Three Suggestions for TLT Collaborative Funding Allocations, Spring 2001

Deployment of a UNC-wide Learning Management System (LMS) and Support Service:

Enter into discussion with the Alliance and with the Divisions of Academic Affairs and Information Resources to fund the deployment of a centrally supported Learning Management System. The deployment would have the following goals:

- Build on current work performed by the SOLID project to evaluate and identify a default learning management system to serve all campuses and programs that wish to participate. Could consider support for two LMS's..
- Provide a pilot site and services for campuses that are considering their own LMS deployment. The license could be negotiated to allow campuses that wish to deploy their own implementation to do so..
- Provide a production service for campuses that wish to make use of a centrally supported LMS, and for UNC e-learning initiatives as these are developed.
- Provide a technical team that will manage the service and will work with each campus to develop business rules, XML standards, interfaces and applications, etc., that will enable effective integration between a common LMS and specific campus systems. This team would ideally be part of a larger group serving the Prospective Student Portal development and the TLT portal, since these efforts will all benefit from leveraging development resources.
- Provide common Help Desk support to minimize campus costs.
- Provide coordinated training services in cooperation with the LMS vendor, campus Teaching and Learning Centers and TLT services.

The TLT Collaborative could fund this effort in the following ways:

- Convert the current portal developer positions from contract to permanent position as a part of a possible three-way agreement (TLT, Alliance, E-Learning) to create a common development group in support of Learning Management System, Prospective Student , and the TLT Portal, as described above.
- Fund purchases of required servers and/or ISP services, and associated hardware/software for development and support.
- Fund a system-wide license in the selected LMS.
- Fund associated support services over a specific period (Help Desk support, training services, etc

Collaborative Training and Professional Development grants

The Division of Academic Affairs last year provided funds in support of UNC campuses efforts in the area of e–learning. A substantial portion of these funds were applied to faculty development and training. Another group in need of training and support are the staff of our campus Teaching and Learning Centers and TLT services. The TLT Collaborative might consider reviewing the results of last year's funding and providing additional funding support this spring to encourage collaboration among our campuses in the area of TLT-related professional development that serves faculty and instructional technology staff. This would be timely in light of the new centers on our campuses. Consideration of this type initiative should be done in close cooperation with the Division of Academic Affairs, and should be coordinated with campus Teaching and Learning Centers and TLT services in order to support rather than compete with these services.

Funds for training and professional development could also be targeted at UNC-wide initiatives (following Joanne Dehoney's TLT Symposium model) to bring in speakers and workshops that support strategic TLT goals in the areas of pedagogy and assessment.

Funds could also provide support for teams of faculty, staff and administrators at targeted conferences and workshops with a charge to report back on to the campuses at large on specific issues or decision-processes.

Funds for collaborative TLT Research, licensing or deployment

There may be opportunities to support other TLT-related technology research, licensing or deployment that would serve the entire UNC community, for example in the areas of wireless or handheld computing.