

Initiative: Print Quota Addendum

Question

Is a temporary flat fee of \$3.00/student/quarter a reasonable solution to the current financial hardship imposed on many students by the Print Quota Policy until the Student Technology Fee comes up for renewal in 2013?

Rationale to Augment STF To Include Student Printing

Introduction

This Addendum is written in response to the pay-to-print (P2P) debacle and is proposing to augment the STF (student technology fee) to include printing or alternatively create a temporary SPF (Student Print Fee).

As a student, I feel neglected and underrepresented by the AS (Associated Students) after the student government decided to sellout the student body by recommending the P2P initiative. It appears to me that the AS is an office of levity for students to pad their resume and to that end, become the 'yes' person.

Monumental Hemorrhaging

The implications and ramifications of the new P2P initiative have far reaching consequences for students. For many students, purchasing textbooks were standby commodities before higher tuition rates were inflicted upon each student. The P2P initiative threatens each student's current financial budget and places printing on the standby commodities list along with required textbooks resulting in lower learning.

One primary example of the financial impacts on students was during Spring Quarter of 2011. Professors Hud Hudson and Dennis Whitcomb reported an all-time-low for scores on midterm exams. When asked why, students reported higher credit loads to reduce higher tuition costs in the 2011-2012 academic year.

Strikingly, the P2P appears equitable *prima facie*. However, it is inequitable and detrimental on two levels. First, students have to endure yet another merciless, financial assault in their educational expenses, and second, some majors require more printing than others, making printing unsustainable for many students at Western.

Cost Control And Recommendation

In an email dated June 6, 2011, titled 'Sustainable (Green) Printing,' the average student cost for printing in the previous academic year was \$6.95. According to this email, students and faculty thought printing was covered under the STF fee. For this reason, the STF fee should include and cover student printing by augmenting it by \$3 each quarter.

Augmenting the STF by \$3 (or implementing the SPF) times an average of 12,000 students produces an annual income of \$108,000, a figure well within the numbers provided in the 'Sustainable (Green) Printing' email. Restoring each student's printing account to the \$25

allotment, along with a maximum contingency of one (\$1) dollar for overrun, this addendum is a reasonable and practical solution for Western and its students.

While Western continues to implement the refund system, according to Dr. Lawson, the savings of this addendum are passed down to each student's overall budget. Moreover, evenly distributing the costs of printing over the entire student-body reduces some of the hemorrhaging created under the current P2P initiative.

Conclusion

Under this P2P Addendum, I implore Western to fully consider adopting this proposal. For it is far easier to digest a \$3 increase in our student budgets than a \$20 to \$30 explosive increase each quarter for many. Additionally, this proposal allows professor's to continue distributing Open Source Material as an alternative to help reduce textbook cost for students. It seems to me that it would behoove Western to demonstrate to the student-body that it cares deeply about their financial situation by adopting and implementing this proposal expeditiously.

However, because the STF increase requires student voter approval, and because the STF contract ends in spring of 2013, I propose a tentative SPF (Student Print Fee) during the interim. In a special session, the Board of Trustees should approve and add the SPF to students' accounts at its earliest convenience.