STAT
April 20, 2007
2:30 p.m.
Watson Library, Room 113A
Agenda

1. Roll Call

2. New Business
   A. Approval of Minutes
   B. Updated User Fee Agreement
   C. OIG Audit and Board of Regents’ Response
   D. Student Technology Fee Reserve
   E. Office of Inspector General report

3. Old Business

4. Next meeting date

SGA President

Signature

Date

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Non-voting Advisor

Jennifer Long

SGA President

Signature

Date

April 20, 2007
STAT
April 20, 2007
2:30 p.m.
Watson Library, Room 113A

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Non-voting Advisor

Jennifer LONGSTROM

Guest:

SGA President

Shawntel WEMPORE

Signature:

Date: April 20, 2007
STAT  
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Non-voting Advisor  
Jennifer Long Martin  4/20/07

SGA President  
Shantel Wempren  April 20, 2007
Present:
Shantel Wempren, SGA President, Natchitoches
Muhammad Habib-Jamil, Natchitoches Student Representative
Shayne Creppel, Natchitoches Student Representative
Kim French, Shreveport Student Representative
Joe Campbell, Shreveport Student Representative
Mary Lehto, Ft. Polk Student Representative
Jennifer Long-Martin, Student Technology Support Specialist/Recorder

The chair, Shantel Wempren, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., Jennifer Long Martin acting as Recorder of the minutes.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the January 5, 2007 minutes. Shayne made the motion, Mary seconded, motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the update to the User Fee Agreement. Muhammad made the motion to approve the updated agreement, Shayne seconded, motion carried.

Jennifer passed out the following information to the STAT committee for reviewing, no approval or motion made for the information.
   1. OIG Audit and Board of Regents' Response
   2. Student Technology Fee Reserve
   3. Office of Inspector General report

Next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

Before adjourning Shantel informed the committee of a discussion she had with Dr. Webb about camera security in relation to the incident at Virginia Tech.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

STAT Chair, Shantel Wempren, SGA President

Recorder, Jennifer Long-Martin

Date
3/3/07

Date
3/3/07
Northwestern State University
Student Technology User Fee Agreement

I. History
In 1997 the Louisiana State Legislature enacted a bill authorizing each management board to implement a technology fee for their colleges and universities. One stipulation of the bill provided that the Student Government Associations of all public higher education institutions approve a technology fee of 5 dollars per credit hour, not to exceed 100 dollars. Since that time, all institutions have voted on, passed, and implemented the technology fee. As an additional requirement of the bill, each institution had to develop a written plan of how the monies would be administered.
In response to the legislature’s charge, the Northwestern State University Student Government Association became the first SGA to pass this fee. In the beginning, the university placed management of the fee under the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) chaired by the Director of Information Systems. In 1997 the Information Technology Advisory Council (ITAC), with the input of the University community, developed the Northwestern State Technology Enrichment Plan (NSTEP), which provides direction for all university technology related expenditures including the student technology fee.
In the spring of 1999, ITAC created the Student Technology Advisory Team (STAT) to act as the primary body responsible for the appropriate use of the Student Technology Fees and to develop a formal internal fee use agreement between the student representatives and the University that defines both the governance and appropriate use of the Student Technology Fee.

II. Purpose
The primary purpose of the Student Technology is to ensure that all students have easy access to technologies that are necessary to adequately prepare them to successfully compete in the job market. The fee is a student self-assessed fee that should be used exclusively to the direct benefit of the students. In addition, students should have the primary role in the governance and allocation of these funds.

III. Governance Structure
A. Vice President
The University Vice President of Business Affairs has oversight authority of all University expenditures as they relate to the effective operation of the University enterprise.

B. Director of Auxiliary Services
The mission of the Department of Auxiliary Services is to provide the highest quality products and services to the Northwestern State University community while setting the highest operational standards possible. Auxiliary Services’ departments survey their customers each year on the delivery of products, services, and customer service. In addition, student focus groups and committees provide valuable input on student trends, needs, and desires throughout the year.
C. **Student Government Association**

The Student Government Association President is responsible for providing members to the Student Technology Advisory Team. The Student Government Association is also responsible for promoting student interest and awareness in student technology matters as well as overseeing the Student Technology Advisory Team to insure that the student technology component of NSTEP is being followed.

D. **Information Technology Advisory Council**

The Information Technology Advisory acts in an advisory capacity for the maintenance and implementation of the Northwestern State Technology Enrichment Plan.

E. **Student Technology Advisory Team**

The Student Technology Advisory Team (STAT) is a representative body of students which: 1) Appoints student members to ITAC; 2) Helps ensure that NSTEP promotes the technology needs of students; 3) Approves the annual Student Technology Fee budget; 4) Ensures that the performance of all personnel funded through the student technology is evaluated annually, or as requested by STAT in accordance with university staff evaluation guidelines; 5) Adheres to the membership, charge, and role defined for STAT as presented herein.

