

February 1, 2011

Hi Everyone,

Just wanted to pass on some information that I believe is important for you to be aware of in advance of a referendum which will take place this spring, and which I hope all of you will participate in.

Some of you may be aware of the Tech Fund and perhaps some of you have never heard of it. Even those who are familiar with this may be unclear on certain aspects of it. Only recently have I begun to understand its intent and the way it works after seeking out information in preparation for this referendum.

The Tech Fund, as it now exists, is something only the MI's and PhD's pay into. At the start of each school year, \$50 is added to the tuition of these students (matched by \$25 from faculty) to go towards purchases which benefit everyone at the iSchool and which these students have a say in. Students in these streams have representation on the Tech Fund Committee and have bylaws developed to instruct decision making related to this. (See <http://misc.ischool.utoronto.ca/node/977> for more information).

To date, the Tech Fund has paid for numerous things at the iSchool which all of us now enjoy. Museum studies students have been fortunate to be able to use these things despite not sharing the responsibility of paying for these things. Some of these items include:

7<sup>th</sup> Floor Student Lounge (and many of the items in it)

6 iPads – 4 on order

4 Galaxy Tabs

6 Voice Recorders

5 Tripods

15 High Definition Cameras

30 Netbook computers

NVivo Software License

XSight License

4 copies of iMovie

2 Kindles

2 iPads

Media Lab (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

Smart Board (5<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Digital Archiving Equipment

Also, **Coming Soon:** Conservation and Preservation one-day intensive seminar for students who did not get into class.

Contributing to the Tech Fund benefits students in many ways and makes the iSchool an enviable space. If MMst's were to contribute to this they would be ensured of being able to continue using the things

outlined on this list, as well they would have a voice in purchases. Purchases for items that might be useful in the Exhibition Project Course, for example video cameras, digital cameras, or related software, are certainly possibilities; as well, specific workshops or intensive training seminars could be something else that funds could be directed towards. Perhaps most importantly, MMst participation in this would mean that the entire iSchool would be contributing to the Tech Fund, and I believe this would go a long way to strengthening connections between the various streams at the iSchool, as well as fostering a sense of community.

With this critical referendum on the Tech Fund coming in the near future I thought it was important to provide some background to this issue so that all of you entered into this better informed. Please do not hesitate to ask me any questions regarding this and I will do my best to answer your questions or find out more information on any specific aspect of this.

Thanks everyone.

All Best,

Jackie

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