Academic Technology Request

Package Summary:

Eastern Washington University faculty members use technology with increasing sophistication to enhance student learning in and out of the classroom. The value and sophistication of digital instructional content continues to grow as an increasing amount of learning takes place online. E-Learning content management solutions are required to insure the security of these digital resources and to encourage and allow the sharing of content between instructors and students. Expanding uses of instructional technologies requires a strong underlying e-learning infrastructure of equipment, software and staff support. The importance and value of student involvement in the campus (student life), local community (civic engagement) and the world (service learning) is being recognized and increasingly valued by the educational community and the public. In addition, effective methods to communicate with students regarding academic issues, student life opportunities, and campus safety concerns are critically important.

Eastern Washington University requests $2,006,000 to upgrade and enhance academic technology.

Academic Technology Request Fiscal Detail for FY10 and FY11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2010</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>184,000</td>
<td>184,000</td>
<td>368,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>110,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations (on-going)</td>
<td>467,000</td>
<td>467,000</td>
<td>934,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations (one-time)</td>
<td>594,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>594,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
<td>706,000</td>
<td>2,006,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Package Description:**

Blackboard is an E-Learning system used at Eastern Washington University (EWU) for 7 day a week, 24 hours a day Internet-based digital instructional activities. EWU has only the instructional component of the Blackboard suite of products. Blackboard is used by instructors to extend the traditional classroom – spurring students to continue to be involved in course-related activities outside of
traditional classroom (face-to-face) meetings. The majority of EWU’s Faculty members have a course-related site on Blackboard for each class they are teaching. Blackboard provides a secure electronic environment for document sharing, online discussions, group collaboration, student file submissions, online testing and other instructional activities. On a typical week during the school year, over 8,000 different students will access the Blackboard server. On average, 2,000 online assessments are taken each day via the Blackboard server. Currently, the university’s Blackboard server hosts more than 65,000 course-related files and approximately 60,000 online discussion threads. Blackboard acts as an instructional technology “hub” around which a collection of other e-learning tools can be provisioned. This academic technology funding request has three major but interrelated Blackboard projects which are detailed below. Three full-time regular ITS 4 support positions are included in this request.

1. **Blackboard Content System -- $569,000**

Both new and continuing faculty use technology with increasing sophistication to enhance student learning in the classroom and between class sessions. The value and sophistication of digital instructional content continues to grow as an increasing amount of learning takes place online, outside of the classroom. E-Learning content management solutions like Blackboard are required to insure the security of these digital resources and to encourage and allow the sharing of content between instructors and students. The use of electronic portfolios as a means of documenting and assessing student learning and demonstrating student capabilities for future employers is growing. Certification in some professions requires that students develop such portfolios to demonstrate required competencies. The expanding uses of instructional technologies require a strong underlying e-learning infrastructure of equipment, software and staff support.

The addition of a content management component to the university’s e-learning platform will allow secure storage and sharing of digital instructional resources such as audio and video content and online exams.

2. **Blackboard Community System -- $609,000**

The importance and value of student involvement in the campus (student life), local community (civic engagement) and the world (service learning) is being recognized and increasingly valued by the educational community and the public. Electronic systems are available which encourage and facilitate student growth in these important areas. In addition, effective methods to communicate with students regarding academic issues, student life opportunities, and campus
safety concerns are critically important. The widespread adoption by students of handheld mobile communication devices provides the university with new communication opportunities and challenges.

Communication solutions which interface with campus e-learning and student life/community systems are now available. The addition of a campus community system will allow more effective communications and connection with students through high-end technologies. A community system will facilitate student life, civic engagement, and service learning activities.

3. **Blackboard Outcomes System -- $828,000**

Instructors play a variety of critical roles in student learning endeavors – in part, they create content, measure student performance, design activities intended to actively engage students in learning and they observe and encourage student-to-student learning moments.

Instructional tools and systems are available which can dramatically lower the barriers to entry faced by instructors as they increase their online presence. Programs of support, instructional design consultations and content creation assistance can help instructors to develop engaging online content. Systems which measure student learning paths and provide learning path data to instructors can also help instructors refine their online learning content. An outcomes system will allow instructors to measure student engagement in learning activities.

Requested: $1,300,000 in FY10 and $706,000 in FY11 to provide Blackboard academic technology enhancements

**Outcome:** Eastern will provide secure storage and sharing of digital instructional resources. Faculty will have access to data about student learning and can use this data to improve instructional practices. Effective communications and connection with students through high-end technologies will facilitate student life, civic engagement and service learning activities.