11 Student - MacBook Pro Funding to Enhance Design-Film-Industrial Design Capabilities – Additional Questions

Student Tech Center is in the process of getting 10 new MacBooks. Would this STC

purchase meet students’ needs? No. These 10 new STC computers are not at the higher, more powerful specification. Relatively speaking, the new STC computer will be good, middle range, systems, but less effective or efficient for high end graphics design, motion design, augmented reality design, video production, etc. Additionally, they will only be available for 4 hour periods, which is not enough time to complete the vast majority of student media projects. The 4 new M3 Max laptops will be available overnight and/or over the weekend and give students sufficient working time.

Why is this specific model of Apple MacBook required? The brand new M3 Max chip is specifically designed to handle current and future high end media production needs. While it is more expensive, the processing power and generally build quality of this computer should allow it to easily last 6 years or more, even in the harsher environment of student usage.

Where would these be checked out? – These computers would be checked out via Genie Plus in the ATUS Classroom Services Equipment Loan Pool. That said, ATUS is already undertaking an equipment storage upgrade in the Digital Media Center that will allow advanced media production equipment such as these new computers and the recently purchased Cine Gear Packages to be supervised and distributed by DMC staff. This new procedure will facilitate training and utilization on this new, more advanced gear, by providing on-site expertise via DMC staff and a helpful knowledge base to student issues when they occur.

Should checkouts be centralized to avoid duplication? Certainly. ATUS Classroom Services already acts in that regard. That said, the Student Technology Center and/or Western Libraries have provided technology for short-term check out for years. These short-term check out options fill a niche with students needing study time, tutoring, small group project work, etc. within the hours of library operation. ATUS Classroom Services and the Digital Media Center are providing technology beyond the 4 hour STC check out window as well as outside of library operating hours. In fact, the Digital Media Center operates on the evenings and weekends as necessary to help students be successful in their project creation.