**Illinois State**

**University**

Board of

**Trustees**

**Resolution No. 2014.05/11**

**Approval of Campus Wireless   
 Upgrade**

**Resolution**

Whereas, wireless device mobility throughout the Illinois State University campus is an important competitive advantage to attract and retain quality students and faculty, as well as to facilitate university business, and

Whereas, the current density of wireless coverage on campus is not sufficient to support the multiple devices carried by students, faculty and staff, and

Whereas, extensive wireless coverage provides for students to collaborate and learn anytime anywhere and assists faculty in providing innovative ways of teaching, and

Whereas, a University campus wireless upgrade will more adequately provide high density wireless coverage in key underserved locations and better serve academic and administrative activities:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees authorizes total expenditures not to exceed $2.1 million for the necessary hardware, software and related costs to upgrade wireless coverage in underserved locations throughout the campus.

Board Action on: Postpone:

Motion by: Amend:

Second by: Disapprove:

Vote: Yeas: Nays: Approve:

ATTEST: Board Action, May 9, 2014

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Secretary/Chairperson

**Board of Trustees**

**Illinois State University**

**Supplemental Information for Approval of Campus Wireless Upgrade**

In 2010, the Illinois State University Board of Trustees approved a resolution for a campus-wide wireless coverage project. The goal of that project was to extend wireless network coverage across the entire campus. Since then, there has been a demand for additional coverage due to the dramatic increase in the number of devices per person that connect to wireless resources.

The stress of multiple devices on a wireless network is not unique to Illinois State University. The problem is so pervasive on college campuses that a 2013 EDUCAUSE IT Issues Panel listed *“Leveraging the wireless and device explosion on campus”* as the number one IT issue facing universities. A recent EDUCAUSE Center for Applied Research (ECAR) study on the *“Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) Trend”* estimates that sixty percent of students have three or more internet-capable devices that utilize wireless resources. Extensive wireless coverage is now an expectation of students as it better enables academic, business and social activities on campus. It is therefore critical the University provide wireless solutions to maintain its competitiveness.

The University is also making key investments in technologies such as *PeopleSoft Campus Solutions* and *Interaction Hub* that fully support the use of mobile devices like smartphones, tablets, and iPads. These technologies permit students to conduct activities such as class registration, checking grades, and accessing financial information from such devices.

The original wireless infrastructure on campus is no longer able to handle today’s demand for wireless bandwidth. Wireless technology has improved considerably and new vendors have emerged that provide high density equipment capable of supporting multiple devices per person. New tools are available that allow Administrative Technologies to distinguish and prioritize types of traffic on the wireless network.

The upgrade project is estimated to take three years to complete with funding provided from institutional funds - General Revenue budget allocations, which include approximately $900,000 remaining unspent funds from the 2010 project. Among the underserved high traffic areas that will be targeted by this upgrade include Milner Library, Bone Student Center, Student Services Building, Schroeder Hall, Stevenson Hall, Edwards Hall, Felmley Hall, DeGarmo Hall and various open spaces around the quad.

Approval of the Campus Wireless Upgrade project will further enhance the University’s competitive advantage and support *Educating Illinois* - *Goal 4, Strategy 2* to *“Build a modern IT infrastructure that supports the achievement of the University's mission and goals.”* It will also serve as a critical component of the University’s next-generation technology infrastructure.

Source of Funding: Institutional funds – General Revenue