A Resolution to Support the Funding of the LITE Initiative

Passed by the Faculty Senate on November 3, 2021

WHEREAS the 2020 University Strategic Plan[1] states, "Align IT initiatives with the teaching and research missions of the university" via Program "Improve the efficacy and increase the use of classroom technology resources" (Strategic Priority 7, Goal 2, Objective 1), and

WHEREAS the Faculty of the University of South Carolina in Columbia expressed its overall dissatisfaction with the state of classroom technology via the 2019 Faculty IT Survey[2], and

WHEREAS the Division of Information Technology developed LITE (Learn, Innovate, Teach, Enhance)[3], a five-year program aimed at the advancement of University teaching and learning environments, and

WHEREAS the Division of Information Technology, having received funding, upgraded technology for approximately 100 classrooms during Year 1 of the LITE Initiative (FY20-21)[4], and

WHEREAS, the University of South Carolina is committed to ensuring all students have equal access to academic success and the LITE classroom upgraded technology includes Assistive Listening Systems, and

WHEREAS the Advisory Committee on Finance & Budget (ACFAB) did not approve continued funding for the LITE Initiative for Year 2 (FY21-22), thereby halting progress toward further classroom upgrades;

Now, therefore, be it; RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate of the University of South Carolina in Columbia, on behalf of its faculty that in the interest of advancing University teaching and learning environments

1. affirms the critical role high-quality classroom technology plays in teaching and learning; AND
2. affirms the value of the upgraded classroom technology provided through the LITE in Year 1 (FY20-21) of its five-year program; AND
3. calls upon the Advisory Committee on Finance & Budget (ACFAB) to resume funding for the LITE Initiative in FY22-23 and succeeding years to complete the five-year program to upgrade the technology in the University's classrooms

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[1] For South Carolina: A Path to Excellence. Available: https://www.sc.edu/docs/20-11521_university_of_south_carolina_strategic_plan.pdf

[2] Report on the 2019 Faculty IT Survey. Available: https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?filename=2&article=1154&context=facsenate&type=additional

[3] LITE Initiative. Available: http://go.sc.edu/lite

[4] Upgraded Classrooms. Available: https://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/academic_technologies/lite_classroom_upgrades/upgraded_classrooms.php