

Macintosh Computer Purchase and Support Policy

Policy Date: July 31, 2006

Policy Version: 1.0.0

This report is being presented for information and response. Formal approval may not be required.

An agreement has been reached for the purchase of Macintosh computers for faculty members who have a strong need for them. This (i.e., “Mac faculty”) represents about one third of the full-time faculty. We have the opportunity to purchase Macintosh computers for “Mac faculty” who have not yet had an NCU supplied computer. This represents a significant portion of the budget for this year. As part of this agreement, the maximum number of faculty members who have NCU Macintoshes will be capped at one third of the faculty.

The agreement has two major components:

- 1.) Macintosh computers purchased will have speed, usability, and pricing comparable to PCs selected for purchase. Macintosh purchases must receive department approval for faculty to receive them. Any additional cost for purchasing Macs over PCs must be approved and paid for by the departments involved. These costs may not always exist and should never be considerable. Those who prefer a desktop Macintosh, or who belong to a department unwilling or unable to bear the “overage” for the Apple laptop compared to a PC laptop, will receive a less expensive desktop Mac with no cost to the department. All computers, software, and related equipment purchased with NCU or departmental funds remain the property of NCU.
- 2.) Our IT department is not equipped to support the Macintosh platform. IT will be responsible to provide support only for networking and software issues that are not Macintosh-specific. For all other issues, the already-existing “Mac culture of self-reliance” will become more formalized.

The Macintosh Users’ Group will provide a structure and a point-person for Macintosh support issues now and in the future. Through a list-serve arrangement, members of the Mac community will provide mutual support, as they are able. They must have 3-year hardware and software telephone support contract through Apple. Mac users will handle support issues in much the same way they would if these were their personal computers. In short, for many issues, Mac users will be “on their own” and will sign a statement agreeing to such before being issued an NCU Mac.

Because this policy has university-wide effect, Cheryl Book suggested we present a report to the Academic Affairs Committee before making a purchase.

Respectfully Submitted,

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