

Keene State College Information Technology Project Proposal

Music Technology Instruction Laboratory sponsors: Music Department, School of Arts & Humanities

Section 1: Identification of IT Project (Who 'owns' the project?)

The KSC Music Department is submitting the request with support from the KSC School of Arts and Humanities.

Section 2: Project Description (What is the project?)

Overview –

The proposed Music Technology Instruction Laboratory (MTIL) is an upgrade and merger of two music department labs: Electronic Music Studio (EMS) and Piano Laboratory. Professor Craig Sylvern will serve as Director of the MTIL. No staff increases are needed.

This Information Technology initiative will allow the music department 1) to manage classroom and laboratory space more effectively, 2) to increase the number of seats for its required music technology courses, 3) to increase the availability of music technology resources for all students – music majors and non-majors, 4) to expand the number and type of music technology courses, including a music tech course for all music department freshman, and an ISP quantitative literacy course, 5) to expand the number of music technology workstations from four (current) to sixteen (proposed), 6) to bring the college in line with national, regional, and state standards on music technology; 7) to improve working conditions for students and faculty (presently, the EMS is in a small space with a deficient HVAC system, no windows, and temperatures regularly above 80 degrees).

The outcomes of the initiative include a more efficient and effective use of classroom space, expanded music technology resources for the college and department, increased seating capacity for required music technology courses, healthier work environment for students and faculty, new and innovative courses related to music technology and quantitative literacy, improved student performance in five primary areas of the music curriculum (music technology, music theory, piano, composition, pedagogy), more efficient use of tenure-line workloads, decreased reliance on adjunct faculty, and successful renewal of Keene State College's accreditation with three accrediting agencies: the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and the New Hampshire Council of Teacher Education (NHCTE).

Statement of the problem, need and opportunity –

The Music Department presently has separate classrooms for its electronic music studio (EMS) and piano laboratory. The piano lab occupies a department classroom (Arts Center 115) with sixteen electronic pianos that use outdated technology. Because of its unique configuration, it is difficult to use that space effectively when piano classes are not taking place (it sits empty much of the time). The EMS is housed in Arts Center 103 and has significant deficiencies of space, seating, and working conditions. It is an extremely small room with a very limited number of seats (8), little room for workstations (4), no windows or ventilation, and malfunctioning heating-cooling vents. Because of its small space, students are unable to work individually with the technology while class is going on – this is pedagogically unsound. Furthermore, the temperature in the room frequently rises above 80 degrees, with no fresh air, during classes and individual work sessions. This condition exists year-round and is both pedagogically unsound and an unhealthy working condition for students and faculty.

Professional standards established by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) and New Hampshire Council of Teacher Education (NHCTE) increasingly stress the importance of music technology in all areas of a baccalaureate music curriculum. Right now, it is impossible to offer music technology courses that are available for all students because of the lack of space and equipment. The department could be faulted in upcoming accreditation reviews for not offering a broad-based music technology curriculum. Enrollments in our current Music Technology for Educators course are severely limited because of space, thus students have difficulty scheduling this required course. The lack of space requires the department to offer the course each semester, which places stress on faculty workloads; a large space with more workstations would reduce the number of sections that need to be offered. There are only four workstations in the EMS, which limits student access to the equipment to work on course assignments and projects. The space and workstation deficiencies completely shut out students in other courses from using the EMS to improve their skills in music technology and aural skills via music theory software (which is a feature of nearly every baccalaureate music program in the country). In addition, the department offers a Music Technology specialization for its B.A. in Music degree program. The new specialization has proved popular among current and prospective students, but enrollments are very limited because of a cramped EMS. Simply put, it is vital that *all* music department students become involved in music technology, and our current facilities simply do not support that goal.

Keene State College is facing its ten-year national accreditation review in 2010 with the national accrediting agency for music (NASM). The music department is the only program on campus to have all of its degree programs fully accredited by a national accrediting agency, and we're one of only four programs in northern New England fully accredited by NASM. We are quite proud of our accreditation and continue to work hard to preserve this distinction. Since our last review in 2000, NASM and NHCTE has strengthened its standards in the area of music technology. In 2010 we are also slated for our ten-year NEASC accreditation review and our five-year state teaching accreditation review from NHCTE.

Without this proposed strategic initiative, the department is concerned that its music technology resources will fall below national, regional, and state standards. It is not in the institution's interest to put its accreditation at risk.

