

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

School of Music
Resource Center Upgrade

Robert Willey
School of Music

Signature of Dean

Title: Resource Center Upgrade
Name: Robert Willey
Phone Number: 482-5204
Department/College/Org: School of Music

Date: July 10, 2006
Address: School of Music
Email: willey@louisiana.edu

Abstract

A proposal is made to upgrade the Resource Center in the School of Music in three areas. Several software programs will help students create and maintain web sites, and publish podcasts through iTunes.

Two specialty piano instruction software programs will be used by music education and piano pedagogy students in their studies, and offer any student an opportunity to learn keyboard and music skills.

The School of Music received a BoRSF grant last year to construct a “Smart Classroom” type laboratory in one half of the Resource Center. Now that that lab has been set up a few additions will be made to make it function better, and be useful for study and instruction.

Proposal

The School of Music’s Resource Center is an open access computer laboratory used for student study and multimedia authoring. The general student population, education students, faculty, and two hundred music majors use the facility. This proposal addresses three needs that have been identified to increase productivity and promote student work. The first addresses web publishing. Two authoring programs, iLife for beginners and Dreamweaver for more advanced users, are included for students to use to create and maintain websites, for personal as well as class assignment purposes. iLife includes iPhoto (for processing photos and making slideshows), iMovie (for editing and formatting movies), iDVD (for creating DVDs), GarageBand (for recording music and making podcasts), and iWeb (for making websites). A one-year subscription to .Mac will allow websites, photo albums, and podcasts to be made available through iTunes. This will provide a new outlet for student productions and add incentive for them to do excellent work, knowing that it will be publicly displayed. The .Mac account will also allow the facility to be used for video chat/teleconferencing.

The second area of the proposal is to purchase piano instruction software to assist music education and piano pedagogy students. This will provide an opportunity for students to learn how computers are used to teach beginners, both during and between lessons. While this is primarily intended to contribute to the preparation of student teachers, the software will be available to any student wishing to learn to play the keyboard, and to students enrolled in the School of Music’s class piano lessons, since the software will be used in the Resource Center either as an extension of lessons or for self-study. Not all students are able to find a space in one of the class piano sections, and those that do may need additional reinforcement.

The third area of the proposal is to develop the recently created “Smart Classroom” type music technology laboratory, which is located in half of the Resource Center. Currently the teacher and 16 students stations all communicate to the Internet through one wireless Airport. The specifications for the BoRSF grant that made construction of the facility possible, resulted in the purchase of a hub to connect the computers to the Internet, but left out the 17 ethernet cables necessary to hardwire the stations to it. The Airport was intended to be used only by students bringing in laptops into the Resource Center. Students working in the lab will be working with large multimedia files and each station should have its own wired connection to the hub in order to transfer information quickly. A copy of Remote Desktop Admin will help the teacher to make demonstrations in class and offer online help to students, as well as streamline the work of the maintenance staff when configuring and updating systems and making detailed hardware and software reports. The cabling and administration software will make the lab operate much more efficiently, both during class and when students are doing their homework or personal projects. Finally, 17 copies of Reason will allow the School of Music’s MIDI II (MUS 377) class to be taught in the lab. Reason is a software synthesis program, a virtual MIDI studio with a variety of synthesizer and signal processor emulators. This class is the most intensive computing class in the media curriculum, since everything is done internally within the computer. The class is presently taught upstairs in the MIDI lab, where students have difficulty understanding what the teacher is doing during demonstrations on the single station there. Teaching the class in the lab will allow each student to follow along working on their own system, and the curriculum can then move from a lecture-type course towards more supervised practical work during class time.

Benefits

The first two aspects of the grant will benefit all students using the Resource Center—music and education majors or any other student who wants to make a website or podcast, or learn to play keyboard. Supporting the new technology lab in the Center will benefit music and education and general studies majors, as well as students from other areas who take music business, MIDI, or other classes during instruction and study.

Projected Lifetime

The software for making photo albums, DVDs, movies, podcasts, and websites, and lessons to play keyboard, should run on the systems for at least four years.

The subscription to .Mac for podcast publishing iTunes and videoconferencing lasts for one year.

The hardwiring of the 17 workstations will be permanent. The desktop administration program should run for at least four years and will probably have some free updates from Apple during that time.

The copies of Reason (virtual MIDI studio) should run for at least four years.

Persons Responsible

Dr. Willey will be responsible for implementation.

A graduate student will work under Dr. Willey's supervision to install software and Ethernet cabling. Dr. Willey will register for the .Mac account.

The Resource Center supervisor and Dr. Willey, with help from graduate assistants assigned to work there, will maintain the software. College of the Arts, and the University Help Desk staff will help troubleshoot any network issues.

Students using the Resource Center and the teachers and students of affected classes will operate the systems.

Dr. Garcia (piano professor) will train the piano pedagogy and education students in the use of the keyboard training software. The iLife software suite is very user-friendly and has sufficient online help for users to learn on their own. Dr. Willey will orient Resource Center assistants to the software suite who can then help users in case they have questions. Scott Landry (ex-Resource Center supervisor and teacher of classes that meet there) will be available to demonstrate the use of Remote Desktop Admin. Dr. Willey (media professor) teaches a class in Reason, and most of his other courses engage students in making websites. In addition, media students will also be learning how to make podcasts, and this experience is expected to trickle down to the general population as students observe each other at work in the Resource Center, and explore the published results.

Timeline

The project will be implemented within one year.

Previously funded STEP grants

The computing facilities in the School of Music's Resource Center are a result of a grant awarded to Dr. Roche-Wallace, which allowed for the configuring of a server and 10 original iMac computers, used for music theory assignments, research, word processing, and network access. Dr. Willey has received several STEP grants of approximately \$4,000 each since then to make upgrades, adding memory and hard drives to existing computers, updating operating systems, adding Microsoft Office software, and creating a multimedia workstation to edit videotapes and author DVDs.

Budget Proposal

Length of Implementation 1 2 3 (in years)

1. Equipment		
Ethernet Cables (17)	331.50	
2. Software		
iLife	39.00	
Dreamweaver	189.95	
.Mac Subscription	99.00	
MusicAce	59.00	
MIDIIsaurus v. 1-8	239.90	
Remote Desktop Admin	299.00	
Reason (17)	3,399.15	
3. Supplies	0.00	
4. Maintenance	0.00	
5. Personnel	0.00	
6. Other	0.00	
TOTAL:	\$4,657.45	

See attached spreadsheet