Student Technology Fee Committee (STFC)
Annual Allocation Request

Allocation Request Date Information
Date Created: 2020-02-18 15:39:12  Date Due: 2020-02-28 17:00:00  Date Submitted: 2020-02-26 16:15:24

Allocation Request Title/Description
Request Title: Portable Assistive Listening System
Request Description: This proposal is to request a portable and versatile option when working with assistive listening requests.

Department Name: Information Technology  Request Code: 20A0216
Contact Names: Josh Carper  UW Tacoma Affiliation: Staff
UWT Email Address: jdc5@uw.edu  Phone Number: 2536924439
Title of Request: Portable Assistive Listening System  Type of Request: One Time

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?

This proposal is to request a portable Assistive Listening system for student use. The proposed equipment would better equip UW Tacoma Media Services with the ability to accommodate those who use hearing aids or cochlear implants and need a hearing loop (induction loop) to be able to hear microphone and course content (videos, etc.) in classrooms, event spaces and walking tours. The hearing loop can be worn around the users neck and wirelessly transmits audio to their hearing device.

The system also comes with ear speakers to provide other options to those who do not use a hearing aid, but need sound reinforcement.

There is a headset with microphone as well that could be used in a variety situations such as classes, events and walking tours.

Here are web links if you would like to view equipment:
https://www.listentech.com/shop/product/neck-loop/

Currently, Media Services has an Assistive Listening system for all campus use. The system is unfortunately limited to two sets of wireless headphones. The system is not compatible with hearing loops and is not expandable due to design limitations and the fact that components are no longer being manufactured.
2. Benefit to Students: Discuss how students have benefited from the original proposal, if applicable. How will additional funding of the technology benefit students? If this was an unforeseen technology need, discuss how students will benefit from this new proposal and why the need cannot wait for annual allocation funding.

This request would be beneficial for students with needs for assistive listening devices, as well as the general student population. These devices can be used to amplify classroom lectures, events and also be used as portable PA systems, similar to that of campus or museum tours. This allows the tour guide to speak in a normal voice, while minimizing distraction to the surrounding areas by not having to compete with environmental noise to be heard by the participants. These devices also allow the use of their own preferred equipment (ex: headphones) with the receivers for comfort or access.

Listen Technologies, the manufacturer of equipment, is a long-standing company that produces good quality equipment that has served us well in other applications. Listen Technologies offers additional receivers and accessories if demand increases and more units are needed.

3. Access: Describe who will be using or will have access to the resources being proposed. If the access has changed since an original proposal, be sure to note that here. In addition, all previous requestors, please provide historic data highlighting the usage and accessibility of technology. All new requestors, please provide user need data.

All current students, student organizations and student events would have access to the equipment.

Media Services had a noteworthy case study from a student this past year that requested a hearing loop for use in their classrooms to be able to better hear their professor and course audio content. We met with student and Disability Resources staff to show student our current system. The student informed us the wireless headphones would not work with their hearing device since the headphones would have caused feedback and excessive volume levels due to close proximity to their hearing aid.

We have also had requests during prior events on campus for hearing loops to get an audio feed of the microphones and audio content of event.

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.

If approved, once the equipment is ordered and received, the equipment would need to be tested before being available publicly. The new setup could be made available by start of Fall quarter 2020.

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.

With all accommodation requests, Media Services would provide setup and assistance for any and all UWT student events and classes.

Funding Request Items

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OVERALL TOTAL: $1,938.29