

The University of Akron  
Minutes of the Graduate Faculty  
April 27, 2016  
Student Union, Room 335

Dean Chand Midha called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Present: Dr. Philip Allen, Dr. Forrest Sheng Bao, Associate Dean Charles Beneke, Ms. Heather Blake, Dr. Marcus Braga Alves, Dr. George Chase, Dr. Kathleen Clark, Dr. Sujay Datta, Dr. Brian Davis, Dr. John Huss, Dr. James McManus, Dr. Timothy O'Neil, Dr. John Peck, Dr. Darrell Reneker, Dr. John Roncone, Dr. Shivakumar Sastry, Dr. Linda Shanks, Dr. Julia Spiker, Dr. Tang Tang, Dr. James Thomson, Associate Dean Lauri Thorpe, Dr. Nicole Zacharia, and Dr. Shannon Zentall.

1. Dr. Philip Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from April 8, 2015 meeting.

Dr. John Huss seconded the motion.

Minutes from the April 8, 2015 meeting were approved without dissent.

2. Reports

Mr. John Corby, Information Technology Services, provided a report to those graduate faculty members present. A copy of the report is attached.

Discussion related to upgrades as well as outside entities having difficulty connecting with the server followed.

Mrs. Phyllis O'Connor, University Libraries, was unable to attend. She provided a written report from University Libraries. A copy of the report is attached.

Dr. Philip Allen inquired about open source publishing agreements with journals. He emphasized that access to journals is crucial for graduate education and research.

Dean Midha said this should be followed up with the University Libraries, and, perhaps, should be discussed in Graduate Council.

Dr. George Chase expressed some concerns about the 3-D printer in the library not working and not accurate enough for his students to carry out their projects.

There were no graduate faculty members present who serve on the University Libraries Committee.

Dr. Julia Spiker, Vice Chair, Graduate Council, provided a report to those graduate faculty members present. A copy of the report is attached.

Ms. Monique Mullett, President of Graduate Student Government, was unable to attend. She provided a written report from Graduate Student Government. A copy of the report is attached.

Dr. Philip Allen, in response to the report provided by Graduate Student Government, stated that no one has turned a blind eye to graduate assistantship

funding, and there is no plan to do so in the future. This issue is being discussed both in Graduate Council and Faculty Senate.

Dr. Shivakumar Sastry questioned from what sources members of Graduate Student Government are receiving information.

Dean Midha provided a report to those graduate faculty members present.

He stated that there has been a great deal of anxiety surrounding the funding process and graduate assistantship allocations. In November the Graduate Council met with President Scarborough. In that meeting the President requested that Graduate Council explore the possibilities of other funding models. Additionally, the President mentioned that the University must find ways to attract more self-paying graduate students.

An Ad Hoc committee comprised of four members of Graduate Council was established to work with Dr. Eric Amis, Vice Provost for Research, on defining professional master's and research master's programs.

Consultants from Ruffalo Noel Levitz have been assisting the Graduate School in review of its financial model. The consultants have collected data and continue collecting more data in order to provide a full report.

The Graduate School is in the process of gathering information from the members of the Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS) on how they fund their graduate assistants.

Dean Midha stressed the importance of implementing efforts to increase graduate enrollment.

An Ad Hoc Committee of Graduate Council was established to develop a strategic plan for the Graduate School. Dr. Philip Allen, a member of the Ad Hoc Committee that worked on developing the plan, presented the strategic plan to those graduate faculty members present.

Dean Midha invited questions from the graduate faculty.

Dr. John Peck asked what happened to the annual undergraduate and graduate student research symposium.

Ms. Heather Blake responded that this research symposium was handled by Dr. Heather Burton in the Office of Graduate Student Development, which is no longer in existence.

Associate Dean Charles Beneke added that a new staff member will be joining the Graduate School on May 7, and the hope is that this annual event will be resumed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather A. Blake  
Graduate School

Uniting the Arts & Humanities with Science & Technology

John Corby

April 27, 2016

# Information Technology Services Report to Graduate Faculty



The  
University  
of Akron

OHIO's  
POLYTECHNIC  
UNIVERSITY

## **Agenda – Key ITS Initiatives**

- Network Upgrade Project
- Personal Computer Refresh Proposal
- Questions

# Network Upgrade Project

## 1. Planned Performance Upgrades

- a. Greater bandwidth capacity coming to campus**
  - From current 1GB capacity to 40GB
- b. Upgrade of network cabling in much of campus**
  - Already started; expected to continue thru FY 17
- c. No traffic restrictions**
  - Removed packet shaper which restricted some traffic throughput
- d. Increased security & redundancy**
  - Better firewalls (faster, more intelligent) being put in place
- e. Improved wireless capacity**
  - “Dense” places on campus will have new higher capacity access points installed

