

#22

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Please review the following:

Q1

Contact Person:

Name	Miriam Simpson
Email Address	miriam.simpson@gcccd.edu

Q2

Department:

Astronomy

Q3

Title of Request:

Astronomy Budget Increase to Address Enrollment Growth, Equipment Deficiencies, and Light Pollution Challenges

Q4

Location of Request:

F building

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Type of Request (Select one):

Q6

Description of Request: Please provide a description of the supplies, equipment, furniture or other request. When making your request, please be as specific as possible and include information such as make, model, manufacturer, color, quantity, etc.

The Astronomy department seeks a budget increase to address significant challenges impacting our educational offerings:
Enrollment Growth: Student enrollment has surged from 74 students (7.74 FTES) in 2018 to 275 students (27.50 FTES) in 2023. Despite this 272% increase, our annual budget remains stagnant at \$2,000, insufficient to support the expanded student body.
Equipment Deficiencies: A lack of functioning telescopes hampers our ability to provide essential hands-on learning experiences. The absence of a dedicated lab technician has led to equipment neglect, resulting in disrepair and safety concerns.
Light Pollution Challenges: Illumination from the adjacent track facility causes significant light pollution, severely limiting our capacity to conduct in-person observational labs. Light pollution not only diminishes the quality of astronomical observations but also negatively impacts student interest and engagement in astronomy
Earth

To effectively address these issues, we propose increasing the annual Astronomy budget to \$4,600, an additional \$2,600 per year.
Current Budget: \$2,000/year
Proposed Budget: \$4,600/year

Q7

Estimated Cost:

\$2600/year

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

Please attach quote, if available

Q9

Respondent skipped this question

Total Cost of Ownership: Your requested item may incur ongoing expenses. What are the ongoing expenses associated with your request? If there are ongoing expenses, please detail how you plan to support these costs with your existing budget by completing the text boxes below.

Q10

Justification of Request: The justification of the request is a key area to focus on. The ROC encourages you to strengthen your request by providing a robust rationale detailing all relevant criteria. When writing the rationale, keep in mind that those reviewing the justification may not be familiar with your department and needs. Providing detailed information and context can help clarify the need for your request. Please select the applicable criteria(s) and provide the details of how the criteria(s) relate to your request.

Health and safety,

Critical need,

Program expansion,

Impact on student success and access,

Innovation,

Equity and Antiracism,

Provided details::

Health and Safety: Equipment Maintenance: Neglected telescopes pose safety hazards due to potential mechanical failures during student use. Regular maintenance is essential to ensure safe operation. Critical Need: Enrollment Surge: A 272% increase in enrollment without a corresponding budget adjustment strains resources, compromising educational quality. Program Expansion and Innovation: Alternative Observational Methods: Investing in remote telescope access and virtual simulations offers innovative solutions to counteract light pollution challenges, providing students with quality observational experiences. Impact on Student Success and Access: Enhanced Learning Opportunities: Addressing equipment deficiencies and light pollution ensures all students have access to essential hands-on learning experiences, crucial for comprehension and retention in astronomy. Equity and Antiracism: Inclusive Education: Providing alternative observational tools ensures equitable access for all students, regardless of external challenges like light pollution, aligning with our commitment to inclusive education.

Q11

Program Goal: Please identify the program goal(s), as stated in your current annual or comprehensive program review, that this request would help your program achieve. Provide a brief explanation of how it would do so.

Program Goals Supported

Lab Redevelopment:

Online and In-Person Labs: Enhancing online labs with at-home equipment and reintroducing in-person labs with properly maintained telescopes to provide comprehensive learning experiences.

Addressing Insufficient Lab Support:

Dedicated Staffing: Securing funds to support dedicated lab technicians to maintain equipment and ensure the safety and quality of lab experiences.

Challenges and Context

Light Pollution Impact: Illumination from the adjacent track facility significantly hampers our ability to conduct effective in-person observational labs. Light pollution not only affects observational quality but also diminishes student interest in astronomy

Equipment Neglect: The absence of a dedicated lab technician has led to equipment falling into disrepair, resulting in safety concerns and reduced hands-on learning opportunities.

Enrollment vs. Budget Disparity: Despite a substantial increase in student enrollment, the budget has not been adjusted accordingly, leading to resource shortages and compromised educational quality.
