

Utah State UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
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<http://www.usu.edu/history/index.htm>

30 January 2006

Dear Professor Mason,

I am forwarding you a memo signed by the majority of the faculty in the History Department. Those whose names are attached advocate strongly in favor of improving funding for technology in classrooms across campus. This issue has been the subject of several discussions in our department, in particular because our faculty teach numerous survey courses where technology is central in communicating effectively with the large numbers of students who are as a rule enrolled. We hope that our voice is added to those of others who recognize how imperative it is for us to invest critically needed funding in the instructional technologies which keep us on the cutting edge of advancements in pedagogy.

In conjunction with this memo, I also surveyed our faculty about their use of various technologies in the classroom. More than half almost always or often use PowerPoint, and all but a few use some sort of computer-based technology in their teaching. Well over half see their need for such technology increasing, and none see it going down. While I am no statistician and this is only a rough measure of our collective call to maintain and upgrade the equipment in our classrooms, it points to where we see our profession heading, a path we can chart only if we provide the means for our best and most engaged instructors to get there.

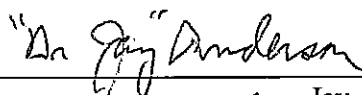
Thank you for your time. If you see fit, please pass this memo on to the Faculty Senate at large, or the appropriate committee thereof, along with our department's keen recommendation that there be increased funding for technology in the classroom.



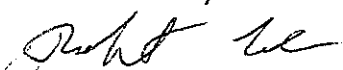
Mark L. Damen, Professor
History and Theatre Arts

TO: The Faculty Senate
FROM: The Department of History
RE: Technology and Media in USU Classrooms
DATE: January 12, 2006

The members of the History Department who have signed below see a need to upgrade the technological capacity of classrooms at USU and urge the installation of computers, projectors and other delivery systems in teaching spaces across campus. We feel that our students are best served when as many classrooms as possible afford at least the minimum technologies (projector, laptop interface, document camera). It is our hope that the Faculty Senate will endorse and relay this message to the upper administration and advocate a significant increase in funding for the purpose of mediating classrooms throughout the University. Such a program of advancement will open the door to improvements in pedagogy, student recruitment and retention, accessibility and other areas vital to the growth and visibility of our institution.



Jay A. Anderson


Alice Chapman

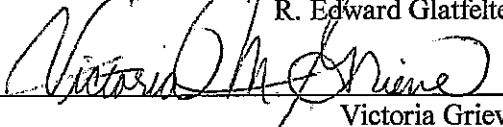

C. Robert Cole

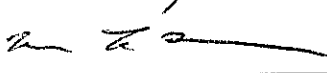

Denise O. Conover

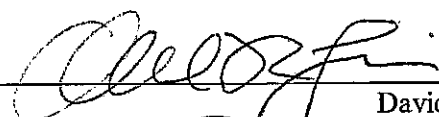

Lawrence Culver

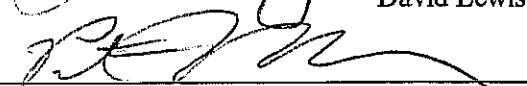

Mark L. Damen

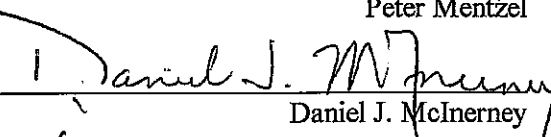

R. Edward Glatfelter

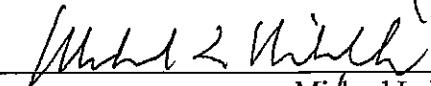

Victoria Grieve

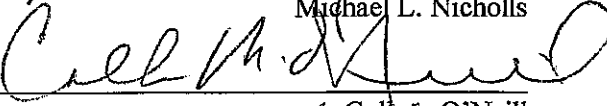

Norman L. Jones

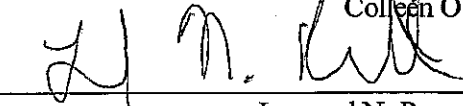

David Lewis

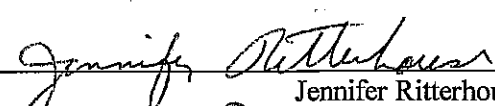

Peter Mentzel

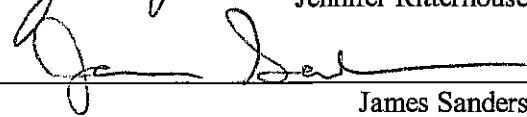

Daniel J. McNerney



Michael L. Nicholls



Colleen O'Neill


Leonard N. Rosenband


Jennifer Ritterhouse


James Sanders


Susan O. Shapiro


Frances B. Titchener