# Network Upgrade Project

## 2. Implementation activities

- a. Upgrade internal hardware**
  - Already started expect core hardware to be finished by this fall
- b. Increase internet bandwidth**
  - Taking advantage of OARnet capacity should be done by this fall
- c. Replace old building network cabling**
  - Planned finish for the 40GB capacity within 12 to 18 months
- d. Installing new wireless access points**
  - Planning to have half of campus upgraded within 12 to 18 months

# Network Upgrade Project

## 3. Building upgrade sequence

- a. Academic buildings**
  - CAS to Olin
  - Zook to Goodyear
  - All remaining ones
- b. Residence Halls**
  - Honors to Spanton
  - Quaker
  - South campus
- c. Athletics**
  - JAR to Stadium
- d. Open areas**
  - Cohlman Commons
- e. Administrative buildings**
  - BH and SU
  - Simmons
  - Others

# Network Upgrade Project

## 4. Funding

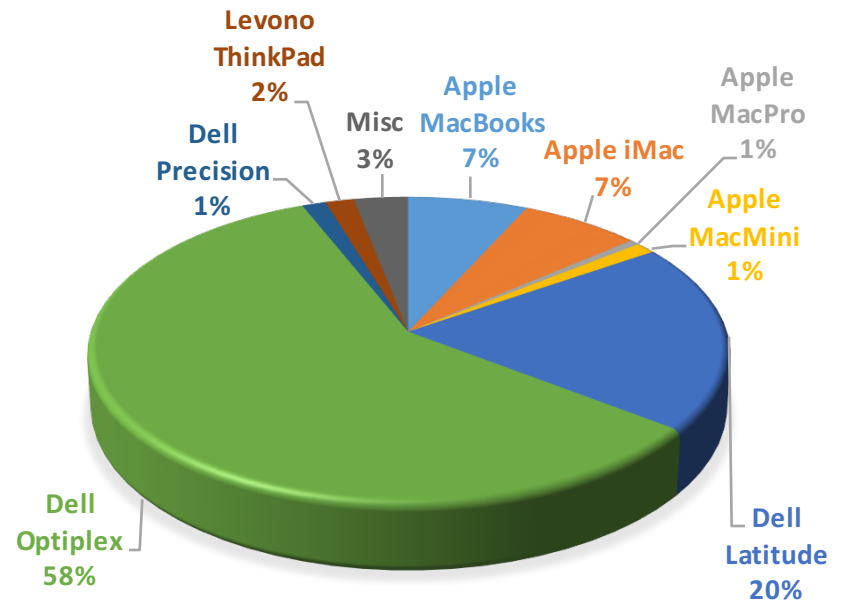
- a. **State appropriations to fund most of this**
  - Expect state to allocate funding by this summer



# Personal Computer Hardware Inventory

Below is a breakdown of the 6,799 systems by machine type

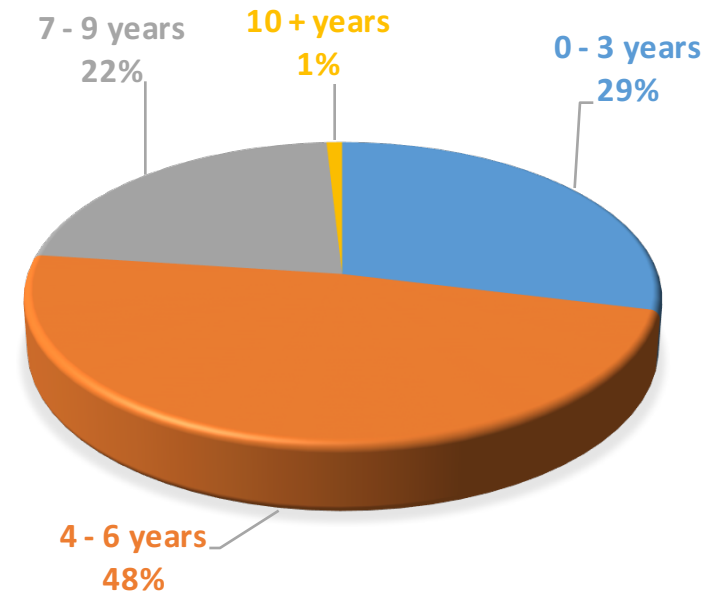
<u>Machine Types</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Apple MacBooks	470
Apple iMac	476
Apple MacPro	39
Apple MacMini	80
Dell Latitude	1383
Dell Optiplex	4044
Dell Precision	94
Levono ThinkPad	112
Misc	213