F. **Student Technology Support Specialist**

The Student Technology Support Specialist is an unclassified regular University position funded with Student Technology Fees. The position: 1) Serves as a liaison between the students and the University administration; 2) Serves as the budget Unit Head for Student Technology Fee expenditures; 3) Records and posts minutes of STAT meetings; 4) Serves in a report capacity to the Chair of the Student Technology Advisory Team; 5) Assists in the development and implementation of student-driven technology initiatives; 6) Provides guidance to departments in the purchase of student computer related hardware and software; 7) Works with the university administration to effectively implement (NSTEP); 8) Develops training programs for student users and lab assistants; 9) Coordinates with colleges and departments to support student applications in the student technology lab environments; 10) Prepares the year end report of Student Technology Fee expenditures for STAT, the Internal Auditor, and the University President. 11) Submits for review, upon request, a report relating to issues involving personnel employed by STAT.

IV. **Membership, Charge, and Role of the Student Technology Advisory Team (STAT)**
A. Membership of STAT
There will be a standing committee composed of seven members known as the Student Technology Advisory Team (STAT). Those composing the membership of the committee include:

**Regular members**

SGA President – *Natchitoches Campus (Chairman)*
SGA Treasurer – *Natchitoches Campus (Vice-Chairman)*
SGA President – *Shreveport Campus*
SGA Treasurer – *Shreveport Campus*
Two students nominated annually by the Natchitoches Campus SGA President, and approved by the associated SGA senate
One student nominated annually and approved by the Leesville Director

**Ex-officio members (non-voting)**

Director of Information Systems (The Director of Information Systems may act as a non-voting chair to call STAT meetings in the event that the regular STAT Chair and Vice-Chair become inactive)
Faculty/Staff Representative from ITAC

B. Charge to STAT

Within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year the annual Student Technology Fee budget will be approved by STAT and submitted to the appropriate approving agents and the University President, who will in turn submit the document for approval to the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors. A simple majority vote of all voting STAT members will constitute an approved expenditure of the fee. No fewer than five voting members including the chair of STAT will constitute a quorum of STAT members. No student technology fee funds may be appropriated or reallocated without the approval of STAT.

C. Role of STAT

The Student Technology Advisory Team serves as a mechanism to allow proper student involvement in the expenditure of technology fees. In all other cases where the expenditure of Student Self-Assessed Fees is in question, the governing student organization votes on the expenditure. A designated budget unit head then administers the expenditure. STAT will have sole authority over expenditures of the Student Technology Fee. The decisions of STAT cannot be overridden by the budget unit head and/or the approving agent unless the decision of STAT conflicts with the original legislation governing the use of the Student Technology fee.
To ensure that STAT maintains a cooperative relationship with ITAC, two members from STAT (including STAT chair or designee) will serve as voting members on ITAC.

D. Meetings of STAT

The Student Technology Advisory Team will call meetings as needed with at least one of the two ex-officio members in attendance. The meetings will be scheduled and called for by the STAT chair having given at least seven working days notice to the membership prior to the meeting. When necessary minutes will be approved electronically.

V. Guidelines of the Student Technology Fee

All guidelines set forth by House Bill #2339 (regular session 1997) and by the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors shall be followed. In addition, the following guidelines will apply to the use of Northwestern State University Student Technology Fee.

1. 20% of the annual Student Technology Fees collected, not to exceed $200,000 will be used to fund university technology grants as defined in a Request for funding Proposals (RFP), with the parameters for the request mutually agreed upon by the student representatives and university administration. This RFP will be issued annually. All interested parties including students, faculty, and staff may compete for funding. Funding of these grants does not assume any recurring costs.

2. 80% of the annual Student Technology Fees collected, or the remainder of the annual student technology fee budget will be dedicated to the following:

   a. Funding of Student Lab Assistant and Coordinator positions, not to exceed the allocation of positions approved by Louisiana State Civil Service

   b. Funding of approved University staff positions, including the Student Technology Support Specialist and Student Technology Technical Support Specialist

   c. Lab Development, Special Initiatives, Operating and Maintenance cost pertaining to student technology labs

   d. All NSTEP items approved for funding by STAT

   e. An RFP established for funding major technology initiatives consistent with the NSTEP document. Proposals may be submitted from any member of the University community including students, student organizations, faculty, or staff personnel. All expenditures from this section of the budget must benefit all students attending Northwestern State University. Funded Initiatives in this area shall
include but not be limited to: Development and maintenance of student computer labs on Northwestern State University campuses; Software for student use; Infrastructure for the set-up of student labs and student residence halls; Technology based equipment that is directly used by students. The student representatives and university administration prior to the execution of the RFP must mutually agree upon its parameters.

f. Any maintenance or renewal contracts in regards to equipment used by the student body in a student lab environment.

g. Replacement of equipment and software for student technology labs.

h. Assure there is a minimum $50,000 reserve maintained each year once prior year reserves are exhausted.

3. Prior year reserves will be used for replacement of equipment and software for student technology labs.

The parties to this document recognize that the nature, use, and cost of technology are dynamic, as are the state and University policies that govern its use. It is agreed, therefore, that the student representatives and the University will reassess the Northwestern State University Student Technology Fee User Agreement annually. Any additions/modifications to this document must be mutually agreed upon.

With the signature of The President of Northwestern State University and the President of the Northwestern State University Student Government Association, this agreement between the Students and the University shall be considered accepted with the above stated conditions. This document supersedes all previous documents that have dealt with this matter; and this document will become the official document governing the Student Technology Fee at Northwestern State University.

A signed copy of this document is located in the Student Technology Support Specialist office, Watson Library, Room 113.

