THE TECH FUND
FACULTY OF INFORMATION

MISC and MUSSA
2015/2016 Tech Fund Annual Report

For more information:
uoft.me/techfund
misc.ischool.utoronto.ca/techfund
mussa-ischool.weebly.com/tech-fund.html

Students can also contact the Tech Fund at: **techfund.ischool@utoronto.ca**

Introduction

Who We Are and What We Do

The Tech Fund is a student-centered initiative that focuses on supporting the information, communication, and technology needs of the Master of Information (MI) and Master of Museum Studies (MMSt) students at the iSchool. During the 2015/2016 school year, full-time equivalent (FTE) students in the MI and MMSt programs contributed nothing to the fund. Previously, including the 2014/2015 school year, full-time equivalent (FTE) students in the MI and MMSt programs contributed $100 to the fund. The Provost's Office previously contributed $50 per student to the fund, but as of 2012/2013 they no longer do.

In the past, the Tech Fund committee members have used the fund to purchase new hardware and software for students in the faculty, fund workshops to promote the development of professional skills, and supply the funds for facilities and lounge improvements.

Mandate

To directly enhance ICT (information, communication and technology) based learning, research, exhibiting, collecting and administrative services for Masters of Information (MI), and Master of Museum Studies (MMSt).

Your Tech Fund Representatives

MI students elect three representatives and MMSt students elect two representatives to sit on the Tech Fund. Each representative has one vote on all Tech Fund decisions, while the committee's Faculty and Information Technology Advisors do not have a vote.

Name & Position	Email
Dawn Walker, *Chair* Second-Year MI Student	dawn.walker@mail.utoronto.ca
Bertha Chan, *Secretary* First-Year MI Student	bertha.chan@mail.utoronto.ca
Nuree Lee, *Referendum Lead* Second-Year MI Student	nuree.lee@mail.utoronto.ca
Katherine Mallalieu, *Treasurer* First-Year MMSt Student	katherine.mallalieu@mail.utoronto.ca
Yara Seredin, *Workshop & Event Lead* Second-Year MMSt Student	yara.seredin@mail.utoronto.ca
Tony Lemmens IT Advisor	tony.lemmens@utoronto.ca
Christoph Becker Faculty Advisor	christoph.becker@utoronto.ca

Tech Fund Spending

Overview

Category	Income	Expenses
2014/15 Budget carry-forward	+ $146,021.97	
2015/16 Student Tech Fund Levy Fees	+ $00.00	
Equipment and Subscriptions		-$22,971.98
Proposals (Request for Funds)		-$3,357.12
Workshops		-$3,544.18
Year End	**$116,326.01**	**-$29,873.28**

Detailed Breakdown

Technology Loan Purchases

Description	Quantity
Logitech Bluetooth Keyboard	3
AC Adapter for Microsoft Surface Tablet	1
Dell Laptop with Carrying Cases	6
MacBook Pro	6
Portable Laptop Table Stand	1

Other Purchases

Description
LibGuides Annual Subscription
MacBook Pro 3yr Extended Warranty (x6)
Orientation BBQ Starbucks Gift Card Prize
Ideas Party

Workshops & Events

Tech Fund continued to provide supplementary funding for iSkills workshops and offer the Mount Making workshop as in previous years. Other the summer, additional work identified and led to the proposal of new workshops to see whether a wider range of concentrations could be accommodated. In addition, Tech Fund organized both a Technology Showcase and Ideas Party in November 2015 to solicit feedback on the referendum and Tech Fund's direction, as well as specific purchases Tech Fund could make.

iSkills Workshops Supplementary Funding

Description
Fall 2015: Posters (**2** sessions)
Fall 2015: Illustrator
Fall 2015: Photoshop
Fall 2015: 3D Printing (**3** sessions)
Fall 2015: Intro to Digital Security and Privacy
Fall 2015: Prototyping with Arduinos
Fall 2015: Posters (**2** sessions)
Winter 2016: Library Freedom Project

Tech Fund Workshops

Description
Winter 2016: Mount Making with Devorah Romanek

Request for Funds Events

Description
AIS User Experience: From Vision to Validation
AIS UX Workshop
AIS Brown Bag Lunch Sessions
AIS Build Your Own Portfolio
AIS Open Source Workshop

Tech Fund Events

Description
Orientation Technology Showcase
Ideas Party

Referendum

A referendum was scheduled for the 2014-15 Academic Year, however this did not occur and as a result Student Levy Fees could not be collected last year. The 2015-16 Tech Fund Representatives were notified of this issue mid-October, any collected fees to that point were refunded to the students. The process for holding a referendum was initiated with the intent to hold it Winter 2016 during the 2015-16 Academic Year, in order for the results to be ratified in April for the 2016-17 Academic Year.

After significant consideration and work toward a referendum, led by our Referendum representative NuRee Lee, Tech Fund voted to defer holding a referendum in the Winter 2016 semester. This means there will be no Tech Fund Student Levy for 2016-17. This decision was made after careful deliberation and was influenced by significant changes to the Faculty of Information—primarily the Information Services restructuring and upcoming Inforum Renovations. This will not impact the functioning of the Tech Fund for the remainder of the 2015-16 Academic Year or for the 2016-17 Academic Year. Our hope is that once further information is available, next year's Tech Fund committee will revisit the Referendum issue with the support materials we've already prepared.

Faculty of Information IT Restructuring

The restructuring of the iSchool's IT department was announced in late-Nov/early-Dec unofficially, with an **FAQ on new IT service delivery model** sent to students on December 22, 2015 at the end of the Fall 2015 term. Within the FAQ the following questions covered the Tech Fund:

> **17.** Who is managing Tech fund purchases?
> iSchool Students' will be responsible for purchasing and maintaining equipment purchased with tech funds going forward.
> **18.** Who is responsible for maintaining and repairing Tech Fund Equipment?
> Going forward, iSchool Students will be responsible for maintaining/repairing equipment purchased via the tech fund.

Tech Fund, MISC, and MUSSA executives met to determine a strategy, as a result Tech Fund prepared a Response to IT Restructuring FAQ on January 13, 2016. We set up a meeting with Interim Dean Wendy Duff and Chief Administrative Officer Glen Cumming, in order to clarify the nature of the relationship between Tech Fund and the Faculty of Information going forward. Many processes, including purchasing, loaning, and maintenance could be effected. Our understanding from that discussion is covered in a Recap of IT Restructuring Meeting prepared on February 5, 2016.

Upcoming Plans

Based on the activities last year as well as additional considerations, key areas have been identified to work on for the 2015-2016 Academic Year:

- Securing a Funding Source and making a decisions about the referendum
- Clarify Equipment Decommissioning with respect to the iReno
- Strategize how to deliver workshop offerings
- Explore Student Development opportunities

Conclusion

The 2015/16 Academic Year proved to be a capacity-building year for the Tech Fund, however it was challenging to achieve its goals considering the loss of funding, loss of IT department and permanent staff, as well as changes to the Inforum. Tech Fund reviewed and updated the committee structure and documentation extensively, including draft by-laws and referendum material. While preliminary strategizing and long-term planning occurred, this could be drastically improved in parallel to key decisions that have to be made during the 2016-17 Academic Year.