

**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

Report No. 2026.05/14
Authorization to Purchase IT
Hardware

Resolution

Whereas, Illinois State University relies on a stable and cost-effective supply of end-user computer hardware to support academic instruction, research, administrative operations, and institutional continuity, and

Whereas, the global end user computer markets have experienced ongoing volatility, including price fluctuations, constrained availability, extended manufacturer lead times, and frequent product refresh cycles, which complicate traditional unit-by-unit procurement practices, and

Whereas, authorizing anticipated purchases in advance of specific departmental need allows the University to respond more effectively to demand and deployment without compromising operational timelines, and

Whereas, the University has a third-party contract relationship with various vendors to purchase technology devices for campus departments and student use, and

Whereas, the University believes it economically and operationally benefits campus-wide departments and TechZone (via student and third-party retail sales) to centralize procurement of such devices,

Therefore, be it resolved that the University Board of Trustees authorizes the Office of Technology Solutions to collective purchase campus-wide end user computers on behalf of campus-wide university departments for an annual amount not to exceed \$2.1 million for each of the next three fiscal years (FY2027-FY2029).

Board Action on:	_____	Postpone:	_____
Motion by:	_____	Amend:	_____
Second by:	_____	Disapprove:	_____
Vote:	Yeas: _____ Nays: _____	Approve:	_____

ATTEST: Board Action, May 8, 2026

Secretary / Chairperson

**Board of Trustees
Illinois State University
Authorization to Purchase IT Hardware**

Executive Summary

Illinois State University’s ability to effectively support instructional, research, and administrative operations depends on reliable access to personal computing hardware and server infrastructure. In recent years, the PC hardware markets have experienced sustained volatility driven by artificial intelligence demand, global supply chain disruptions, semiconductor constraints, manufacturer product lifecycle compression, and fluctuating pricing. These conditions have made traditional just-in-time or unit-by-unit purchasing less predictable and, more costly.

Background

Historically, university departmental orders in excess of \$10,000 have been processed by direct requisition submission to the Purchasing Office. This process added complexity and time to the purchasing process, impeding the University’s ability to rapidly respond to a changing market. In 2023, the Board of Trustees authorized the University to centralize end user computing purchases for internal departmental computer purchase needs as well as commercial product resale to students, faculty, staff, and the public at large through TechZone for the period of FY2023-2026 (not to exceed \$1.8 annually.) This action, shortening the time from quote to purchase, supported more predictable budgeting, inventory planning, and flexibility in responding to emergency academic, research, and administrative demands. Research initiatives, in particular, are extremely sensitive to fluctuating prices as a byproduct of the funding mechanism and have recently been affected by the fluctuating market. TechZone serves as a campus computer store as well as provides warranty and general service of computers and other technology devices. Historical records indicated that approximately 85% of purchases are for campus-wide departmental use and 15% represents inventory for retail sales. The primary vendors that the University utilize offer specific academic discounts via the Illinois Public Higher Ed Cooperative (IPHEC).

This initiative is focused on addressing market volatility/operational efficiency concerns and is not intended to alter the University’s broader technology standards, vendor evaluation processes, or long-term strategic direction. The University will continue to evaluate market conditions, usage patterns, and financial impact to ensure this procurement approach remains appropriate, cost-effective, and aligned with institutional priorities. All purchases will remain subject to existing university procurement policies, State of Illinois statutes, competitive selection requirements, and budgetary approvals.

Justification

This resolution seeks to renew the 2023 resolution authorizing the Office of Technology Solutions to acquire these products through TechZone on behalf of university-wide campus departments as well as for certain resale inventory for an annual amount not to exceed \$2.1 million for each of the next three fiscal years (FY2027 through FY2029). This resolution does not represent a request for new funds but instead represents a more cost-effective solution to purchasing annual computer-related equipment.

Source of funding

ISU Campus-Wide Departmental Purchases	\$1,800,000	General Revenue, Auxiliary Facility Services, and Local Agency Funds
ISU TechZone Retail Sales	\$300,000	Local Agency Funds
	<u>\$2,100,000</u>	Total Annual Funds (not to exceed)