Innovations in Teaching Using Technology Grant 2015 Proposal

Title of proposal: Updating the Stagecraft Videos using a GoPro Camera

Course and curriculum affected: Stagecraft Fundamentals (THD 07230)

Name of applicant: Tom Fusco, Technical Director and Associate Professor
Department of Theater and Dance

Objectives of the proposal: **Innovation:** Using a GoPro camera mounted to my head I want to update my existing video tutorials.

In 2004 I was awarded an Innovation in Teaching Grant "Adding Streaming Videos to the Stagecraft Website". While these online tutorials for using power tools are still pedagogically relevant, they do not reflect the various new tools and added procedures that have occurred over the last 12 years. The time has come for a much needed update.

One cool gadget that has attracted my attention is the GoPro series of cameras and equipment. These are easy to use and make it possible to shoot videos from the point of view of the user. This would be a powerful teaching tool, the ability to see exactly what the user is doing, from their point of view. Using this in combination with traditional camera angles would give me the ability to create high quality and effective videos, creating dynamic and engaging online teaching materials.

The following link is to my existing site, these are what I would be replacing.

http://www.rowanstagecraft.com/tutorials

I would also be adding units on:

Health and Safety
Rigging
Ladder and Genie Lift Procedures
Lighting Instrument Procedures
Construction of a Tool Box, Flat and Platform

Scalability: The relatively low cost of the camera and equipment (less than $200 for a camera and a head mount) and east of use make tis accessible to anyone who has the desire to shoot video. The editing and streaming of the videos are also not that complicated, especially with the multitude of online tutorials and resources in conjunction with support from our University Academic Technology staff.

Adaptability: As with most things dealing with technology, adaptation of new pedagogical delivery systems is dependent on the interest of individual faculty. I do hope that by creating these modules it can seen as an example of the quality work that can be

accomplished with a small investiture of time and effort.

Description of the specific innovation:

To date I have not found any other online materials that are as specific to Stagecraft and Theater Technology as the ones I have created. When I started teaching 16 years ago I made it my goal to encompass the learning process as an active partnership between the students and myself. Part of that process is to make the student responsible for their own education by making them actively seek out information, assimilate it, then communicate it. My end of the bargain is to provide them with accurate, informative, and pertinent teaching modules. It also helps if they are fun. I have found that videos are the best way for a student to learn basic vocabulary, tool parts and procedures.

In the current time students are inherent users of video, nearly everyone is equipped with the means to view create and share videos. While the subject matter may be rather scattered, the overall production quality is becoming outstanding. I do not know if using a GoPro is innovative in and of itself, what I do find new is its use in higher education and specific to Stagecraft. This is my attempt to approach my students on their level of play, to use a medium that they are already very used to.

Required Instructional Technology Support:

Research into the appropriate GoPro system that would be compatible to existing equipment and resources. Some help with capturing and editing the footage. Currently I use YouTube to host my videos. I could stick with that or migrate to the university servers.

Plans for evaluating and sustaining the innovation.

Once created the videos are self-sustaining.

As far as evaluating I plan on proposing this as a poster session to the United States Institute of Theater Technology for next year's national conference. This would be a peer reviewed process with exposure to educational and industry leaders across the nation.
I also regularly survey the students on how they feel the teaching materials are in terms of quality and use.

Budget.

The GoPro I have been looking at is the HERO at $129.99.
The hat mount is $19.99.
If possible I would also get a Handler for $29.99
Total Cost: around $180.00