# Age of Personal Computer Hardware

Currently, UA has 6,799 managed computer units; 4, 739 (70%) are desktop units and 2,060 (30%) are laptop units. Age of the units are:

Age in Years	Machines	Warranty %
0 - 3	1959	88
4 - 6	3281	3
7 - 9	1498	0
10 +	61	0



## **Proposed Personal Computer Refresh**

- **Refresh 20% of all units each year (approximately 1,360 total)**
  - **Approximately 952 desktop and 408 laptop units**
  - **Makes this an ongoing process every year**
  
- **Cost will be approximately \$2,040,000 each year**
  - **Propose funding source from tech fees**

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# Questions

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**Highlights in Budget, Service and Programming since April 2015**

- 7 Positions eliminated in campus workforce reduction (July)
- UA Press was reorganized within the University Libraries structure (July)
- Carryover in library fees was frozen and no new tech fees were allocated in FY 16 (July)
- Updated library room booking system to self-bookable via the web (Sept)
- Hosted American Chemical Society (ACS) On-Campus (Oct)
- New Collection Management Librarian was hired (March)
- New Life & Allied Health Sciences Librarian was hired (March)
- EXL Center moved into Bierce Library (March)
- New Coordinator, Cataloging Services was hired (April)

**Collections Purchased since April 2015**

Name/Title	Description
<p>Mintel Academic and Mintel Market Sizes</p>	<p>Mintel Academic and Mintel Market Sizes – These databases offer data and reports on over 4,000 industries (including financial services, media, retail, industrial, etc.) in the US and Internationally. Mintel is up to date with the latest information on issues affecting consumer markets and economies.</p>
<p>Kanopy Streaming Service</p>	<p>A streaming video service offering thousands of films through a demand driven platform. The collection includes titles from PBS, BBC, Criterion Collection, Media Education Foundation and more.</p>
<p>American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Compass</p>	<p>This database provides access to standards, reports, and data of the ASTM for a number of scientific areas including polymers, rubber, chemicals, and biomedical. A full digital library is also included which contains thousands of journal articles and other publications. A significant acquisition aiding our support of science and engineering.</p>

## **GSG: 2015 – 2016**

Due to the vast cuts across campus, the 2015-2016 academic year was particularly difficult to maneuver for the elected GSG officials. We lost an administrative assistant and a large portion of our operating budget. Although some the salary of the administrative assistant was redistributed to both USG and GSG, our budget was still well below that of the prior academic year. A graduate assistant was provided but was not offered as a source of assistance to GSG. We had to take it upon ourselves to figure out the administrative tasks which normally would have belonged to the office manager.

We did not feel the need to amend the Constitution of Bylaws that govern GSG. We did have some ideas that came to mind for future alterations and have made note of those for next year's leadership to review and decide if they would like to make any of those changes.

With a greatly reduced budget we argued for a reduction of GSG funding to pay for Spring Fest. While this event is very nice for the student body, we reviewed numbers and decided that a disproportional amount of graduate students attended the event and thus our funding should be lowered. USG agreed and decided to utilize their Presidential funds to cover the difference.

One event that we hosted this year was our ALICE training. Due to the high number of mass shootings in public arenas, we thought that graduate students should know how to handle an active shooter incident. Graduate assistants often lead class discussions and we saw a need to inform them of some basic tools if such an instance were to occur on campus. The University of Akron Police Department was kind enough to provide the training.

Majority of our time has been utilized in fighting to preserve graduate assistants at the University of Akron. We have collected data from student surveys, other campus' information of graduate assistantships, and funding for said positions. We thought a comparison between the University of Akron and other schools may help the administration see the need to preserve these positions. So far our efforts have been in vain. The administration has turned a blind eye to the issue and has ignored or dismissed our data. We have saved all of our evidence and are going to provide it to next year's leaders so they may further advocate for the graduate students on this issue.

Monique Mullett – President

Caroline Drotar – Vice President

Turner Anderson – Treasurer