President
Northwestern State University

SGA President
Natchitoches Campus
STATE OF LOUISIANA

OFFICE OF
STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEES

Sharon B. Robinson, CPA
State Inspector General

Approved by:
Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

January 17, 2007

File No. 1-06-0019
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Appendix A - Technology Fee Revenues and Expenditures
Appendix B - Board of Regents' Response
January 17, 2007

Honorable Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor of the State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Re: Case No. 1-06-0019

Dear Governor Blanco:

This report addresses issues raised during our review of the Student Technology Fee collected from students by state universities and community and technical colleges. The report includes one recommendation that, if implemented, could help define and regulate the expenditures from this fee.

We provided a draft of the report to the Board of Regents. Their written response is included as Appendix B.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon B. Robinson, CPA
State Inspector General

SBR/GD

Enclosure
Executive Summary

On March 15, 2006, the Office of State Inspector General received a complaint alleging the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) violated state law by paying salary expenses from technology fees collected from students.

The enabling legislation found at LSA-R.S. 17:3351.1 allows universities along with community and technical colleges to assess a $5 per course credit hour fee with a $100 per semester limit. The legislation states the fee is to be used in accordance with a written plan developed by the institution for implementing, replacing, improving, and expanding technologies to benefit student life and learning. The legislation does not specifically address the use of technology fee funds for salaries.

ULM provided several documents including a letter by an enabling legislation co-sponsor that indicate the institutions could use the technology fee to pay salaries for new staff required to support and maintain the new technology. The co-sponsor wrote "I believe it was the Legislature’s intent that these fees not be used for salaries except where those salaries are directly related to the technology purchased by the student technology fees."

After reviewing this documentation, we determined that ULM did not violate state law and expended its technology fee funds in compliance with a written plan and University of Louisiana System (ULS) guidelines.

Since the enabling legislation provided that each institution prepare its own written plan governing technology fee collection and expenditure, we expanded our review to include all public postsecondary education institutions collecting a technology fee.

Our review of expenditures did not include an examination of source documentation and therefore does not constitute an audit. Appendix B includes a response from the Board of Regents.

Summary of Observations

- A majority of the institutions’ technology fee plans are broad in scope and generally do not address specifics such as allowable percentages of total expenditures for salary expenses, operating costs, supplies and acquisitions.
- Technology fee expenditures compared among institutions vary greatly by categories such as salaries, supplies, acquisitions, etc.
- Large technology fee fund balances reported by some institutions raise questions regarding the appropriate amount the institutions should collect from students.
Background

LSA-R.S. 17:3351.1 allows public postsecondary education institutions to collect a technology fee from students after receiving approval from the respective management board and student government association. The law allows the institution to collect five dollars per course credit hour up to $100 per semester from each student.

Institutions are required to develop a written plan for expending the technology fee for purposes of implementing, replacing, improving, and expanding technologies to benefit student life and learning. The law states the term "technologies" includes but is not limited to instructional and laboratory equipment and the networking and supporting computer and telecommunications infrastructure necessary to support these activities.

Each institution collecting the technology fee is required by law to make an annual accounting to its management board of the use of monies collected from the fee.

Scope and Methodology

We conducted our review in accordance with Principles and Standards for Offices of Inspector General as promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.

Our review consisted of an analysis of technology fee plans and reported expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, for postsecondary institutions under the following system management boards:

- Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (Louisiana State University System - LSUS)
- Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities (University of Louisiana System - ULS)
- Board of Supervisors of Southern University (Southern University System - SUS)
- Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges (Louisiana Community and Technical College System - LCTCS)

We asked the staff of these management boards to supply the following technology fee related information:

- Board of Supervisors' system-wide policy and procedures;
- Each institution's written plan;
- Each institution's approved budget;
- Each institution's annual accounting to its management board including a breakdown of expenditures by expense account and object code.
Student Technology Fee

We assembled and compared the information supplied by the respective management boards resulting in the observations listed in this report. We did not audit the technology fee expenditures but compiled the information for review and comparison. Appendix A of this report provides a detailed compilation by institution of technology fee revenues and expenditures reported by the management boards for fiscal year 2005.

Our review procedures also included:

1. Reviewing pertinent state laws;
2. Interviewing pertinent employees of various university systems and institutions;
3. Reviewing other documents as we considered necessary.
Technology Fee

Fifty (50) higher education institutions reported collecting technology fees totaling $24,266,695 from students during fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. These institutions report to one of the states' four university system management boards and ultimately the Board of Regents.

Listed below are three areas of observation derived from our review of the information supplied to this office.

Observation #1 – Written Plans

A majority of the institutions' technology fee plans are broad in scope and generally do not address specifics such as allowable percentages of total expenditures for salary expenses, operating costs, supplies and acquisition. ULS is the only board providing system-wide written guidelines for its institutions.

Our review of institution plans found the schools generally addressed campus goals such as providing computer labs, internet access, student e-mail accounts, multi-media classrooms, and interactive communication systems between students and teachers. The majority of plans approve salaries for new positions and student labor required to maintain and support the equipment purchased by the technology fee.

The plans do not specify goals such as expending at least 50% of the fee on the purchase of new equipment, etc. Several plans do include a limit for salary expenses such as Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge and the ULS guidelines.