Description of the proposed initiative –

The proposed initiative involves merging the EMS with the Piano Lab and upgrading the technology with purchases from Soundtree Technologies, thereby creating a multi-functional Music Technology Instruction Laboratory (MTIL). The new MTIL would convert the present electronic pianos into combination electronic keyboard / music technology workstations capable of hosting piano classes, music theory classes, Integrative Studies Program quantitative literacy courses, and Theater Tech courses (KSC Theater and Dance Department). In these ways, the new MTIL will reap benefits for the Music Department and the campus at large. Students enrolled in music technology, theatre technology, and music technology-related integrative studies courses will be given access to the MTIL. In addition, the new MTIL would be open to students in the evening for work on music technology projects, music theory skills, classroom assignments, music composition, and piano skills, via computer software, and Integrative Studies Quantitative Literary assignments. To complete the upgrade-merger, the MTIL will be outfitted with 'Smart Board' technology (like Science Building 101's innovative Smart Board) and its resources protected using Card Swipe security technology. With swipe-card technology, there will be no reason to have any staff increases other than an onsite student monitor to assist with evening work sessions. Card Swipe technology already exists in the Arts Center and the current Electronic Music Studio is protected using card swipe. To reduce costs, this card swipe unit could be moved over to the new MTIL.

The current space housing the Electronic Music Studio (Arts Center 103) is too small to become a regular classroom, and would be converted to a storage facility and sheet music library for our instrumental ensembles (Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra, chamber music ensembles).

The proposal would greatly increase the numbers of students and courses in Room 115. Presently the wall that separates Room 115 and Room 118 does not extend fully to the ceiling. This creates tremendous sound leakage coming from Room 115 to Room 118, making it impossible to schedule classes simultaneously in both rooms. This has been a major scheduling challenge for the music department and a waste of usable classroom resources. A double wall extending fully to the ceiling (not just to the false ceiling) must be strongly considered as part of this proposal, otherwise the current sound leakage / classroom scheduling problem will get worse.

To summarize, this initiative will allow the department 1) to manage classroom and laboratory space more effectively, 2) to increase the number of seats for its required music technology courses, 3) to increase the seat capacity and availability of music technology resources for all students, 4) to expand the number and type of music technology courses, including a music tech course for all music department freshman, and an ISP quantitative literacy course, 5) improved student performance in five critical areas of learning; 6) more efficient use of faculty workloads (expanding the number of seats reduces the number of sections that need to be offered); 7) to expand the number of music technology workstations

from four (current) to sixteen (proposed), and 8) to bring the department in line with national, regional, and state standards on music technology.

Timetable –

Professor Craig Sylvern has already created a budget for the project based on negotiations he has had with Soundtree Technologies (see attached budget and Soundtree's estimate). He has been in regular communication with Soundtree and is convinced that the project can be achieved in a short period of time – preferably the summer 2008 - to allow faculty and students to realize its full potential before the department writes its NASM, NEASC, and NHCTE self-studies in 2009. Soundtree specializes in quickly converting older-model electronic pianos into fully operational, multifunctional, and integrated music technology workstations. Soundtree was chosen because they are the leader in music technology labs and because they did an excellent job in the 1990s installing the existing piano lab. Dean Nona Fienberg has generously contributed a substantial amount (\$ 20,000) toward the project. It is our understanding that this contribution must be used in FY 2008.

With these factors in mind, we would like the proposed merger-upgrade to take place in summer 2008. This schedule will allow us to make an immediate impact on the campus's electronic music resources well ahead of our national reviewer's visit. The proposal's timing is ideal, too, because the current Electronic Music Studio (a department laboratory) is scheduled for its four-year upgrade in the upcoming year.

Section 3: Project Value (How does the college benefit from this project?)

The proposed initiative matches the IT Plan strategic criteria:

- Academic Excellence: by meeting state teacher, regional, and national professional accreditation standards in music technology, this project enhances the quality of our academic programs and the academic achievements of our faculty and students
- Communication – by matching the campus mission and values articulated above, this project clearly and continuously communicates our mission and values and fosters a strong sense of community on campus in pursuit of academic excellence
- Leadership Development – by responding to the professional development goals of faculty in the Music, Theatre, and ISP programs, this project invests in faculty and staff
- Student Service Learning – by engaging a new generation of music teachers and professionals who will 'go forth and serve' their communities during and following their education at KSC, this project actively engages our students in a learning process that is grounded in service, citizenship, and ethical awareness
- Affordable & Accessible Academic Programs – by meeting the needs of students in several academic disciplines (Music, Theatre, ISP), this project contributes to high quality academic programs that are affordable and accessible to a wide range of learners
- Risk Reduction – by moving the current electronic music studio from its present location (no windows, no climate control of any kind, excessive heat and humidity) into the

existing piano laboratory, the project dramatically improves the working conditions for faculty and students, thus reducing legal, liability, and reputation risks for the college

The proposed initiative also matches the IT Plan technical criteria:

