, as they must be accessible for student use and must not be placed in faculty or staff offices.