Peter Hirtle
Director for Instruction & Research
IRIS Administration

Cornell University
Room # 309 Uris Library
Ithaca, NY 14853

Telephone: 607 255-4033
Fax: 607 255-2493
E-mail: pbh6@cornell.edu

University Library

MEMORANDUM

To: Polley McClure

From: Peter B. Hirtle

Subject: Authorization of FABIT funds for Uris Library Phase 2

Date: 7 July 2003

In 2000, FABIT awarded to the Cornell University Library $250,000 for the first phase of a project to improve the computing resources in Uris Library. The goals of the first phase were to provide wireless computing, work group computing, and "Creation Stations" in the Library, and "Internet Express" stations in the gallery.

Because the Library was able to secure outside funding in addition to the FABIT funds, all of these goals were met at substantially less cost than originally budgeted. For example, $142,000 was budgeted for power and data improvements in Uris Library, but only $54,000 had to be charged to the FABIT account, leaving a balance of almost $88,000. Some of the computers purchased for the project cost less than anticipated; NetPrint printers were secured with non-FABIT funds, as were wireless cards; and the purchase of scanners was postponed. The result is that $106,742.17 of the FABIT funds authorized for Uris Library improvements remains unspent.

Cornell University Library seeks your authorization to expend these funds on the beginnings of the second phase of the proposal sent to FABIT. Specifically, we propose to work with Professor David Schwartz, who has a Faculty Innovation in Teaching grant, and with CIT to develop a new teaching and learning space focused on the collaborative use of high-end computing. The new lab would be located in the space now occupied by the current Uris Library Media Center. A brief proposal outlining our ideas is attached, along with a list of the equipment and tasks associated with the project. Our initial assessment is that we should be able to build and outfit the lab with the funds remaining from the FABIT grant when they are combined with the funds remaining in Professor Schwartz's FIT grant.

Eric Fredericksen, after conferring with Jim Lombardi, concluded that since this request is a continuation of the proposal already approved by FABIT, it was not necessary to resubmit it to the group. They directed us, however, to seek your authorization to begin the second phase of the project. If you concur, we will begin the implementation of the project outlined in the

attached document in the hope that the new experimental collaborative computer learning space would be ready at the start of the year.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. The discussions to date on this project between the Library, Professor Schwartz, and CIT have been highly successful, but we are all anxious to move to the implementation phase as soon as possible.

Enc: "A Proposal to Establish a Unique Teaching and Collaborative-Computing Space in Uris
          Library"

cc: Sarah Thomas; Anne Kenney; Eric Fredericksen; Jim Lombardi; David Schwartz