LEHMAN COLLEGE | CUNY

PROVOST AND SENIOR
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND
STUDENT SUCCESS

Shuster Hall, Room 379
250 Bedford Park Blvd West
Bronx, NY 10468

Phone: 718-960-8222
Fax: 718-960-8042
www.lehman.edu

Provost Computer Refresh Initiative

27 August 2019

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce that President Dan Lemons and I have approved funding for an initiative from the Division of Academic Affairs and Student Success that would accelerate the computer refresh cycle for a percentage of faculty and staff in the Division of Academic Affairs and Student Success. This new initiative is designed to support student learning and innovative pedagogy as well as faculty research. It will also ensure that the new computers have a considerable useful life and are easy to manage in light of emerging new technologies.

A total of $150,000 in additional funding will be provided through the President and Provost's accounts with the Research Foundation as well as through salary savings from a recent restructuring in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). The additional funding will augment current college budget allocation from tax levy of $100,000 for faculty and staff computers, and will support the purchase of approximately 130 new Windows and Apple computers/laptops this academic year. This will also cover OS/MS office, management tools, and extended warranty and recovery software costs.

In summer 2019, the Division of Information Technology completed a report commissioned by the Provost, which showed that nearly 50 percent of Academic Affairs faculty and staff computers are between 6-10 years old. As such, faculty and staff in Academic Affairs and Student Success who currently have computers between 6-10 years would be the first to benefit from this initiative.

At the Faculty Personnel and Budget (FP&B) Committee meeting held on August 20, and chaired by the President, I announced that the Division of Information Technology would manage the process for the computer replacement initiative. Below is the outline of the replacement process and timeline, which I shared with FP&B.

Process and Timeline

Summer 2019

- Multiple meetings with Provost Nwosu and Vice President Ron Bergmann, Deputy to the President Gladys Maldoon, ORSP Director Brandon Begarly, and President Lemons to review faculty and staff computer needs
- Provost visit to IT facilities in June with VP Bergmann
- Computer Aging Report submitted by IT to Provost
- Funding for the initiative identified and approved

Fall 2019

- Planning meetings between Provost Nwosu and Vice President Bergmann
- IT to review hardware status and conduct walk-throughs with Deans/Associate Deans; includes review of capital project cycle
- Conduct needs assessment of faculty consistent with computer aging report
- Develop agreed-upon roll-out plan/allocation approach with Deans, Associate Deans and the Provost's Office
- Establish communication plan. Conduct post-survey to assess satisfaction

<u>*Late 2019*</u>
      Place orders for the new computers/laptops
      Actual product mix ordered will vary based on needs assessment

<u>*Winter/Spring 2020*</u>
      Deploy the new computers/laptops to faculty and staff based on identified needs

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Vice President Ron Bergmann.

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Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success

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