

University Technology Fee Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda

3/2/26

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Reading and Approval of minutes
- IV. Open issues

Today we heard from Jakye Nunley and the RUMIE proposal and from Levi Glavin from the HUB and from Collen Webb and the overleaf proposal.

For more specific details see presentations.

Major concerns:

The first Proposal was from Jakye Nunley on RUMIE which discussed a secure marketplace app for students to buy and sell goods. There was an issue with audio so recording for this presentation was not recorded. But the slides should make up what was missing. We are also waiting on an itemized budget and what other universities are using RUMIE. The proposal was lacking in information and wasn't the same level of detail or predictions as other presentations. Since, Ole miss was the only reference we were told of and they are not reliable since they have double the population. With no clear time line or an itemized budget, the project seems to be up in the air too much and without more information it will be very difficult to fund the project.

The second proposal was from Levi Glavin on the hub, which is a project that works on integrating administrative and new student information to help improve retention. The first part of the proposal was wait well, which was something that the students had trouble with finding and using it properly. Their previous chat bot that we funded ivy.ai was scrapped in favor for Ram GPT, which is concerning since we had funded it last year. As well they are switching to amazon web services for their call center since they had several problems with their current one like call dropping and redirection issues. The testimonials were not positive from the students and there was agreement that their previous call center was not great. But they predict that with their newer center they will have much less problems and it comes better recommended and cheaper than their current one. Overall, they are a newer operation so problems would be expected, and they are working on fixing their current problems so we shouldn't judge them too harshly.

The final proposal was on overleaf presented by Collen Webb. It's a program that is used for typesetting. The software itself is very useful for students there are not any problems with the program itself. The main problems are from outreach and telling students about the version we paid for. There are a couple of reasons why some students don't know about it but the numbers are growing and the graduate school is smaller, so word of mouth is their best method for getting the word out. But that also creates barriers for undergrad usage.

V. New business

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VI. Announcements

Additionally there are questions that were brought up after the presentation on 2/23 that were answer via email, they are as follows.

- Do you have a timeline for when the project will be completed?
 - The remodel is planned to begin Summer 2026 and be completed before the start of Fall 2026, pending final design and Facilities scheduling.
 - Because the Gifford labs are heavily used during the academic year, summer is the only feasible construction window. If Facilities determines that schedules, code reviews, or competing building work do not allow construction this summer, the project will shift to Summer 2027, with completion before Fall 2027.
- Is there a reason for the need for so many physical computers in the room? is it because of specific software needs?
 - Yes. The number of physical computers directly reflects academic demand for instructional computing across CHHS programs. Many courses depend on software that students often cannot run on personal laptops, including design applications, data and statistical tools, and discipline-specific programs.
 - The remodel increases the number of instructional workstations because:
 - CHHS offers many courses with 40+ students, but currently only one teaching lab can support that class size.
 - The redesign adds a second teaching lab with 48 computers and expands the existing teaching lab to ~35 computers, enabling more courses to run effectively.
 - When teaching labs are not in use, their computers become available as open-lab seats, improving actual seat availability.
 - Usage data shows that open-lab demand averages 22 concurrent users, so the remodel shifts the surplus open-lab computers into instructional spaces while still maintaining appropriate open-lab access.
 - The bottom line is we are right-sizing open computing while expanding instructional capacity to match real academic needs.
- Do you know how many students outside of the college of health and human sciences use/would use this rooms?
 - While current usage data does not distinguish students by college, we know the labs serve a broad population beyond CHHS majors:

- The Gifford labs support not only CHHS majors but also students who take CHHS courses each year. The number of students outside of CHHS taking classes is ~2,400.
- These students come from programs across campus who enroll in high-demand CHHS classes in areas such as design software, nutrition, human development, and education.
- The lab's central location near DM, FSHN, HDFS, Education, and Social Work makes it a common resource for students across multiple majors.
- Any student enrolled in a CHHS class receives 24/7 Ram Card access, which includes students from outside the college.
- While we cannot quantify the exact percentage by college, the space serves hundreds of students annually, including many from outside CHHS.
- If UTFAB were to fund your project, would you be willing to post some small signage in the rooms to indicate that they were partially funded by UTFAB?
 - Yes. CHHS would be happy to acknowledge UTFAB's support of the technology with appropriate signage in the space, provided it aligns with college branding and campus signage standards.
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VII. Adjournment