State law addresses appropriate uses of the fee for items such as the purchase of instructional and laboratory equipment, networking, supporting computer and telecommunications infrastructure, but does not limit expenditures to these goals.

State law does not require the respective management boards to issue system-wide guidance or policy for the collection and expenditure of the student technology fee. The law requires the respective management boards to approve the assessment of the fee at the institution and requires the institution to make an annual accounting to its management board.

Our review found, for example, that ULS issued guidelines effective September 1, 1999, stating the purpose of the technology fee and giving examples of appropriate and prohibited expenditures. The guidelines listed personnel costs for new positions required to support new equipment as an appropriate expenditure. However, the guidelines stated these expenditures should generally not exceed 25% of the annual budget. As guided by this policy, we noted ULS institutions reported salary expenditures generally consistent with the 25% recommendation.
Student Technology Fee

Our review of institution plans and expenditures show the schools appear to follow their written plans. However, expenditures reported by institutions show a wide range of percentages for salaries (including related benefits), operating services, supplies and acquisitions. For example:

- Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge (LSU-BR) – The plan states expenditures for salaries should be no more than 15% of funds generated. Of total fee expenditures, LSU-BR reported expending 10% for salaries and 54% for acquisitions.

- University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) – ULS recommends its institutions expend no more than 25% on salaries. ULL reported expending 16% for salaries and 74% for acquisitions.

- Louisiana State University, Shreveport – The plan allows for salaries but does not limit the expenses. The university reported expending 67% for salaries and 9% for acquisitions.

- Southern University, Baton Rouge – The plan states expenditures for salaries will total approximately 50% of total expenses. The university reported expending 57% for salaries and 21% for acquisitions.

The Office of State Inspector General understands there is no established standard either in law or in practice to define allowable percentages of total expenditures for salaries, operating services, professional service or supplies. However, state law appears to favor the purchase of equipment and infrastructure. With these goals in mind, we feel technology fee plans should establish allowable ranges of percentages for expenditures that are not equipment or infrastructure-related.

**Observation #2 – Technology Fee Use**

The way the technology was used varied widely from institution to institution.

For the review period, we compared expenditures for six categories as a percentage of total expenses to get a snapshot of institution priorities in expending the technology fee (See Appendix A). We were not able to ensure that all institutions record expenditures consistently among the various categories. Expenditures in the categories are represented as a dollar figure and a percent of total expenditures by the institution. Categories of expenditures include the following:

1. Salaries
   - Universities and community colleges reported salary expenses. Technical colleges did not report expending the technology fee for salary expenses. Salaries as a percentage of total expenditures at the institutions ranged from zero to 67%.
Of the 20 institutions reporting salary expenditures, 15 spent less than 30% of the total budget for salaries, while five schools spent 40% or more.

- Institutions reporting salary expenses that are 10% or less of total expenditures:
  - Delgado Community College $ 59,455 (4%)
  - L.S.U. - Baton Rouge $481,627 (10%)
  - Bossier Community College $ 37,857 (10%)

- Institutions reporting 50% or greater for salaries:
  - L.S.U. - Shreveport $312,967 (67%)
  - Southern - New Orleans $314,385 (62%)
  - Southern - Baton Rouge $722,881 (57%)

2. Travel
   - Expenditures for travel were not widespread with only 10 institutions reporting travel expenses. The percentage of total expenditures ranged from less than 1% to 19%. Expenditures generally were less than $2,500, however several institutions reported greater dollar expenditures as follows:
     - Southern – Baton Rouge $21,586 (2%)
     - Nicholls State $ 8,000 (1%)
     - Northeast La. Technical College $ 3,751 (19%)

3. Professional Services/Other
   - Expenditures in this category include services provided in specialized or highly technical fields by sources outside of state government. These expenditures were reported by 10 institutions ranging from less than 1% to 29%. Eight of the 10 institutions reported 4% or less of total expenditures in this category. The two institutions reporting the greatest expenditures are as follows:
     - Grambling State $205,469 (29%)
     - Southern – Baton Rouge $239,342 (19%)

4. Operating Services
   - Expenditures in this category include equipment maintenance, data line charges, telephone services, etc. Seventeen of the 19 university campuses reported operating services expenditures. The percentage of expenditures range from less than 1% to 36% of total expenses. The two institutions reporting the largest expenditures are:
     - Grambling State $248,454 (36%)
     - Southern - Shreveport $ 40,721 (26%)
• Four of six community colleges reported operating services expenditures ranging from 3% to 72% of total expenses. The institution reporting the largest percent of expenditures in this category is:
  o Baton Rouge Community College $383,363 (72%)

• Seven of 25 technical colleges reported operating services expenditures ranging from less than 1% to 100% of total expenses. The institutions reporting the largest percent of expenditures include:
  o Mansfield Technical College $2,180 (100%)
  o North Central Technical College $1,435 (61%)

5. Supplies
• Expenditures in this category include articles and commodities, which are consumed, to be consumed, or materially altered when used in day-to-day operations. Virtually every institution reporting technology fee expenditures recorded supply expenses. Expenditures reported by universities and community colleges ranged from less than 1% to 100%. Institutions reporting very small or very large percentages for supplies generally had small technology fee budgets. The majority of institutions reported supply expenses from 1% to 20% of total expenditures.

