



Date: May 11, 2016

To: Members of Senate

From: Kathy Pozihun, Vice-President (Administration & Finance)
Bernie Blake, Director of Technology
Andrew Brigham, Manager - Server, Desktop & Client Services

Re: Report on ATAC Labs, Wireless Expansion & Other Technology Initiatives

The following is in response to concerns raised at the February, 2016 Senate meeting:

Computer Labs - ATAC

As noted at the February Senate meeting, many of the computer labs in the ATAC are showing their age. In particular, some significant failures have occurred in the third floor computer labs over the winter term. Approximately 24% of the installed units on the third floor have failed. Units in these labs are over 6 years old, and outside of warranty. Technology Services Centre has been able to repair or replace some units, but many have been pulled out as they are beyond repair.

In order to address the more immediate challenges, the Student Tech Fund was approached requesting funding for a complete computer lab refresh for ATAC 3003 (27 seat computer lab). This request was approved, and will be installed this spring. This new lab will allow some of the older machines to be redeployed into AT3001 and AT3002, filling in some of the gaps left by missing units in that area.

Technology Services Centre has recently approached the Student Tech Fund for replacement of AT3001 and AT3002 computers at the April, 2016 meeting. This request was approved, and both labs will be complete by September, 2016.

The replacement of the Natural Resource Management lab in AT3010, and the general computer lab in Simcoe Hall will also occur this spring as a result of funding from the Orillia Student Tech Fund.

Wi-Fi Update

Over the summer of 2015, wireless service was expanded to include complete coverage of the ATAC building, Regional Centre, Music and Visual Arts building and several of the student residences.

This project was funded jointly through Lakehead University, Residence Services, and the Student Tech Fund at a total investment of over \$600,000. Installation was completed in August, 2015.

Wi-Fi Coverage at Lakehead University now includes:

Agora
ATAC
Bora Laskin
Cafeterias
Chancellor Paterson Library
CJ Saunders Fieldhouse Gym
Hangar
Music and Visual Arts
Orillia Academic Building
Orillia Heritage Place
PACI
Regional Centre
Senate Chambers
University Centre (partial)
Bartley Residence
Avila Residence
Orillia Residence

Thunder Bay Residence Services has committed funding towards further expansion of wireless in the Thunder Bay residences including expansion to the townhouse and apartment complexes, with a completion date set for September, 2016. All residences in Thunder Bay and Orillia will be wi-fi complete.

Proposals were presented in April 2016 to the Student Tech Fund for enabling Wi-Fi in the Braun building and School of Nursing. This request was deferred for consideration during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

Technology Services Centre completed a wireless site survey in 2014 and has initial designs prepared for all building spaces in order to plan and prioritize wi-fi projects.

Eduroam, a secure, world-wide roaming access service developed for the international research and education community is currently being implemented with a go-live date within the next month pending CANARIE approval. This service allows students, researchers and staff from participating institutions to obtain Internet connectivity across campus and when visiting other participating institutions by simply opening their device.

Projector Bulb Replacement

Technology Service Centre supports a number of technology equipped classrooms across campus. Rooms are often difficult to access due to class schedule, and room design challenges frequently require significant safety equipment to support work.

In the case of the reported challenge in AT1003, the projectors were obsolete and bulb replacement would not have resolved the issue. The projectors were still operational but dim and experiencing discolour. The projector's prisms were failing and the only resolution was projector replacement. Lead time to order replacement projectors, available maintenance windows, technician resource availability and obtaining the appropriate safety equipment, complicated the process. The first acceptable opportunity to complete this work was the 2016 February reading week. The units were replaced as scheduled at that time.

Technology in Teaching Spaces

In recent years, Lakehead University's open classrooms and computer labs have benefited through increased availability of teaching and learning technologies. These changes have been supported through Lakehead University capital funding, Residence Services and the Student Tech Fund. Renewal of teaching and learning technologies remains a challenge in a fiscally challenging environment; however, Lakehead University remains committed to ensuring a positive learning environment for all faculty, staff and students.