

## TECHNOLOGY FEE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

### TECH FEE COMMITTEE MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 2015

#### Present

Jonathan Beddoes, Co-Chair  
Stephen Oberlin, Co-Chair  
Jonathan Watts, LASA  
Gabriel Stacey-Chartrand, ED2  
Brett Shaw, ED4  
Erns Wall, IDAS  
Conor Smith, UMAPS  
Kleighton Burns, ED3  
Robbin Watson, Budget Officer  
Sean Watson, CADLab  
Chris Leigh, CADLab  
Shauna Mallory-Hill, Dept of Interior Design, Guest  
Regrets – Keith Millan, Workshop; Jason Hare, FABLab; Kim Wiese, FABLab

#### Absent

Donna Mamott, recorder

Greeting to new and returning Committee members

- 1.1 Sign In Sheet Distributed
2. Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed and approved with revisions (Donna will update and redistribute).
3. Robbin Watson provided a budget overview; effective August 31, 2015 the total available funds was \$730,542. Of that amount, \$487,194 is in trust, \$406,053 is in the spending budget, \$8,188 is in the maintenance budget but there is also a commitment of \$170,893 for ongoing projects. This information is posted online through the Faculty's website under Tech Fee and includes minutes from the meetings, etc.
4. Review of the current status of the Building Performance Evaluation Project:
  - 4.1 4.1 Shauna Mallory-Hill provided a written and verbal report on the Building Performance Evaluation Lab project. The project was originally funded in 2009 and has two of three phases complete. She indicated further grant funding would need to be secured to cover costs associated with human resource needs (technical) as the Tech Fee funding is directed to equipment only. Project has received a great deal of technical assistance donated by EH Price.

Jonathan Beddoes asked for a review of other funding the project has secured which includes a NSERC grant, MITACS grants as well as Global Link funding – total project budget to date is nearly \$300,000. The industrial partner for this project, through the MITACS grants, was Stantec. Going forward, the industrial partner is not confirmed.

Jonathan expressed concern over the long timeline this project has taken, i.e. to date the project has been going for six years and the proposed third phase is slated for another three years.

Shauna indicated part of the challenge was linked to the loss of the technical support provided through the Dean's Office.

Further discussion will be held "in camera" at the end of the meeting.

## 5. New Business

- 5.1 Jonathan Beddoes addressed the committee and spoke about the impact of purchases made by the Tech Fee and how they have to be of value overall to the greater student body and need to be supported by the Faculty of Architecture. These funds can be used to leverage other monies within the University of Manitoba such as the Teaching Lab Renewal Fund (\$6M funding provided by the VP's Office to upgrade teaching labs – Faculties submit annual applications). A joint application could be made for studio/classroom upgrades based on Tech Fee funding for equipment.
- 5.2 FABLab – Jason Hare and Kim Wiese were both unavailable for the meeting. Discussion about having them regularly attend to provide information similar to other admin staff.
- 5.3 CADLab – Chris Leigh indicated that a new wide format colour laser kit requires 240V power which we currently don't have available in CADLab but would be installed once the work on the adjacent room was completed. This room is being renovated to support a new location for printers to provide more space to house the new colour laser and should be done by approximately January 2016. Chris estimates the overall cost of the new colour laser kit would be in the range of \$40K and may not be ready until closer to the end of term (hoping to be available for end of term projects). No formal proposal has been submitted to Tech Fee at this time; more information to follow.

Stephen Oberlin inquired about laser printer upgrades indicating there are problems with the current printers linked to image quality. Chris was unaware of the specific problems and encouraged students to report any concerns directly to CADLab so they can be addressed accordingly.

Chris explained that the University is currently working to move away from Novell which is currently supporting the print management system. This is underway and once done (approximately January 2016) new printers would be sourced.

- 5.4 Jonathan Beddoes outlined the importance of a long term plan for the Tech Fee funds.

Shauna suggested the Associate Dean Research should be attending the Tech Fee meetings to address the research based interested of the faculty members.

Jonathan indicated that while the Tech Fee funds were not geared specifically to research but one of the guiding principles when purchasing equipment should be to enhance the education of our students and suggested perhaps the Associate Dean Academic would have a closer link to the undergraduate students and their program. The Tech Fee can support research initiatives as they link to the educational programs. He suggested that Stephen Oberlin and Jonathan Beddoes would meet to discuss how the Tech Fee funding could be used to enhance teaching in the Faculty and from that potentially leverage further monies from the University or from granting councils. Meeting members were in agreement. They will report back to the committee but probably not until January.

6. New Proposals

6.1 General

6.1.1 V-Ray – Project reviewed – Rendering software to support 19 seats for a one year renewable licence – estimated cost \$2700 per year.

Motion – K. Burns

Seconded – J. Watts

Passed

GoPro Hero4 – late submission – purchase of additional GoPro equipment with current technology and addresses volume of students signing out equipment.

Motion – J. Watts

Seconded – Brett Shaw

Passed

6.1.2 Not reviewed due to time restraints – will be reviewed at next meeting

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7. Next Meeting

No date was set – will be announced.

*Confidential In Camera Session:*

*4.1 Building Performance Evaluation Lab*

*A general discussion was held in camera due to the sensitivity of the ongoing project due to the fact it is supporting an academic's research with student oversight. Jonathan indicated that clear timelines are required of all projects and with clear consequences if these timelines are not met. Funding has to benefit student education so proposals from faculty members with a research component should not be funded by the Tech Fee in the future.*

*Jonathan and Stephen will meet to develop a request which will be submitted to Shauna requesting a work plan, budget, etc. for the next year. The request will include a report on the risk of not securing funding for human resource needs, what happens if no further grant funding received – will the project move forward, etc.*

*Motion received to request additional detailed information from Shauna Mallory-Hill to develop a twelve month plan.*

*Motion – Erns Wall  
Second – Brett Shaw  
Carried*

Adjourned 4:45 pm