Network Funding Model

In July 2012, the university moved to a new communications network funding model for university departments and auxiliaries. There are no longer any per-port charges for voice, voicemail, data and domestic long-distance services. Instead, departments pay an annual flat infrastructure fee called the Network Base Infrastructure (NBI) charge. There are no recurring monthly charges for existing or new voice/data services.

Each year, the Network Base Infrastructure charge may increase a small percentage depending on the budget analysis which takes into consideration the entire university’s usage of services, maintenance, equipment replacement, network upgrades, internet increases, etc.

A request to change the speed type associated with NBI charges may be submitted when the use and ownership of data and voice connections are transferred to another department. These requests will allow for a department’s NBI to be adjusted, however, these changes cannot have a net impact on the total NBI for the university. Requests to change speed types must be submitted by June 1st each year.

Departments are not able to decrease their NBI through the removal of voice, voice mail or data services. If services are disconnected, credits are not given.

However, NBI can be considered for adjustment if an entity permanently ceases to exist, leaves the university, or substantially changes its level of staffing. Requests for NBI exceptions may be submitted through the Communications Services work order form.

Departmental NBI charges appear on the IT billing reports in University Reports. Unit Business Managers can run the Network Inventory report (at the speed type level) to see a list of all network services associated with a speed type. Reports will show the NBI fee, but charges associated with individual inventory items will be zero.

The new network funding model was developed by Information Technology in cooperation with the Office of Planning and Budget and has the support of the university’s administration. It has been endorsed and approved by the Provost, the university’s Strategic Technology Executive Committee (STEC), and university Vice-Presidents and Deans.