

## TECHNOLOGY FEE INVESTMENT PROGRAM

### TECH FEE COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012

#### Present

Ralph Stern, Dean (Co-Chair)  
Jason Hare, MLA (Co-Chair)  
Robbin Watson, Budget Officer  
Chris Leigh, CADLab Coordinator  
Donna Mamott, Graduate Programs Assistant  
Jonathan Watts, ED2  
Aaron Pollock, ED3

#### Absent

Keith Millan, Woodshop Manager  
John Sherk, ED2  
Alex Allen, IDEAS  
Logan Senicar, ED4  
Bret Mack, LASA  
Ian Stephens, SAS Senior Stick  
Andrew Boonngum (UMAAS)  
Chris Larson, UMAPS  
Caitlin Kotak, UMAPS  
Devin Segal, LASA

#### **1. Business Arising**

- The first order of business was the ratification of the minutes from the technology meeting held on January 31, 2012.  
Moved: Jason Hare  
All voted in favour of ratifying minutes
- Jason Hare stated that the membership had approved, via email vote, a request to allocate money to the woodshop
- Our **CNC** machine is now set up and ready for business. It uses the Rhino CAM (computer aided manufacturing) program. It should be noted the CNC can also accept other programs besides CAM. There is a technician coming in this Friday May 4 to perform a demonstration of how it operates. There will be training offered over June and July on how to use the CNC. Deb Scott and Jason Hare are teaching a studio on CNC use.
- **Building Performance Evaluation Lab** – this project was granted funding and procured in 2009. Professor Shauna Mallory Hill was the one who submitted the proposal to purchase this system. THE BPEL measures CO2, audio, acoustics etc. The BPEL was based on a design of the National Research Council of Canada.
- There have been significant delays in development of construction of a mobile cart and acquiring materials to complete the weather stations and additional technical support is also need to continue the development. Tony Wong, formerly of the Faculty of Architecture, was to provide his expertise towards this project.

- There is a concern that by the time these developments take shape some of the equipment may be outdated and therefore unable to interface with the software required. Robbin mentioned that there was no deadline given for when the BPEL system should be up and running to its full capacity and that maybe a deadline should be set. Jason suggested that perhaps funding should be cut off for now and could be reinstated later if necessary. Dean Stern stated that Mary Anne Beecher, in her capacity as associate dean of research for the faculty should be following up on the BPEL's progress or rather lack thereof. Concerns can either be revisited in the Fall or discussed further via email.
- A formal reporting structure needed to be developed to provide accountability.
- Chris Leigh talked about the need to purchase three **new laser cutters** for the Fall. We could sell the ones we have now. Ideally, students would have direct access to these cutters. He stated that the universal laser cutter which would cost \$38,000 each, uses two separate tubes, 20 watt and 70 watt and is much faster than what we have now. The next step down in cutters would cost \$26,000. The tube in the cutter we have right now has very little life left in it but could be recharged but since it is probably obsolete by now, would it be worth it? A new beam would cost 6,000 but the cutter itself is only worth 1,500.
- If we were to purchase three new cutters, the **ventilation** would need to be upgraded. In any event, Robbin advised that once we decide which laser cutters we are buying we need to contact Physical Plant to make arrangements to have the ventilation changed as required.
- Chris Leigh also discussed the cost of purchasing a **3D printer**. He recommends the unit that costs 30,000 which is of very good quality and has a life of 10-12 years. The less expensive models are poor grade and not worth considering. The 3D printer fuses material directly and the materials it produces wear out in approximately six months. Jason suggested that it would be a good idea for tech fee members to discuss the issue of purchasing a 3D printer with other students in order to solicit opinions and different perspectives on the topic.

## 2. Old Business

- Chris Leigh has received some quotes on scanners. We need to keep in mind, when purchasing a scanner, what our specific needs are, whether we want to upgrade etc. The scanner we have now has a fixed scan head and if the head is dirty, this dirt will show up as stripes through the entire document. Our present scanner can only scan technical drawings.
- The first quote for a potential scanner purchase is for the "Skyview" which is a high end SLR camera box complete with software and diffused lighting. It scans in sections and then stitching the whole image together. This unit would cost 80,000
- The second quote is for the Cruse Synchron Back Light Table which comes in at a cost of \$95,000. It is a large table which is motorized and scans the whole item in one pass. The scan head is suspended so there is no way it can get scratched up.
- The Dean, Ralph Stern, suggested that when we are in the process of determining which scanner to purchase, speaking to Mary Lochhead, Head of our Architecture/Fine Arts Library and Paul Hess, Director of the School of Art, who both have working knowledge with regards to an archival quality scanner in order to decide whether or not we require that high end of a piece of equipment.

**3. Financial Statement (available on the Tech Fee Website)**

- The financial statements as at March 31, 2012 and April 30, 2012 were distributed at this meeting.

**4. Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will take place in the Fall term.