Submitted on Friday, November 1, 2019 - 2:33pm
Submitted by user: ves9
Request: 52

Request Date: November 1, 2019

Request Name: Teaching Computer Lab & Conference Center

Request Contact Name: Prof. Vicky Sama, Chair, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

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Division Submitting Request: Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs Journalism & Mass Communication

Nature of Request: Requesting a change to an existing space

Is this change expected to be temporary: No

Preferred Allocation Date: January 13, 2020

Request Funding

Has Funding for this Request Already Been Identified? No

Proposed Funding:
Funding will be needed to build the lab, buy approximately 30 computers, furniture and infrastructure and work with IT on creating the space for learning. This would be a college-wide use teaching laboratory for all departments within the college in need of such a teaching space.

Space Allocation Details

Change Existing Space

Building Location Gist Hall

Room Number(s)   114 suite

Current Use, Square Footage, & Capacity
Gist Hall 114 suite is currently occupied by the offices of Academic and Career Advising, which is moving back into the Library once the Library retrofit is complete.

Proposed Use, Square Footage, & Capacity
Gist Hall 114 suite has a large main room that is approximately 40' x 15' with three adjacent office or storage spaces (that are in addition to the main room size). This room is large enough to build into a computer teaching lab with at least 30 computers/work stations and a central conference table and chairs that would be in the center of the room for face-to-face discussions away from the computer screens. The university does not have the physical space in any other building to house another computer laboratory like this, and so we should jump at the opportunity, as the need for computer labs in our college heavily outweigh the supply.

Request Importance - Needs Analysis:
Our college is in need of more laboratories for teaching, and we've been cutting classes from our journalism course schedule and turning laboratory classes into hybrid online courses just so we can fit classes into our current lab in Gist 215. I know that journalism is not alone in searching for large classroom computer teaching labs. Gist 114 would be an excellent use of a lab teaching space that could fit some 30 computers in addition to a round table in the center for discussion purposes. The room also has a side office in the back that would be great for a lab assistant and storage space and additional office space for someone from IT. This kind of space does not come around often, and I hope we can find enough support to build a laboratory for use for all our CAHSS courses that need that kind of workspace.

Recent History:

Department Outcomes and Objectives Related to this Request:
The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication teaches almost all of its courses in a computer teaching lab space. Specifically, in spring 2020, 19 of our 22 journalism courses will be taught in Gist Hall 215. Three of our spring courses will be taught in other rooms. Scheduling our courses in computer labs is absolutely critical to accomplishing the course learning outcomes, so our reliance on these spaces is heavy. You can imagine that it is difficult to fit all of our courses that we need in the labs into a schedule each semester. We are not alone. Art, Film, Communication and other departments within our college are also seeking computer lab teaching space. Technology has become an important tool in our pedagogy, and we must be able to offer students these courses or our programs suffer, and students will seek their education elsewhere. This request is for the

room space, and once we know that is secured, the next step would be to seek the funding for building the computer work stations and conference space.

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  Additional Relevant Information Not Previously Addressed: The CAHSS dean supports this proposal.

Routed for Review

  College of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences   Lisa Bond-Maupin - Dean