

ATTN : STAFF INVOLVED IN BUDGETING
RE : 10 seat computerlab in CG-05 (increase of 5)

BUDGETS involved:

- 5 *additional* computer rentals – (CSU BUDGET)
- some software items (CSU BUDGET)
- Data Projector (AUDIOVISUAL BUDGET)

CURRENT PRACTICE :

All COFA video and audio electives, software teaching for the Time-Based Arts area core subjects and electives, and first year video components of the BFA (*total = approx. 300 students*) are currently taught in the **5-seat lab** in **CG-05** (next to the Resource Centre).

THE PROBLEM :

The limitation of “seats” and the lack of a data projector in the room means that these 300 students are taught software as follows :

- On-screen instruction with the data projector in neighbouring CG-07 (prohibiting use of the room for screenings and general post-grad use).
- Practical experience with software as follows : spreading the students over all rooms in the TBA area (CG-05, CG-07, CG-09, CG-15 and CG-16) with the lecturer/tutor running up and down the hall giving advice.

“PROS” of CURRENT PRACTICE

Keeps lecturers fit running back and forth between 5 rooms during classes.

“CONS” of CURRENT PRACTICE

- Prohibits all COFA undergraduate and post-graduate use of C-block audiovisual facilities while any software teaching for 300 COFA undergraduate students is taking place.
- Slows down classes for 300 COFA students considerably.
- Raises OHS issues due to the impossibility of proper supervision, for example on proper headphone/software use with people new to sound programs.

HOW IT GETS WORSE

- The switchover to OSX cuts out the free audio software from Sem 1, 2004, so we lose two of the above rooms for audio teaching. The patch-up procedure noted above no longer works at all.
- COFA’s desire to move towards a system where students can more easily study across programs and disciplines WILL lead to an increase of video and audio electives. The current system and facilities for elective study have essentially been built on top of the TBA core without any additional funding and support.

HOW IT GETS BETTER

- COFA supports these increases in the 2004 budget. Ten computers from from the F106 Digital Media lab move to CG-05 (replacing the five end-of-license machines currently there), and are supported with software and a data projector. Software teaching takes place in the one room with approx. 2 students per machine.