



Student Technology Fee Committee (STFC) Annual Allocation Request

ALLOCATION REQUEST DATE INFORMATION

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ALLOCATION REQUEST TITLE/DESCRIPTION

Request Title: Connect2 subscription

Request Description: A proposal to renew service for Connect2, the CSI's item checkout system.

ALLOCATION REQUEST INFORMATION

Department Name: Center for Student Involvement

Request Code: 26A0526

Contact Names: Daniel Nash

UW Tacoma Affiliation: Staff

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Phone Number: 2536924813

Title of Request: Connect2 subscription

Type of Request: Continuous / Ongoing

Department Head Approval: Department Head: Conor Leary

Annual Request Information

1. Background: Review and discuss the context of the proposed technology in detail. Explain how this proposal will be used in conjunction with an original proposal or existing technology. If applicable, how is the current technology disabled or inadequate?

The Center for Student Involvement manages over 250 items that are available for checkout to all students. Items that we have include all of our video game systems and games in the Center for Student Involvement & the Dawg House Student Lounge, as well as laptops, ID card swipes, a-frames, cameras, board and card games, event lights, etc. The number and types of items will continue to increase as UW Tacoma grows and we see more students involved and more events/programs on campus. We saw more than 1,000 reservations last year, and we're on track to continue that trend this year. Keeping track of reservations, checkouts, and check-ins for all of these is a lot of work – and all of our items are student-fee funded, which we want to ensure we are properly managing and maintaining their security and history of use. Connect2 allows the Center for Student Involvement staff to make sure this is done.

Connect 2 is a functional and supportive system, which allows us to achieve the goals outlined above while additionally providing detailed reports of use, the sending of automatic emails and reminders about returns, online reservations, and integration with our student database.

This proposal is a continuation of services after consultation with UWT's IT Department where they agreed that: "Rarely do we find a system that has it all together...this one does."

This request is for the annual system fee, which is billed to us at a fixed rate in Great Britain Pounds, but can vary in US Dollar pricing due to the GBP/USD exchange rate, which fluctuates substantially year-to-year. The \$5,200+tax amount proposed here reflects an amount close to the 10-year high exchange rate of 1.49 USD per 1 GBP.

2. Benefit to Students: Discuss how students have (for returning applicants) or will (for new applicants) benefit from this technology. How will additional funding of the technology benefit students?

Online Reservations: This system allows students to log into a website to make reservations for items from anywhere. This will be extremely beneficial for students, as they currently have to stop by in-person or call to make a reservation. Moving online allows access from anywhere. Our current level of services gives us 5,000 reservations per year, which is ample for historical traffic.

Assessment and Analytics: Connect2 Checkout System allows us on-screen, in-the-moment data. Information we have access to includes usage (both number of times an item is used, as well as how many total hours used), specific reports per student/RSO, peak usage times, reports of items in maintenance/broken status, and more. This data helps us to determine items that are used frequently (and need repair/cleaning/replacement or more quantity), items used not frequently being used (we can reassess if we really need it), and help us to track per RSO and per student use of items. Additionally, we will be able to determine the different populations of students that are using the items and those that aren't – so we can have a picture of who is and isn't using the items. This information is extremely valuable to us and UW Tacoma.

Automatic Emails & Reminders: Connect2 sends automatic emails and reminders to students – which is a huge benefit for accountability. This means that when a student checks an item out from our office, it sends them an email with all of their checkout and return information, as well as guidelines that they are agreeing to for using the item. This system attribute would benefit us AND the student, as it reminds them to return the items – and then we get them back on time for the next person!

Integration with Student Database: Connect2 integrates with UW's single sign-on (SSO), meaning that students will be able to use their UW NetIDs to login and make reservations and see their checkout history.

Quick and Easy to Navigate: The Connect2 system is VERY easy to navigate – both for students and the staff managing it. It is very similar to many similar online cart/checkout system for commercial businesses. Additionally, it is very quick to use. A student can make a reservation online in just a couple minutes. And then show up to check the item out and everything is already in the system. We would just need to pull the items and click "checkout."

UW Branded: The system is branded with UW Tacoma colors and logos, so it does not appear as a third-party system to users.

3. Access: Describe who will be using or will have access to the resources being proposed. In addition, all previous requestors, please provide historic data highlighting the usage and accessibility of technology. All new requestors, please provide user need data.

Connect2 is available to all students – in various ways. Some of our primary users of our items that get checked out are Registered Student Organizations (RSOs), which are 100% student-run and led. They consistently use the items we have for their programs, events, and meetings. Any student can be in an RSO, so thus has access to the items. Additionally, all students are able to checkout and use our video game systems (which STFC funds) and board/card games and we would use Connect2 for these, as well. So all students have access to the system and would benefit from it.

In the current 2025-2026 academic year (ongoing) we have had 105 reservations, approximately 275 fewer than the 380 seen at this time last year. The 2024-2025 school year saw 1,012 reservations. The 2023-2024 school year saw 1,040 reservations. I'm uncertain why bookings were lower this Autumn compared to past Autumns, but there are potential factors. Due to lower SAF funding for operations, we are open fewer hours and have fewer staff on duty to fulfill requests. It's also possible that I may need to raise awareness among current RSO officers about the benefit, as RSOs have been frequent bookers of A-Frames and photo backdrops in the past. I'll be pursuing some refreshed advertising for the Connect2 system

In addition to student access to reserve items, there will be access to the system for student employees in our office (to complete the checkouts) and professional staff (who will manage the system).

4. Timeline: Provide a timeline showing how the proposed technology can be completed during the requested period. Describe when you would like to see this proposal initiated and completed, and why.

Seamless immediate implementation. This is an existing subscription that we would be renewing.

5. Resources/Budget: Discuss available financial, personnel and space resources devoted to the proposed technology and level of support. Proposal must detail all the items/resources requested to be purchased. This includes filling out the Item Detail in next section.

Connect2 has provided training, support, and ongoing updates for the system. UW Tacoma IT was responsible for assisting with the integration of the system. The Center for Student Involvement will manage the daily operations and use of the system. All items that will be available for check-out in the system will be funded by student fees (either STFC or SAFC); i.e. it will not be used for any UW business that is not benefiting students.

Funding Request Items

Item	QTY	Cost Per Item	Shipping Fee	Tax Per Item	Subtotal
Annual subscription to Connect2	1	\$5,200.00	\$0.00	\$536.60	\$5,736.60
OVERALL TOTAL:					\$5,736.60