

Joel,

Thanks for meeting with Pauline Rankin and me to discuss possible proposals from the Centers for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). We were very pleased and excited to hear about the direction that you envision for the LSU CAPITAL program. As you will recall there are several areas in which the CELT can lend support for instructional technology and faculty training and support. We are most eager to do so. The following is a topical listing of the initiatives that I shared with you on behalf of the CELT. We would very much like to submit formal, fully developed proposals for funding from the LSU CAPITAL program.

Technology Infrastructure

1. Upgrade the Ethernet in Himes 133 and 51 (\$30k) - These areas are used daily for workshops, faculty training, and assessment/evaluation programs. There are currently three network drops in 133 that are supporting 15 computers/printers. Individual network drops to each device will improve network performance to levels needed to properly train faculty in the use of current and emerging Internet-based technologies for instructional. Additional drops in Himes 51 will improve operations in the Center for Assessment and Evaluation.

2. Replace 10 computers in the 133 Himes lab (\$25k). These are currently Pentium I machines (66mhz, 48mb RAM) that are totally inadequate to properly train faculty to use advanced technology for web-based instruction.

Faculty Support & Development

Instructional Design / Faculty Development specialists (\$50k ea.) - in addition to the need to support "world class" faculty that will be recruited under the LSU CAPITAL program, the University currently has a number of innovative instructional programs that desperately need the support of professional staff (e.g., Graham Hall residential college, etc.). These staff are needed to provide programmatic support in the areas of instructional design and ongoing professional development of faculty who will use technology-rich teaching and learning environments of the future.

Distance Education Initiative

LSU and six other La. institutions of higher education have established the Louisiana Consortium for the Advancement of Distance Education (LaCADE). This program, initially funded by the Board of Regents, has developed a professional development program leading to certification and Continuing Education Credits for administrators, faculty, and staff who are involved in distance education. The curriculum for this six-month, 10-module program is based upon an extensive needs assessment and an examination of twelve programs elsewhere in the U.S. It includes benchmarks for exit skills and meets the "Best Practices" standards of the Southern Regional Education Board's Electronic Campus. The governor's I.T. Initiative, the Board of Regents, and the K-12 community support LaCADE. The project has significant potential to support workforce development and educational opportunities for unserved/underserved student populations. Provost Fogel has inquired about potential connections between LaCADE and LSU CAPITAL. Funding from the LSU CAPITAL would help to sustain the project. (\$150k / year).

We are most interested in pursuing these and other initiatives via the LSU CAPITAL program. They are consistent with recommendations in the Faculty Senate's soon-to-be-released I.T. Master Plan report, and relate directly to several of the University's "new" Strategic Objectives, specifically 6.2, "To provide state-of-the-art educational technology and training in its use." and 6.6, "To develop and deliver electronic learning programs in areas in which LSU has distinctive competences, market advantages, and the ability to develop programs in very cost-effective ways."

We hope to have the opportunity to submit full proposals. Thanks.

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