Sample IT Grant Proposal

Project title for your grant proposal.

Pepperdine Faculty Collaboration Network

Contact details for the primary faculty investigator.

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Names, titles, schools, and email addresses of each additional faculty participant (if applicable). Please enter each person on a separate line (e.g. Dr. John Doe, Asst. Professor of Economics, Graziadio, johndoe@nowhere.org).

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Abstract or quick summary description of research project: what it is, goals, and methods of investigation. (1000 characters maximum.)

Higher education has come a long way since Sir Isaac Pitman initiated the first correspondence course in the early 1840's. The one-size-fits-all educational approach of the past is being transformed as a result of changing worldwide dynamics. This proposal is designed to address these challenges. The title of the proposed effort is the Pepperdine Faculty Collaboration Network (PFCNET). This system will provide the Pepperdine community, specifically all five schools, with a dynamic vehicle to drive innovation regarding student learning through the sharing and exchanging of ideas and data. The project will be based on enhancing faculty collaboration, stakeholder attitudes, new learning technologies, globalization, changing student demographics and energy and environmental sustainability. A major goal of this project is to better integrate and align Pepperdine's five schools with the University's overall mission. The proposed virtual collaborate approach allows each school to maintain its own culture and identity while at the same time experiencing opportunities developed at the other schools.

Full description of project. Provide details about goals, methods of investigation, and expected outcomes. Explain how your project qualifies as innovative, whether within your department, within your school, or at a national or global level. This portion of the narrative should not exceed four pages. (12,000 characters maximum.)

Higher education has come a long way since Sir Isaac Pitman initiated the first correspondence course in the early 1840's. The one-size-fits-all educational approach of the past is being transformed as a result of changing worldwide dynamics. This proposal is designed to address these challenges. The title of the proposed effort is the Pepperdine Faculty Collaboration Network (PFCNET). This system will provide the Pepperdine community, specifically all five schools, with a dynamic vehicle to drive innovation regarding student learning through the sharing and exchanging of ideas and data. The project will be based on enhancing faculty collaboration, stakeholder attitudes, new learning technologies, globalization, changing student demographics and energy and environmental sustainability. A major goal of this project is to better integrate and align Pepperdine's five schools with the University's overall mission. The proposed virtual collaborate approach allows each school to maintain its own culture and identity while at the same time experiencing opportunities developed at the other schools.

The seismic change occurring in higher education is the result of the global economy, new developments in learning technologies, and changing social perspectives including attitudes towards sustainability. Traditional universities need to transform themselves to better meet these dynamics or lose market share to alternative providers of higher education (e.g., for profit institutions). This reformation in higher education is being facilitated by the same networking and computing systems that have revolutionized global commerce over the past two decades. The proposed project is built around the following four core tasks:

- Extensive literature review on collaborative learning networks (See "Best Practices" for a partial reference list)
- Detailed survey and analysis of Pepperdine stakeholder attitudes towards collaborative learning networks (See "Sample Survey Outline")
- Preparation of PFCNET requirements and specifications (See "System Requirements" section for some illustrative system requirements and specifications).
- Deployment of the beta test prototype faculty lounge at GSBM based on the developed requirements and specifications (using Sakai's forum).

Pepperdine University has spent considerable resources in deploying a world class Learning Management System (LMS). The proposed project provides a vehicle for improving the utilization of the LMS through enhanced faculty and administration collaboration. The project team is well-positioned to carry out this 10-month project due to its long term commitment to web-based learning and in-depth experience with Internet technologies. The proposed budget for the PFCNET project is $9,000. The successful deployment of PFCNET offers the promise for ushering in a new era of learning opportunities at Pepperdine University.

"Thirty years from now the big university campuses will be relics."
—Peter Drucker (1997)

PROJECT IDEA
The goal of the proposed project is to design a Pepperdine Faculty Collaboration Network (PFCNET) in which the Pepperdine community, particularly the faculty, can converge, share, and exchange ideas to drive innovation regarding student learning. PFCNET is a nodal system that brings together the university's five schools, various departments and administration. A primary function of the PFCNET is to provide the Pepperdine community with access to curriculum innovation, databases, cloud computing resources, m-learning technologies, and implementation strategies. Specific goals of the platform include:
- To provide an outlet for interchange among faculty on emerging topics
- To identify faculty expertise in these topics
- To provide university leadership a sounding board for critical issues policies
- To strengthen relationships between individual schools
- To support faculty discussion boards with relevant article links
- To expand Sakai usage

Some of the factors driving the shift in higher education include globalization, student demographics, sustainability and enabling technology. The technical reformation in higher education is being brought about by the same networking and computing systems that revolutionized global commerce over the past two decades. Partnering the Internet with modern Learning Management Systems (LMS) makes it possible for Pepperdine to offer a more diverse set of program on a global basis. Two critical tasks in this partnering process are the development of high quality curricula and content that can be delivered in a reliable manner and that will be accepted by the students. In this regard, hybrid learning, e-learning, distance learning and mobile learning are playing an increasingly significant role in the collaboration learning process. However, the most recent data (Fall 2011) on Sakai usage rates shows considerable differences by the five Pepperdine schools. The lowest usage rate (Law School) was less than five percent compared to nearly ninety percent at GSBM. This is one of the reasons GSBM was selected for deploying the beta test faculty lounge prototype system. The significant differences in Sakai usage between the five schools offer abundant opportunities to improve system utilization through this proposal.

