Paying for IT

Overview of Student IT Fees
I. Data on Student IT Fees at Other Institutions
Student Fees at UC’s Comparison Schools

- Annual Computing Fees* at UC’s Public Comparison Institutions, 2003-04
  - U. of Illinois, Urbana: $0
  - U. of Michigan: $60
  - SUNY-Buffalo: $540
  - U. of Virginia: $45

AAU Data Exchange Annual Survey
*No formal definition provided for “computing fees”
Results from Campus Computing Survey (2003)

- 559 institutions responded to the survey
- Of those responding, more than half (52.3%) charge a fee
- Percentage of institutions charging student IT fees, and average annual fee:
  - Public Universities: 63% of 69 ($187)
  - Private Universities: 26% of 40 ($269)
  - Public Four-Year Colleges: 72% of 122 ($150)
  - Private Four-Year Colleges: 38% of 200 ($231)

Kenneth C. Green, The Campus Computing Project, 2003
Based on the 2003 Campus Computing Survey

- More public than private institutions charge IT fees
- The highest student IT fees are assessed by private universities
EDUCAUSE Core Data Survey 2002

- Responses from 645 institutions
- Data grouped by Carnegie class:
  - DR: (138) doctoral research universities
  - MA: (175) master’s colleges and universities
  - BA: (135) baccalaureate colleges, liberal arts, and baccalaureate-associate colleges
  - AA: (95) associate degree granting colleges
  - Other: (102)
Assessment of Fees

- Percentage of campuses that charge general technology fees:
  - All: 50.2%
  - DR institutions: 59.0%
  - MA institutions: 56.8%
  - BA institutions: 36.6%
  - AA institutions: 73.6%
  - Other: 22.7%

EDUCAUSE Core Data Service, 2002 Summary Report
DR, MA, and BA institutions generally charge a flat fee per semester/quarter.

AA institutions generally charge a fee based on credit hours.

EDUCAUSE Core Data Service, 2002 Summary Report
Amount of IT Fees

- Mean Value of Total Dollars (in $1,000s) Collected from Technology Fees
  - DR institutions: $3,047
  - MA institutions: $956
  - BA institutions: $331
  - AA institutions: $466

EDUCAUSE Core Data Service, 2002 Summary Report
Residence-Hall Network Connection Fees

- Fewer than 20% of all institutions collect residence-hall network fees.
- Percentage of institutions that have residence-hall network connection fees:
  - DR institutions: 26.1%
  - MA institutions: 17.8%
  - BA institutions: 6.9%

EDUCAUSE Core Data Service, 2002 Summary Report
II. How Student IT Fees Are Used
Who Decides How to Use Student IT Fees

- At Carnegie Class DR Institutions:
  - Sr. Administration: 58.2%
  - IT Administration: 54.4%
  - Campus Committee: 41.8%
  - Students: 36.7%
  - Funds Restricted by Policy: 20.3%
  - Other Means: 11.4%
  - State Agency/System: 1.3%

EDUCAUSE Core Data Service, 2002 Summary Report
Among the schools that assess fees, the average amount generated annually was $83 per student.

- **Indiana U.**: $42 to $100 per student per semester. Fees vary by campus.

- **SUNY-Buffalo**: $400 per student per academic year. For IT support (public workstations, specialized workstations in academic depts., smart classrooms, student services, and modem pool for off-campus access)
NASULGC Study, cont’.

- **U. of TX, Arlington**: $6 per student hour to finance IT. Certain colleges also assess an instructional technology fee for their students.
- **U. of VA**: $45 per student for student-related computing resources
- **U. of Wisconsin, Madison**: $42 per resident student, $190 per non resident student for student IT, including student labs, e-mail, dial-in access, and a Help Desk
Music Subscription Service

- Penn State struck a deal with Napster in late 2003 to provide an on-line music service to students. The service is financed with funding from an IT fee of $160 that students pay every semester.

- Dec. 2003 Statement to Students and Employees from Rod Erickson, Penn State Executive Vice President and Provost: “Will the IT Fee be increased to fund Napster? The answer is no, it will not. The IT fee will no doubt increase next academic year, but by no more than would ordinarily be necessary to support the University's IT infrastructure and other applications.”
A Sampling of Student IT Fee Distribution Policies

- Fee divided into thirds: 1/3 for technology support, 1/3 for labs/smart classrooms, 1/3 returned to departments
- 25% allocated to bldg. infrastructure, 25% for admin. computing, 25% for academic computing, 12.5% for the Acad. Vice Pres. to allocate, 12.5% to support third shift of lab staff
- 15% allocated to student labs, 85% to individual divisions
- 30% to service units, 70% directed to instructional units

General Categories for Use

- Hardware/software
- Network infrastructure
- Personnel
- Facility renovation
- Overall IT budget
- Almost all institutions allow technology funds to be used for hardware and software.
- Not all institutions allow student IT fees to be used for technology-related personnel (the institution is expected to use tuition or state appropriations for personnel)
III. Strategies for Assessing Fees
Three Approaches at UC

1. Course materials fee: Designated by chancellors on a campus-by-campus basis. Can be a source of new funding.
   - Guidelines for Implementing Course Materials Fees: [www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/da/da2115att2.html](http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/da/da2115att2.html)
   - The fee may be imposed on students enrolled in certain courses. Course materials are defined as materials, supplies, tools, or equipment used by the student, or services necessary for a supplemental educational experience (e.g., field trips).

Campuses might agree on an set of parameters for IT course expenses systemwide.
2. Systemwide fee imposed by president: The president may set student fees. Regental approval is not required, although may be advisable.

Standing Order 100.4:
www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/bylaws/so1004.html
3. Compulsory campus-based student fees: Imposed by student referenda on a campus-by-campus basis.

- Policy on Campus-Based Student Fees: www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/ucpolicies/aos/uc90.html
- Must be approved by the chancellor and The Regents
- Usually used for construction or renovation of recreation or student centers; student governments; student health insurance
To Pursue a Fee Imposed by the UC President

- UC vice chancellors or vice presidents may submit a proposal to the president for imposing an IT fee.
  - What new service will be provided?
  - Why is the service not funded now?
  - How will the revenue be used?
  - How will the fee be utilized equitably systemwide?
  - What are the compelling arguments for the fee?
Political/Budgetary Factors

- In a difficult budgetary climate, a fee imposed by the president may result in an equal cut to the UC budget.
- Course materials fees will bring in new money.
Questions to Ask When Deciding Whether to Pursue IT Fees

- Would a student IT fee increase the quality of student computing?
- Do we have well-defined policies and procedures for how to set fees?
- Is there a well-defined, well-communicated process for how funds are allocated?
- Is it clear what categories of use are appropriate and which are inappropriate?

Next Steps?

- Form an ITLC work group?
- Explore feasibility of three approaches with campus leadership.
- Develop arguments for assessing an IT fee.
- Develop proposal for what a fee should be used for.
- Identify necessary UC participation.
Sources

1. Campus Computing 2003 by Kenneth C. Green
   http://www.campuscomputing.net
   (ordering information and Campus Computing Survey summary)

2. ECAR Research Bulletin, Student Technology Fees, September 17, 2002
   http://www.educause.edu/asp/doclib/abstract.asp?ID=ERB0218
   (for ECAR Subscribers only)

3. EDUCAUSE Core Data Service 2002 Summary Report
   http://www.educause.edu/coredata/reports/2002/

4. NASULGC Universities: Connecting with the Future, May 1999