

The Student Computing Fee at CU Boulder: Background and Overview

Assembled by the Office of Information Technology, December 2015

- **Definition.** The defined purpose of the Student Computing Fee, as stated on the CU Boulder Bursar's Office website (in the Tuition & Fees section) and approved by the Regents, is the following:
 - "Used for building, maintaining, expanding, and updating **computing labs**, and providing all students with **access to computing accounts** including **e-mail**, the **Internet**, etc."
- **Amount Generated Annually.** In 2014-15, the students provided **\$4,042,886** to CU Boulder via the Student Computing Fee in support of the purposes stated above. These funds are directed to the Office of Information Technology (OIT), and comprise a portion of the approximately \$33 million that is allocated directly to OIT for a wide array of campus-wide IT purposes.
- **Uses of Funds.** Among OIT's many IT responsibilities are the delivery of the key services cited specifically in the Student Computing Fee's definition. In total, OIT invests substantially more in these specific items than can be covered by the \$4 million proceeds from the fee. To address each of the components specifically (see the table below for more details):
 1. **Computing Labs.** OIT builds, maintains, expands, and updates more than 60 campus computing labs across the campus. In 2014-15, OIT's expenditures for Computing Labs was \$2.8 million.
 2. **Access to Computing Accounts Including E-mail.** OIT provides access to computing accounts via its Identity and Access Management group, and e-mail via its Messaging and Collaboration group. Combined, OIT's 2014-15 expenditures for these units was \$2.3 million. Roughly 80% of the campus individuals served are students, meaning that \$1.8 million of these costs can be considered eligible for Student Computing Fee funding.
 3. **Internet.** Access to the internet cost \$542,759 during 2014-15, though these costs reflect only the purchase and support of actual internet bandwidth, and omit the much greater cost of maintaining the physical infrastructure of the campus's wired and wireless networks that deliver internet service to those on campus.

2014-15 Student Fee Revenue and Related Purposes	
Student Fee Revenue	\$4,042,866
(1) Computing Labs	\$2,791,620
(2) Computing Accounts Including E-mail (80%)	\$1,840,251
(3) Internet	\$542,759
Expenditures Related to Fee-Defined Purposes	\$5,174,630

- **Key Takeaway.** The table demonstrates that CU Boulder, via OIT, provides the services defined in the Student Computing Fee, using the fee's proceeds and also supplementing the fee with funds

from other sources. Furthermore, OIT provides many additional services to students that are not explicitly named in the definition, including walk-in desktop support, an online learning environment (Desire2Learn), audio/visual equipment in campus classrooms, other academic technology tools, etc., which are also funded by sources other than the Student Computing Fee.

ITSGB Questions and Responses

1. How much money has been raised via the student computing fee over the previous three semesters (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015)?

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) receives funds from the Student Computing Fee on an annual basis, with several true-ups throughout the academic and fiscal year, as opposed to receiving the funds semester by semester. For 2014-15, which includes Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, OIT the fee provided \$4,042,886 to OIT. The 2015-16 amount (including the Fall 2015 portion) is anticipated to stay relatively level versus the prior year, changing only based on fluctuations in overall campus enrollment.

2. How is the money raised via the Student Computing Fee currently being spent? E.g., what services are currently supported by the computing fee and what percentage or dollar amount of the total fee intake per semester goes toward each of these services?

As detailed in the prior section, the expenditures for the components named in the fee's definition sum to more than the proceeds that OIT receives from the student computing fee. OIT provides numerous other services to students and funds them from other sources.

3. For services that are supported by both student computing fee money and other funding, what percentage of service funding is provided via the student computing fee vs. via other sources?

See the table above. The fee (\$4 million) covers approximately 78% of the expenditures related to its stated purposes (\$5.2 million).

4. How is the student computing fee amount calculated each semester?

The student computing fee is \$67.24 for undergraduate and graduate students taking seven or more credit hours, and \$33.62 for students taking six or fewer credit hours. Total proceeds generated by the fee fluctuate with student enrollment.

5. How has the student computing fee amount fluctuated over the previous 10 years (e.g. percent increase/decrease over that period, etc.)?

Fee history can be found on the CU Boulder Bursar's Office website at the links below. The history is available back to 2008, and the fee has not changed in that time period. It originated in 1990.

<https://bursar.colorado.edu/tuition-fees/fees-description/student-fees/>

<https://bursar.colorado.edu/tuition-fees/fees-description/student-fees/fee-archive/>