Technical colleges reported small total expenditures, and supplies ranged from zero to 85%. Actual dollar expenses ranged from $505 to $11,961.

Institutions reporting the largest percentage of expenditures in this category include:
  o South La. Community College $ 54 (100%)
  o S. Jackson Technical College $ 6,440 (85%)
  o LSU Law Center $ 63,060 (69%)
  o Avoyelles Technical College $ 11,961 (56%)
  o Bossier Community College $185,984 (50%)

6. Acquisitions
• Expenditures in this category include the purchase of computer equipment and durable goods. Acquisitions ranged from less than 1% to 100% of total expenditures. Institutions reporting lower percentages of expenditures in this category include:
  o Baton Rouge Community College $ 779 (<1%)
  o Grambling State $ 31,775 (5%)
  o LSU - Shreveport $ 41,686 (9%)
  o LSU Law Center $ 11,989 (13%)
  o S. Jackson Technical College $ 1,160 (15%)
  o Southern - Baton Rouge $ 271,296 (21%)
  o Southern - New Orleans $ 108,232 (21%)
  o Southern - Shreveport $ 42,330 (27%)
As previously stated, the figures reported by institutions were not audited or adjusted by this office. This office has not set allowable limits for classes of expenditures; however, some institutions appear to have exceeded reasonable limits for expenditures within expense categories.

**Observation #3 – Fund Balances**

Large technology fee account fund balances reported by some institutions raise questions regarding the appropriate amount the institutions should collect from students.

We understand that the ending fund balance reported by the institutions may not be unrestricted cash (i.e., available to spend). The fund balance, or some part of it, may be committed to ongoing projects awaiting expenditures or simply being saved to fund future projects.

The following institutions reported a large ending fund balance when compared to total technology fee expenditures for the review period:

- LSU - Eunice: $339,215 or approximately 334% of expenditures
- Northwestern State: $2,645,008 or approximately 218% of expenditures
- Bossier Community College: $784,158 or approximately 210% of expenditures
- Southern - Shreveport: $196,841 or approximately 123% of expenditures

The following institutions reported a substantial ending fund balance but little or no technology fee expenditures for the review period:

- South La. Community College: $347,103 ending balance with $54 total expenses
- Delta Community College: $167,961 ending balance, no expenses
- Shreveport-Bossier Technical College: $94,875 ending balance, no expenses
- Slidell Technical College: $46,070 ending balance, no expenses
- Collier Technical College: $41,250 ending balance, no expenses

While this office does not recommend an appropriate ending fund balance, institutions should not use the technology fee account to accumulate large sums of money without appropriate plans for expending the funds.
Recommendation:

The Board of Regents in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors for the LSUS, SUS, ULS, and LCTCS should review the Student Technology Fee Program and consider developing and implementing system-wide guidelines and/or proposing legislation that addresses allowable ranges of expenditures by category and accumulating fund balances.
Student Technology Fee

APPENDIX A

Technology Fee Revenue and Expenditures
## Appendix A

### Student Technology Fee Revenue and Expenditures Fiscal Year 2004-2005

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<th>University System</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
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<th>Salaries (1)</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Professional/Other</th>
<th>Operating Services</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
<th>Acquisitions</th>
<th>Ending Balance</th>
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### SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- **Southern University - Baton Rouge**
  - Revenue: $1,153,402
  - Total: $1,271,151
  - Salaries: $722,881 (57%)
  - Travel: $21,586 (2%)
  - Professional/Other: $239,342 (19%)
  - Operating Services: $0
  - Supplies: $16,045 (1%)
  - Acquisitions: $271,286 (21%)
  - Ending Balance: $85,184

- **Southern University - New Orleans**
  - Revenue: $478,886
  - Total: $506,581
  - Salaries: $314,385 (62%)
  - Travel: $20,288 (4%)
  - Professional/Other: $52,301 (10%)
  - Operating Services: $0
  - Supplies: $11,376 (2%)
  - Acquisitions: $108,232 (21%)
  - Ending Balance: $94,205

- **Southern University - Shreveport**
  - Revenue: $233,069
  - Total: $159,640
  - Salaries: $73,483 (46%)
  - Travel: $2,347 (1%)
  - Professional/Other: $0
  - Operating Services: $40,721 (26%)
  - Supplies: $759 (1%)
  - Acquisitions: $42,330 (27%)
  - Ending Balance: $196,841

### LSU SYSTEM

- **LSU - Baton Rouge**
  - Revenue: $4,265,439
  - Total: $4,738,250
  - Salaries: $481,627 (10%)
  - Travel: $0
  - Professional/Other: $1,158,829 (24%)
  - Operating Services: $539,189 (11%)
  - Supplies: $2,558,605 (54%)
  - Acquisitions: $395,593
  - Ending Balance: $339,215

- **LSU - Health Sciences Center - N.O.**
  - Revenue: $309,056
  - Total: $286,239
  - Salaries: $0
  - Travel: $0
  - Professional/Other: $39,970 (14%)
  - Operating Services: $127,078 (44%)
  - Supplies: $119,191 (42%)
  - Acquisitions: $354,950
  - Ending Balance: $6,547

- **LSU - Health Sciences Center - Shreveport**
  - Revenue: $32,783
  - Total: $5,963
  - Salaries: $0
  - Travel: $0
  - Professional/Other: $0
  - Operating Services: $0
  - Supplies: $408 (7%)
  - Acquisitions: $5,555 (93%)
  - Ending Balance: $109,640

### UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

- **Grambling**
  - Revenue: $587,448
  - Total: $692,166
  - Salaries: $200,423 (29%)
  - Travel: $205,469 (29%)
  - Professional/Other: $248,454 (36%)
  - Operating Services: $5,631 (1%)
  - Supplies: $31,775 (5%)
  - Acquisitions: $8,262
  - Ending Balance: $54,203

- **Louisiana Tech**
  - Revenue: $1,378,668
  - Total: $1,201,362
  - Salaries: $193,481 (16%)
  - Travel: $3,412 (1%)
  - Professional/Other: $273,793 (23%)
  - Operating Services: $278,995 (23%)
  - Supplies: $451,679 (36%)
  - Acquisitions: $744,428
  - Ending Balance: $6,547

### COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- **Baton Rouge Community College**
  - Revenue: $503,235
  - Total: $532,517
  - Salaries: $117,407 (22%)
  - Travel: $1,142 (1%)
  - Professional/Other: $383,363 (72%)
  - Operating Services: $29,827 (6%)
  - Supplies: $779 (1%)
  - Acquisitions: $568,622

- **Bossier Parish Community College**
  - Revenue: $446,314
  - Total: $372,953
  - Salaries: $37,857 (10%)
  - Travel: $3,447 (1%)
  - Professional/Other: $274,001 (7%)
  - Operating Services: $185,984 (50%)
  - Supplies: $118,283 (32%)
  - Acquisitions: $784,158

- **Delgado Community College**
  - Revenue: $1,706,267
  - Total: $1,673,579
  - Salaries: $59,456 (4%)
  - Travel: $22,800 (1%)
  - Professional/Other: $301,366 (18%)
  - Operating Services: $1,243,609 (74%)
  - Supplies: $46,728 (3%)
  - Acquisitions: $984,006

- **Louisiana Delta Community College**
  - Revenue: $100,893
  - Total: $0
  - Salaries: $0
  - Travel: $0
  - Professional/Other: $0
  - Operating Services: $0
  - Supplies: $0
  - Acquisitions: $0
  - Ending Balance: $197,961

- **Nunez Community College**
  - Revenue: $237,205
  - Total: $294,678
  - Salaries: $62,626 (21%)
  - Travel: $0
  - Professional/Other: $8,493 (3%)
  - Operating Services: $30,908 (11%)
  - Supplies: $192,651 (65%)
  - Acquisitions: $216,461

- **South Louisiana Community College**
  - Revenue: $183,716
  - Total: $54,000
  - Salaries: $0
  - Travel: $0
  - Professional/Other: $0
  - Operating Services: $54 (100%)
  - Supplies: $0
  - Acquisitions: $347,103
## Appendix A
### Student Technology Fee Revenue and Expenditures Fiscal Year 2004-2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COLLEGE CAMPUSES</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Total Expenditures</th>
<th>Salaries (1)</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Professional/</th>
<th>Operating Services</th>
<th>Supplies</th>
<th>Acquisitions</th>
<th>Ending Balance</th>
</tr>
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<td>Acadian Campus</td>
<td>$25,261</td>
<td>$3,613</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$505 (14%)</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$37,898 (100%)</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hammond Campus</td>
<td>$23,361</td>
<td>$10,371</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,081 (49%)</td>
<td>$5,290 (51%)</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$13,012 (100%)</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10,678 (74%)</td>
<td>$3,770 (26%)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>Lamar Salter Campus</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,891 (43%)</td>
<td>$7,854 (57%)</td>
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<td>Mansfield Campus</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central Campus</td>
<td>$14,663</td>
<td>$2,368</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast Louisiana Campus</td>
<td>$21,084</td>
<td>$20,111</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,751 (19%)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,569 (28%)</td>
<td>$7,996 (40%)</td>
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<td>Ruston Campus</td>
<td>$24,397</td>
<td>$18,469</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,220 (7%)</td>
<td>$17,249 (93%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabine Valley Campus</td>
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<td>$2,987</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$552 (19%)</td>
<td>$2,435 (81%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shreveport-Bossier Campus</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stidell Campus</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Jackson Campus</td>
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<td>$7,600</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$6,440 (85%)</td>
<td>$1,160 (15%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sullivan Campus</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,464 (11%)</td>
<td>$12,297 (89%)</td>
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<td>Tailuih Campus</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$11,740 (41%)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,730 (10%)</td>
<td>$14,004 (49%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Jefferson Campus</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$26,488 (100%)</td>
<td>$7,219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westside Campus</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,266,695</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,310,741</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,075,716</strong></td>
<td><strong>$48,050</strong></td>
<td><strong>$507,017</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,864,808</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,031,348</strong></td>
<td><strong>$11,092,774</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,798,031</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall Percentages

|                  | 100%    | 21.77%  | 0.21%  | 2.56%  | 16.56% | 11.29% | 47.59% |                  |

(1) Figures reported in this column contain the salary expense plus related benefits.
APPENDIX B

Board of Regents' Response
Ms. Sharon Robinson
State Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
P. O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

Dear Ms. Robinson:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2006, requesting a written response from the Board of Regents on the use of student technology fees in Louisiana public institutions of higher education.

