



Student Technology Fee

"The fee should concentrate on areas that visibly benefit all students."

Financial and Administrative Policy Paper #49 "Student Technology Fee Expenditures"

In the 1993-95 biennium, UW-Madison implemented a tuition increase of 2.5% for technology. In the 1995-97 biennium, a technology fee was applied to all campuses at a rate of 1% in the first year and 2% each year thereafter. This fee is designated as the Student Technology Fee (STF). The STF is a tuition surcharge, not a segregated fee. The STF is intended to provide students with additional services to meet student needs for instructional technology and information access at each institution. The STF should not replace existing funds intended to support student technology.

Who pays and how is the STF calculated?

Currently, students at all campuses pay this surcharge set as a percentage of overall tuition (2% for UW-Milwaukee, all UW Comprehensives, and all UW Colleges, 2.5% for UW-Madison). The STF is an ongoing fee tied to tuition, so as tuition rises, the fee also increases. In the 2003-04 UW System Annual Budget, the Student Technology Fee generated a total of \$2.83 million in GPR funds. These funds are expected to increase to \$3.87 million in 2004-05. The STF is entirely student-funded.

2003-2004 Student Technology Fee (STF) Annual Costs per Student*

	Resident	Non-resident
Colleges**	\$68	\$242
Comprehensives**	\$81	\$282
Milwaukee	\$102	\$357
Madison	\$129	\$464

*for students taking 12-18 credits

**amount could be more depending upon campus attended

The Student Technology Fee is regulated by the following policy paper:
Financial and Administrative Policy Paper #49 "Student Technology Fee Expenditures"

Spending the Student Technology Fee

Financial and Administrative Policy Paper #49 “Student Technology Fee Expenditures” section II “Policy” states that:

Each UW System institution shall form a committee that will review plans for the allocation of the Student Technology Fee. This committee shall include students appointed by student government, and appropriate campus staff appointed by the Chancellor or the Chancellor’s designee. This committee shall be advisory to the Chancellor or the Chancellor’s designee. Plans developed for the allocation of the Student Technology Fee shall be consistent with the campus IT Plan and the campus overall strategic plan.

If there are major changes in STF plans during the year, the new plans shall be reviewed by the Committee. Furthermore, any significant changes in STF plans for fixed costs, especially personnel expenses, from one year to the next, must consider potential contractual obligations/implications.

UW System institutions shall establish a specific accounting tracking mechanism for STF allocations as well as provide an annual report of expenditures to student government.

There are very few protections in F49 for students on the STF which is 100% student-funded. Here are some ways to hold the STF accountable to students.

What can the STF be spent on?

- Additional Staffing/ Help Desks in Labs
- Additional/ Upgraded Computer Workstations
- New/ Upgraded Hardware and Software
- Improved High Speed Capabilities
- Improved Networking/ Internet Access
- Online Resources
- Trainings on Utilizing Technology
- Technology for Student Class Presentations
- Technology for Students with Disabilities

What can't the STF be spent on?

- Classroom/ Lab Equipment for Faculty/ Staff
- Technology for Faculty/Staff Offices & Workstations
- Specific Disciplines (limited access equipment)
- Replace Funding for Existing Services

from Financial and Administrative Policy Paper #49

- 1.** Make sure that students compose a majority on this committee and elect a student to at least co-chair the committee.
- 2.** Expand the scope of the committee from strictly reviewing plans to formulating, reviewing and approving plans.
- 3.** Have the Chancellor or Chancellor’s designee agree to not move forward on any proposals unless approved by the committee.
- 4.** Develop criteria for the committee to determine student needs and interests in STF allocations.
- 5.** Make sure the committee is solely focused on the STF and separate from other Instructional Technology (IT) committees.

Last, review the annual reports of expenditures required by F49 to identify past priorities in STF allocations. **Remember, the Student Technology Fee should enhance technology that benefits all students, not subsidize funding for existing services.**