

Contact: Andrea Anania

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE – UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Ratify the Executive Director's June 14, 2011, approval for UNI to purchase Ethernet Network equipment for the Department of Residence at an estimated cost of \$1,057,597.

Executive Summary: Equipment purchases at the Regent institutions costing more than \$1 million are required by Board policy to be approved by the Board of Regents. The Executive Director may approve emergency purchases exceeding \$1,000,000 to be followed by Board ratification.

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA
ETHERNET NETWORK EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENCE**

Description of the Equipment

The Department of Residence (DOR) provides wired Ethernet internet services to campus residents. The existing infrastructure is not suitable to support a planned wireless expansion in FY 2012 and needs to be replaced. UNI plans to replace network equipment in nine residence halls.

The replacement network is designed to support DOR needs for at least seven years. In conjunction with this upgrade, new fiber optic cable will connect the residence halls, providing more reliable building interconnects with the capability to satisfy expected growth in bandwidth demand. The replacement network will support both wired and wireless networking, provide connectivity for door lock systems, energy management, video surveillance, and residence hall internet access.

Justification of the Need for the Equipment

The University reports that:

- ◆ The existing residence hall network, built circa 1998-2001, is overdue for replacement. Repairs and upgrades are no longer available and the network does not support current speeds, bandwidth demand, or standards;
- ◆ The new equipment will improve network service to students living on campus, including support for greater bandwidth and video applications; and
- ◆ The replacement network needs to be operational prior to the start of the fall semester to avoid service interruption during the academic year.

Any Known Alternatives to the Equipment Proposed

The items were competitively bid through the Purchasing Services. Proposals were sent to four vendors and posted on the Purchasing Services' web site. Three vendors responded to the proposal and Enterasys was the only compliant response.

Additionally: (1) Enterasys is the original manufacturer of the equipment; (2) UNI owns other Enterasys equipment and staff is trained to manage it; and (3) UNI must have network switches and routers that are fully compatible with the other Enterasys equipment; solutions proposed by the other responsive vendors were not fully compatible.

Estimated Cost and Source of Funding

The cost to purchase the Ethernet Network equipment is approximately \$1,057,597 and the source of funding is an Improvement Fund from the Department of Residence.

Board Policy: Chapter 7.06B(12) of the Regent Policy Manual requires that:

- ◆ Equipment costing more than \$1,000,000 must be submitted to the Board for approval.
- ◆ The Executive Director may approve emergency purchases which exceed \$1,000,000 to be followed by Board ratification. Emergency purchases are defined in 681 IAC 8.9(4); and
- ◆ Requests submitted to the Board Office for approval must include the following information:
 - ◆ Description of the equipment;
 - ◆ Justification of the need for the equipment;
 - ◆ Any known alternatives to the equipment proposed; and
 - ◆ Estimated cost and source of funding.

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