



Memorandum

**To: Deans, Directors and Department Chairs
University Business Managers**
From: John P. Streck, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Telecommunications
Date: June 1, 2006
Re: Communications Fee

The Interdepartmental Fee Committee approved the creation of a new communications fee to be implemented on July 1, 2006. This rate has been set at \$48.00 per month for fiscal year 2006-2007 and will be charged for each University Centrex telephone number.

The communications fee includes the following base level services:

- University Centrex telephone service to locations within the area served by the local exchange carrier (for example, BellSouth), or University supported VoIP production service utilizing Centrex DID numbers.
- A personal voice mail box associated with a University Centrex telephone number.
- Unlimited domestic, 1+ long distance calling from University Centrex numbers. This service will include a monthly listing of long distance numbers dialed, and the duration of the connection. (Note: Since the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Business Manual states in Telecommunications Services and Facilities (TEL) Policy 2 that, "Only calls related to University business may be charged to University lines or calling cards" and the long distance (LD) charges will be billed to the university, the LD usage is for university only approved usage.)
- Access to the University data network (Internet Protocol services) from University property served by the campus network infrastructure.

Charges will be posted in FRS to object code 3XXX - Communications Fee. This object code will be added to the list of objects not allowed to automatically post to contracts and grants accounts. It is important to note that with this new billing model, traditional services will be bundled together under one charge. Therefore the cost for any one of the bundled services is no longer separately identifiable.

Beginning July 1, 2006, manual adjustments to reclassify the communications fee directly to contracts and grants accounts will not be allowed except to support:

- A dedicated phone survey line; or
- phone service for projects in off campus satellite offices

For existing awards, the communications fee is not an allowable charge to long distance budget line items. In certain cases existing budgets may need to be revised. As for future awards, this fee is not an allowable charge unless the exceptional circumstances listed above apply. Exceptions will be approved on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions about how this new service model affects your contracts and grants accounts, call your contract specialist(s) in the Office of Sponsored Research. Please do not contact the Telecommunications Department.

The establishment of the communications fee provides the following benefits to campus departments:

- Establishes a base level of service available to all customers.
- Provides the ability to add new functions to the base service offering over time under a unified communication transport (one port to the customer for all communication services).
- Inclusion of unlimited domestic direct dialed long distance into the base communication rate helps to minimize internal account adjustments that are used to charge grants. In addition to increasing internal operating efficiencies with the elimination of detailed call records, this change will result in significant savings to departments in man-hours dedicated to this effort.
- The approved rate is less than the current combined communication rate for UNC-Chapel Hill departments based upon a random sampling. The rate is also significantly less than the market rates for combined communications services.

In addition to the communications fee, the committee approved the conversion to sell telecommunications equipment to customers in lieu of charging a monthly recurring rental. For fiscal year 2006-2007 customers will no longer be assessed a telecommunications equipment rental fee or maintenance fee.