FY25 Budget Office Open Forum 9/24/2024
eTech Funding Opportunities

UCI Division of Finance and Administration | With U • For U

General Update

- Open Forum Feedback Survey (short) will be sent out soon.

- Google Doc to submit topic ideas in addition to e-mail.

- The forums in October (10/8 and 10/22) will address questions that arose during previous forums related to:

    - setup workbooks and

    - staffing (reports).

    - We are coordinating the timing of each based on discussions with MAABO.

Contact Information

Jeremy Thacker

Assistant Director, Educational & Student Success Technologies, OIT

Assistant Director, Student Success Technologies, OVPTL

thackerj@uci.edu

eTech@uci.edu

Overview

[eTech – Better Learning Through Technology (uci.edu)](uci.edu)

What is eTech@UCI?

eTech@UCI, the UC Irvine Educational Technology Initiative, builds on and expands UCI's existing services and capabilities, extending them to meet the growing and changing needs of students for information technology resources in support of their educational and personal goals. It is funded via a course material fee. The eTech Fee went into effect with the Winter 2012 quarter. It is assessed on ZOTBills after the third week of instruction each quarter, based on the number of units of undergraduate lecture courses a student is taking in that quarter.

Why?

Support improving and expanding educational technology to meet the changing needs and preferences of students.

Students are investing in increasingly capable personal computing and communications devices from smart phones to tablets to laptops.

Overview

[eTech – Better Learning Through Technology (uci.edu)](uci.edu)

The Pandemic

In the 2020-21 academic year, the eTech fee was suspended due to the pandemic. While eTech funded services continued to be offered, administrative functions related to eTech were also suspended.

eTech Board

The eTech Board provides oversight and guidance for the eTech initiative. The Board's key functions include:

- Provide guidance on the eTech Initiative's strategic focus
- Quarterly budget and project reviews
- Provide input on funding decisions

Next Phase

The committee is preparing a proposal this year to increase this fee to address the increased costs of the changing landscape of campus technology usage. SInce it's a course material fee, it will be reviewed by SFAC.

What's been funded so far?

Electronic educational technology at UCI including:

- **Canvas learning management system**
- **EEE+ suite of learning management tools**
- **Third-party educational technology tools**
- **Software the supports remote and hybrid instruction (Zoom, Yuja, etc.)**
- **Course-related research and productivity software**
- **Other recommendations from the eTech Advisory Committee and campus affiliates**

Funded spring requests:

- **Mentimeter**

Previous funding requests on bridge:

- **MATLAB, Mathematica, ArcGIS, JMP, LabVIEW, SPSS**

Funding Requests

The following are the submission deadlines for consideration in a given quarter's round of reviews:

- **Fall: November 15**

- **Winter: February 15**

- **Spring: May 15**

- **Summer: August 15 (received no requests)**

Requests are accepted continuously but reviewed on the quarterly schedule highlighted above

[Funding Requests – eTech (uci.edu)](uci.edu)

The eTech Initiative is accepting funding requests for:

- innovative technology services that support undergraduate teaching

- must be submitted by an assistant dean or school IT director; if you would like to submit an application, please coordinate with your local leadership accordingly.

- Students are welcome to submit their suggestions via the [Share Your Ideas](#) page.

Funding Requests

- Applications will be prioritized based on cost, number of undergraduate students who would benefit, and impact to: instructional innovation, diversity, equity, inclusion, & accessibility (DEIA), operational effectiveness / cost savings, and benefit to strategic objectives.

- Services that will also be used by non-undergraduate students (e.g. grad students, faculty, staff) can be funded, but eTech will only pay for a prorated amount that aligns with the percentage of undergraduate usage.

- Grants for IT pilots are allowable, but they must have clear potential for broader adoption and impact if successful.

- Services that only impact a single course, department, or major may be better suited to a [Course Materials and Services Fee](#) (CMSF) attached to the relevant course(s).

- Services will typically be software licensing, but may include:
  - hardware devices that don't require permanent classroom installation (e.g. handheld devices and portable equipment)

What it can't fund

- eTech cannot fund:
    - faculty, lecturers, teaching assistants, or staff providing general instructional support
    - technology infrastructure (e.g. computer hardware, networking, servers)
    - classroom technology infrastructure (e.g. WiFi)
    - computer lab equipment, hardware, or staff

Questions?