I am attaching my response to this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Donnie Vandal, Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration, on my staff.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of Higher Education

RE: Case No. 1060019

EJSS:chb
Attachment

The Board of Regents is an Equal Opportunity and ADA Employer
General

Act 1450 of the 1997 Regular Session (House Bill No. 2339) authorized higher education management boards to assess student technology fees at their institutions under certain conditions and within certain limitations. The technology fee must be approved by the favorable vote of two-thirds of the members of the management board, limited to five dollars per course credit hour, and cannot exceed $100 per student per semester. Prior to the fee being assessed it must also receive approval by the governing body of the student government association by a vote of at least two-thirds of its members. The law prescribes that the monies derived from the fee shall be restricted and accounted for separately.

The fee is to be terminated by a simple majority vote of the management board if two-thirds of the members of the governing board of the student government association vote to terminate the fee.

The proceeds shall be used in accordance with a written plan developed by the institution with students afforded an opportunity to make recommendations concerning the use of the fee proceeds.

For purposes of the law, “technologies” includes but is not limited to instructional and laboratory equipment and the networking and supporting computer and telecommunications infrastructure necessary to support these activities.

Each institution at which the technology fee is assessed is required to make an annual accounting to its management board of the use of monies derived from the fee.

The bill as originally introduced applied only to LSU and A&M College, but as the bill went through the legislative process the University of New Orleans, the other institutions with students within the LSU System, and finally the institutions of the Southern University System and under the then Board of Trustees for State Colleges and Universities (currently, the University of Louisiana System) were added to the legislation. In the 1st Extraordinary Session of 1998, Act 151 established the Louisiana Community and Technical College System and its Board of Supervisors and amended the provisions of the technology fee statute (R.S. 17:3351.1) to authorize the institutions of
that system to assess the technology fee. Therefore, the technology fee authorization by
the legislature applies to all postsecondary education institutions with student enrollment.

Responses to Specific Observations

1. Written Plans – The Office of Inspector General report states that “a majority of the
institutions’ technology fee plans are broad in scope and generally do not address
specifics such as allowable percentages of total expenditures for salary expenses,
operating costs, supplies and acquisition” but acknowledges that “there is no
established standard either in law or practice to define allowable percentages of total
expenditures for salaries, operating services, professional service or supplies.”

The report says the law “appears to favor the purchase of equipment and
infrastructure.” The relevant portion of the law is as follows:

For purposes of this Section, “technologies” includes but is not limited to
instructional and laboratory equipment and the networking and
supporting computer and telecommunications infrastructure necessary to
support these activities.

The language provides no priority or preference for specific types of expenditures
and, we believe, clearly contemplates the use of these funds to support human and
physical infrastructure.

It could also be argued that the law was simply clarifying that “technologies” include
the referenced types of equipment and infrastructure because those items might have
been interpreted to be excluded otherwise.

The Board of Regents believes that the legislature recognized the diverse needs
among the wide range of campuses, student bodies, and technology investment
priorities and allowed for customized plans for use of the technology fee proceeds by
each campus in order to address individual campus needs over time.

The management boards are required to regularly monitor campus plans and
technology fee use to insure they are appropriate and meeting the current needs of
students of the respective campuses within their systems.

2. Technology Fee Use – The Office of Inspector General report states that “technology
fee expenditures compared among institutions vary greatly by categories such as
salaries, supplies, acquisitions, etc.” and that “some institutions appear to have
exceeded reasonable limits for expenditures within expense categories.”

It should be noted that due to the broad nature of “technologies” there are a wide
variety of types of expenses that can be required for effective delivery of such
services – “hardware” and “software” are obviously examples, but “skinware”, or the
appropriate staffing support, can be just as critical for effective use of technology by
students.
Due to the wide variety of institutions, student bodies, and technology needs it is not surprising to find a variety of strategies and approaches to serving student needs. For some institutions, a priority might be setting up a number of computer labs throughout the campus with specific software and technical capabilities. At other campuses, a priority might be insuring that the computer labs they have are supported with regular and competent technical assistance for students.

A decision-making process for technology fee proceeds use that is conducted with student input and requires annual oversight provides for a reasonable approach to address student needs on individual campuses. Statewide rules applicable to all institutions for funding allocations are unlikely to assure that priority student needs on a specific campus are being addressed.

3. Fund Balances – The report states "Large technology fee fund balances reported by some institutions raise questions regarding the appropriate amount the institutions should collect from students."

Although the report identifies some campuses with large end-of-year balances relative to expenditures for the review period, it also acknowledges that such fund balances may be, at least in part, committed to ongoing projects awaiting expenditures or to fund future projects. The report did not address whether institutions with relatively large fund balances had plans for the use of those funds.

Part of the value of treating these funds as "restricted" and accounting for them separately, as the law prescribes, is that funds can be accumulated for projects whose costs exceed an amount that could be easily allocated out of an annual budget, or even over a multi-year period of time. Several campus plans also call for "contingency or replacement balances" which are prudent approaches. We do agree, though, that campuses should not be accumulating large balances unless there are specific plans for their use.

Systems and campuses should have appropriate policies to insure that careful review and planning for the use of technology fee collections and balances is such that student technology needs are addressed to the maximum extent possible.