- Intra- or Inter- dependencies – the project has the potential of touching on three project / initiatives outlined in Theme 1 of the IT Plan, Projects, and Initiatives for FY 2008 (media enhanced classrooms, enhanced student e-learning support, and e-portfolio planning)
- Campus Prioritization – the project has already received a commitment of \$ 20,000 from Nona Fienberg, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, reflecting the interest and priority of A&H in the timely completion of new Music Technology Instruction Lab
- Architecture & Infrastructure Dependencies – the project would require a network switch for 17 workstations (16 for students, 1 for instructor), card switch security (which is already available in the Arts Center), regular hardware and software upgrades accorded to departmental computer labs, site licenses for music technology software, and a double wall separating the MTIL and Room 118 to eliminate sound leakage

In addition, the proposed initiative reinforces the mission, values, and strategic goals of Keene State College, as well as the strategic goals and evaluative criteria of IT plans, projects, and initiatives for FY 2008.

KSC Mission – the proposed initiative meets the following goals in our Mission:

- fosters the personal and professional growth of our students
- emphasizes creative and critical thinking
- integrates different forms of scholarship
- fosters substantive knowledge in students' academic and creative work
- prepares students for success as musicians, teachers, and scholars

KSC Values – the proposed initiative matches the core values of our institution:

- enhances excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship
- promotes creativity and intellectual curiosity
- broadens and deepens cultural enrichment
- provides service to the community and civic engagement that support active learning and the common good
- improves upon an attractive and functional campus environment

KSC Strategic Goals – the proposed initiative meets the strategic goals of the College:

- significantly enhance and become recognized for the quality of our academic programs and the academic achievements of our faculty and students
- clearly and continuously communicate our mission and values, and foster a strong sense of community on campus in pursuit of academic excellence

- invest in faculty and staff so they can provide leadership for the College's transformation
- actively engage our students in a learning process that is grounded in service, citizenship, and ethical awareness
- provide high-quality academic programs that are affordable and accessible to a wide range of learners

KSC Evaluative Criteria –the proposed initiative matches many of the evaluative criteria established by the KSC Strategic Initiative Planning Council and defined in this IT Plan.

A. Congruent with mission statement

- fosters the personal and professional growth of our students
- emphasizes creative and critical thinking
- integrates different forms of scholarship
- fosters substantive knowledge in students' academic and creative work
- prepares students for success as musicians, teachers, and scholars

B. Supports one or more stated values:

- Excellence in teaching, learning, and scholarship
- Community service & civic engagement supporting learning & the common good
- A strong sense of community on campus

C. Supports one or more strategic plan goals:

- To enhance/become recognized for quality programs & academic achievements
- To invest in faculty/staff so they can provide leadership
- To engage students in learning grounded in service, citizenship, ethical awareness
- To provide high quality programs that are affordable and accessible

D. Student considerations:

- Helps attracts and/or retain students
- Meets occupational needs in community, NH and/or New England
- Provides/increases access to high demand programs at KSC and across USNH

E. Resource considerations

- Makes efficient and/or effective use of human, technological or facility resources
- Keeps costs competitive for target market of prospective students
- Moves us toward appropriate use of full time vs. part time instructional faculty

F. Capitalizes on existing KSC strengths:

- Physical attractiveness and functionality of buildings and grounds

- Students view College leadership and student services as positive and helpful
- Quality of faculty & concern for students
- Positive relations between the City and College
- Monadnock Region's quality of life

G. Minimizes KSC weaknesses:

- Meeting needs of non-traditional students, course scheduling and service availability
- Balance between full-time and adjunct faculty
- Condition of older buildings

Section 4: Project Costs (What are the anticipated project costs?)

The budget for the proposed initiative is \$ 60,759.09 – see the attached budget and Soundtree Technologies estimate. The project's equipment, hardware, software, and installation needs are enumerated in the attached budget.

Dean Nona Fienberg has generously offered \$ 20,000 towards the completion of a new MTIL, reflecting the interest of the School of Arts and Humanities in this exciting project. It is our understanding that this contribution must be used in FY 2008. In addition, the Music Department has submitted a Proposed Projects for Support form, along with a copy of this proposal, to the Office of Advancement.

Beyond the proposed project's successful completion, there are several instructional technology resource issues that will need to be addressed by the college – i.e., who will pay for the maintenance, networking, security, hardware upgrades, software upgrades, and site licenses. The authors of this proposal have already begun discussions with Campus Safety, Information Technology, Physical Plant, and the School of Arts and Humanities on plans and costs, but no firm figures are available at this time. These costs are admittedly above and beyond the attached budget. We look forward to continuing a dialogue with campus officials to address these important budgetary issues related to this proposal.