The proposed collaborative network is a learning-centric virtual structure that focuses on enhancing the education process and solving issues within the Pepperdine community. Three key characteristics of an effective collaboration network include:
- Coordination – Ease of use and access
- Communication – Capability to share information
- Cooperation – Supports task groups realization

These characteristics will form the cornerstone of the proposed effort. Figure 1 presents the overall PFCNET design concept.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
The specific project objectives are presented below:
- Identify current best practices in collaborative learning networks
- Assess faculty and administrators attitudes towards PFCNET
- Identify project success metrics
- Characterize implementation challenges and barriers
- Deploy prototype system at GSBM based on requirements and specifications
- Present the results of the project both internal and externally
- Prepare a journal article.

PROJECT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

The project will commence with a detailed literature review (a partial review is presented in Best Practices). The results from the literature review will be used as a basis for conducting a best practices assessment and finalizing the survey design. A survey sampler has been created, see "Sample Survey Outline" below. This survey sampler will be fleshed out and administered throughout the Pepperdine community. The survey data will be analyzed using CART, neural net and traditional regression analysis. The results from the survey and best practices assessment will be used in developing the PFCNET requirements and specifications (See "System Requirements" below for some examples). A prototype faculty collaboration network will be implemented at GSBM for the purposes of concept demonstration, i.e., proof of principle.

SAMPLE PFCNET SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS & SPECIFICATIONS

Presented in the following are some illustrative PFCNET system requirements and specifications. Three overriding general requirements are 1) coordination (ease of use and access), 2) communication (capable of sharing information), and 3) cooperation (support the realization in the groups). More specific requirements include:

- Verification of PFCNET membership
- Electronic meeting tools(i.e. Elluminate, Share Point)
- Compatibility with user devices (PC, iPad, Mobile)
- Leverages social networking sites through APIs
- Leading edge security software.
- "Push technology" to provide timely alerts
- Blogging and threaded discussion tools
- Drill-down capabilities

Presented in the following are some PFCNET characteristics across the stakeholders:

Faculty
- Curriculum design study groups
- Program design study groups
- E2B opportunities

Administration
- Marketing study groups
- Best practices sources

Researchers
- Virtual library of worldwide journal databases
- Research groups by discipline

Educational Agencies/ Accrediting Bodies (EA/AB)
- Best practice groups
- Assessment readiness groups
- Standards and compliance groups

Community
- Training opportunities
- Guest lectures

Students
- International projects
- Internships

SAMPLE SURVEY OUTLINE

Dear Pepperdine educator: (faculty target example)

A common platform for the sharing of information and knowledge amongst Pepperdine University is moving to the next stage. The goal of this initiative is to measure stakeholder attitudes toward expanding their interaction with the proposed Pepperdine Faculty Collaboration Network. (PFCNET).

This survey is intended to determine to what degree the proposed membership feel participation in the PFCNET platform will enhance both their personal growth and that of their institution; stimulate innovation in the management education process; and provide a continuing discussion forum for its constituents. The ultimate membership community would include faculty; students; deans; alumni; associations such as WASC.

Your perception of this concept will be invaluable in assuring that the eventual design will reflect user expectations and ideas:

Please take a few minutes to respond to the following questions and provide your comments:
(1=Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 =Strongly Agree)
1. The PFCNET concept would be invaluable to the Pepperdine community?
2. In general I think my colleagues would agree with me?
3. PECNET will improve Pepperdine's return on investment in IT technologies (e.g., Sakai)?
4. PFCNET would be ideal for inter-school collaboration?
5. I would like a web platform that would allow me to participate in discussion groups in my field of interest?
6. PFCNET should encourage participation in these discussions from all constituents?
7. Student participation should be restricted to their peers?
8. Please use the space below to comment on the PFCNET concept and opportunities:

Relevance to Pepperdine community. Please explain how your project is relevant to other professors of the university, whether within your school or across schools. This portion of the narrative should not exceed one page. (5,000 characters maximum.)

Many universities are continuing to experience student enrollment and employment challenges. These trends can be traced to a variety of phenomena including: rising tuitions, the growth of for-profit and overseas educational institutions, student visa restrictions, Internet based programs, reductions in tuition reimbursement, changing student demographics and the current state of the economy. To meet these ongoing challenges universities are currently reviewing both curriculum and delivery modalities. Enhancing collaboration amongst both faculty and administration offers a vehicle for helping improve program/curriculum design and delivery. The successful deployment of PFCNET will help usher in a new era in education opportunities at Pepperdine through increased faculty collaboration. As an example, the following link highlights the impact of PFCNET on graduate management education. http://gbr.pepperdine.edu/blog/2011/10/19/4242/

Review of best practices. Please include a literature review in your proposal including journal articles, white papers, case studies, or other resources. A description of studies or practices at other higher education institutions is especially relevant. (10,000 characters maximum.)

Sample Project Bibliography

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Sahin, I. & Thompson, A. 2006. Using Rogers' theory to interpret instructional computer use by COE faculty. Journal of Research on Technology in Education, 39(1), 104.

What is the total budget requested (e.g. $4,239.56)? Up to $10,000 maximum.

$9,000

Attach a line item budget for your project. Please remember to adhere to the eligibility and expectation guidelines of the IT Grant program. Please upload either a Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Microsoft Word (.docx) document.

Table 1 presents the proposed project budget breakdown by calendar quarter. The total estimated budget is $9,000.

Table 1 – Proposed Project Budget

Table 1 – Proposed Project Budget Item	Qt 1	Qt 2	Qt 3	QT4	Total
RA's	2,000	2,000	1,000	500	5,500
Travel	-	-	1,000	500	1,500
Conferences	-	-	500	500	1,000
Misc	-	500	500	-	1,000
Total	2,000	2,500	3,000	1,500	9,000