Office of Inspector General Recommendation

The Office of Inspector General report recommends that the Board of Regents in conjunction with the Board of Supervisors for the LSUS, SUS, ULS, and LCTCS should review the Student Technology Fee Program and consider developing and implementing system-wide guidelines and/or proposing legislation that addresses allowable ranges of expenditures by category and accumulating fund balances.

The Board of Regents believes that the systems and their campuses are the appropriate entities to determine best practices with respect to Student Technology Fees. Due to the wide diversity of institutions, student needs and campus circumstances a single statewide policy beyond the restrictions of the law would be inappropriate. Further legislation with respect to Student Technology Fees is not necessary.
The Board of Regents urges each system to review carefully current policies and practices and to make adjustments if determined necessary to insure best outcomes and services for students.
REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

To report alleged fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement relative to state programs or operations, use one of the following methods:

- Complete complaint form on website at www.doa.louisiana.gov/oig/inspector
- Write to Office of State Inspector General, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095
- Call the Office of State Inspector General at (225) 342-4262
Attached is our analysis and justification for the Technology Fee reserves. This information will be presented to The Student Technology Advisory Team (STAT) for their consideration and action.

Please let us know if you have any comments or recommendations. I do apologize for taking so long to respond. Putting the information together for the analysis was time consuming and prolonged by the Holiday and the weather. Please let us know if you require any other information.

Thank You

Rita Graves
The policy of putting a max of $200,000 each year from current revenue into a reserve provides a means of funding to apply to recurring maintenance and replacements without having current revenues bear the total cost of these expenditures, which would decrease the amount of funding current students would have for programming and initiatives.

As can be seen from the attached spreadsheet the majority of expenditures are capital outlay which, in keeping with the LA RS 17-3351.1, is to benefit student life and learning by providing for the implementing, replacing, improving and expanding technologies.

As can also be seen from the attached spreadsheet, as more equipment and technologies are purchased the more it cost for replacements each year to maintain those programs which have been established. In FY07/08 it is estimated that 1,411,579 of revenue will be generated, of this 1,045,353 will be expended for providing services to students and providing new technologies and initiatives. This leaves 366,226 to fund 200,000 of reserves and 727,547 of replacements, a shortfall of 561,321 which must come from the accumulated fund balance. By 09/10 if this continues the shortfall will began to erode not only the fund balance but would began to erode the reserves as well, based on projected spending, in 09/10 there would be no funds available to increase the reserves and 154,774 ($340,222-494,996) of the existing accumulated fund balance would be needed to fund planned replacements. After FY 09/10 the cost of current operations plus the projected cost of replacements exceed the current year projected revenues. At this point there would be no funds available for additional increases in reserves, in fact reserves would start to diminish.

Without the reserves and the additional interest earning from the fund balance and the reserves, 649,478 as of 12/31/06, it would not have been possible to provide support of student technologies and continue to fund other initiatives at the level currently set. In fact a new plan will have to be developed or the reserves and the fund balance will began to diminish and choices will have to be made between support of new initiatives or reduction of continued support of those services and equipment now in place.

The university believes the establishment of the reserve was a fiscally prudent decision and will enable the students to be served on a continuing basis at a level that will enable them to have sufficient funds available for access to the most advanced technologies now and in the future.
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<th></th>
<th>97/98</th>
<th>98/99</th>
<th>99/00</th>
<th>00/01</th>
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<th>02/03</th>
<th>03/04</th>
<th>04/05</th>
<th>05/06</th>
<th>06/07</th>
<th>Per 12/31/06</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td></td>
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<td>TOTAL MEMO ONLY</td>
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<td>BPCC at LSU Revenue</td>
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*Projected Actuals per 12/31/06 Quarterly Report*
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1/16/2007
Jennifer/Jennifer/Carl,

Please note following excerpt from the BOR response to Observation 3 of the attached OIG report on Student Technology Fees.

"Several campus plans also call for "contingency or replacement balances" which are prudent approaches. We do agree, though, that campuses should not be accumulating large balances unless there are specific plans for their use."

NSU increased the Student Technology Fee fund balance by a half-million dollars, bringing the total to $3,154,078 as of June 30, 2006. The amount reported in the attached report is as of June 30, 2005, at $2,645,008.

Please provide the specific plans on how the $3,154,078 fund balance amount is to be used. (The 2005-2006 or 2006-2007 budgets do not answer my question related to the specific plans for the accumulated fund balance.)

Your response is requested by the close of business on Tuesday, February 27, 2007.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks,

Betty

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February 22, 2007

TO: Betty Deans, Internal Auditor

From: Jennifer Long-Martin
        Student Technology Support Specialist

Ref: IA Tech Fee Response

In addition to the guidelines set forth in the Student Technology User Fee Agreement for use of the Student Technology Fees collected, the attached information concerning the spending plan and fund balance was sent to the Board Staff on January 18, 2007 for their comments and recommendations on the Technology Fee Reserves. As of today we have received no response from the Board Staff.

The information sent to the Board Staff and the Inspector General report will be presented to the Student Technology Advisory Team (STAT) for their consideration and action as soon as it can be scheduled.

The Student Technology Advisory Team will be advised of the need for an updated specific plan that addresses the concerns of the Inspector General.

[Signatures]

Jennifer Long-Martin

Jennifer Kelly

Carl Jones