

Technology Fee Concept Paper Proposal Template

Title: *Creating Common Collaboration and Learning Spaces*

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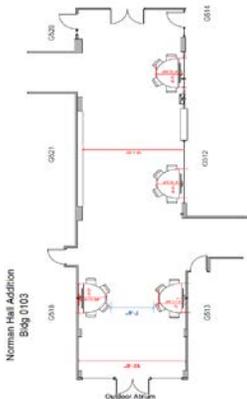
Purpose: The purpose of this proposal is to provide technology enhanced student-used common spaces throughout the building to encourage intellectual pursuits both in and outside of the classroom. Discussions migrate from the classroom to the library, to hallways, and to lounge areas. Now, places outside the classroom are more useful than ever in extending the learning from a classroom due to portable technology and Wi-Fi that can bring online access in virtually every corner of the building. Today, college work requires group projects including collaborating in pairs, small groups, and teams. There are limited areas that students have to conduct such group work using the technology needed to be effective. Students often gather in common areas throughout the building to work together but many of those areas in Norman Hall do not provide access to power sources or technology. By providing technology-enhanced common areas throughout the building, learning and the potential to develop and regularly utilize 21st Century Skills of collaboration, group problem solving, critical thinking, and communication, all necessary in the work place after graduation, are literally right at each student's fingertips!

Through this project, the following goal will be accomplished:

1) To create technology-enhanced common spaces where students can engage in collaboration, group work, study, and problem solving and learning extending the classroom experience to common areas by: **a)** integrating power centers into existing tables in the vending area; **b)** adding collaborative integrated presentation stations where groups of students can exchanging ideas and work from their devices through a shared monitor; and **c)** increasing student collaboration without the need of having your own device and cables and for both small and large groups.

Impact/Benefit: The College of Education housed in the Norman Hall complex on the east side of SW 13th Street, provides instruction for students across the entire campus. In addition to the more than 1,732 education majors, there are over 575 students with active minors in education from an assortment of colleges along with a multitude of students required to take education courses as part of their majors from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Agriculture. Hundreds of students take elective courses in Norman Hall, including students in nursing, journalism, business, sociology, health science, history, anthropology, and engineering. The College of Education offers eight general education courses at Norman Hall with very heavy enrollments. Also, the Norman Hall complex provides evening courses that serve working professionals throughout north central Florida and hosts the English Language Institute to improve the English language abilities of current and potential UF students. The common areas in Norman Hall are heavily utilized during "in-between" times and for purposes of study and collaboration. At any given time there can be up to 30 students in the large foyer area of the Norman ground floor working at tables in groups with no technology available to facilitate more effective group work. Additionally, our vending area has upwards of 30 students at any given time sitting at outdated tables with no means to supply power for their electronic devices. *While it used to be the cafeteria food as the greatest complaint at universities, the greatest complaint now is lack of power sources and insufficient Wi-Fi.* Stanford University was one of the first to pioneer the notion of creating learning spaces in all common areas, providing comfortable, technology accessible areas so students can extend their work and learning into virtually every space. This "Stanford" notion caught on as universities and colleges discovered that transforming and updating campus amenities and technology actually serves to attract larger and academically stronger students. In Norman Hall's robust educational environment, it is essential that classrooms and common areas be technologically enhanced and attractive to encourage and support new pedagogies that develop 21st Century skills of problem solving, collaboration, research, and critical thinking. This proposal provides opportunities to create learning spaces throughout the building making the utilization of technology trouble-free. Two years ago we were awarded a grant to "reinvent" the learning space of a large classroom to become a technologically enhanced, collaborative classroom in Norman Hall 2309. As a result, it is now the most utilized classroom in the building and accessible to

other colleges as well. We then replicated a similar arrangement in the Education library dividing the library into collaborative areas and quiet areas & installing power stations in cubbies. With the addition of shared surface tablets large enough for 2-3 students to work together, we hope to further enhance collaboration allowing for smaller group work that does not that students have their own devices and cables. We plan to install collaborative technologies in the large foyer area outside of our technology labs underneath the library some of which can also be used in classrooms due to their mobility. Specifically we propose the following:



Integrated Collaboration Stations: Pod collaboration stations, similar to the design by Media-Scape seen in the photograph to the right, are *optimal* for collaborative group work. Integrated presentation technologies built in as part of these specialized retrofitted tables result in collaborative stations that allow groups to share information from multiple laptops or tablets via an integrated monitor. The seven stations, which facilitate group work for up to 4-8 students each, are functioning successfully in the Norman Hall reinvented classroom as are the 4 in the library. We would like to extend that model by placing four integrated collaboration stations in the large foyer area of the ground floor underneath the library (see diagram). This space is more than adequate to remain within fire code and to move comfortably in the area with the stations installed. In order to maximize security of the foyer area, surveillance cameras will be installed.



Table Tablet Surfaces



Lenovo (IdeaCentre) now sells an “All In One Table PC (touch),” at a reasonable price. These 27” tables with surface touch-screen tablets pre-installed allow 2-4 students to work simultaneously on the device that responds to touches from all users. These surface units include 360-degree user interfaces so students at any side of the unit have their content appear correctly for everybody. The tables would be positioned as part of the collaboration section of the Norman Hall Library where they can be secured more readily. A larger and more sophisticated 42” surface tablet produced by *Smart Technologies* will be positioned in the foyer area beneath the library to provide another means of collaboration for up to 6 users without the need for their own devices and cables. Its mobile design also makes it useable in classrooms such as in nearby tech labs used for course instruction.



Power Centers for Lounge/Vending Tables

The vending area in Norman Hall has very limited access to outlets. As such, students need to be able to work at tables that have access to power and the capacity to charge electronic devices. Power Centers are relatively cheap and easy to install but provide a much needed service for our students.

Summary of Benefits and Impact for the Student, College, and University

- 1) Enhanced technology applications in common areas are highly visible to students and visitors and with the University of Florida striving to be a “world-class” institution, the technology must be updated and visible potentially serving to increase the number and *quality* of students wanting to attend the University of Florida.
- 2) With the thousands of students regularly in the building, the benefit from the purchase and incorporation of these technologies reaches students campus-wide.
- 3) Renovated spaces lead to more engaged students who are practicing the skills they need as 21st Century Learners. This project offers increased opportunities to build a community of engaged and tech-savvy learners.
- 4) The shared table tablet surfaces offer equal access to sophisticated technology for all students and for a variety of purposes.

Sustainability: The College of Education has agreed to maintain the new technologies and to update and upgrade these resources on a schedule to be determined in conjunction with Academic Technology. The interactive collaboration stations will be programmed through the UFIT/ Academic Technology A/V Installations group. In cooperation with the College’s instructional technology office, these stations will be maintained and updated.

Timeline:	August 2014:	Purchase hardware & equipment
	By February 2015:	Install collaborative pods, security cameras, and table surface tablets
	April 2015:	Pilot test new equipment and procedures
	Summer B 2015:	Areas fully operational
	August-December 2015:	Campus-wide faculty invited for demonstrations
	By December 2015:	Assess effectiveness; e.g. evaluations and surveys