

BUSINESS CASE	
Proposed Project	ToolShare
Date Produced	October 05 2025
Background	The university has lots of expensive equipment—like 3D printers, cameras, and lab gear—but it's locked away in different departments. Most of this equipment sits unused most of the time, while students in other departments can't get access to what they need for their projects. This is a waste of money and hurts student innovation.
Business Need/ Opportunity	<p>We have two big problems to solve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop Wasting Money: The university isn't getting its money's worth from the tools it already owns. 2. Help Students Succeed: Students can't do their best work if they can't get the tools they need. <p>ToolShare is the fix. It's a single website that turns all our separate tools into a shared resource for everyone. This will save money, help students, and make the university run more efficiently.</p>
Options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do Nothing: Keep things as they are. Departments manage their own equipment with emails and spreadsheets. 2. Build ToolShare: We create a custom website where anyone at the university can see what's available and book it easily.
Cost-Benefit Analysis	
<p>Option 1: Do Nothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs: We keep wasting money on unused equipment. Students and staff remain frustrated. We have no data to make smarter buying decisions. • Benefits: No upfront cost or effort required. <p>Option 2: Develop ToolShare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development: A 2-person capstone team will build it over 6 months. ○ Hosting: Low monthly fee for online services (~\$20-50). ○ Future Support: A simple plan for who will manage it after the project is done. • Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saves Money: We use equipment more, so we need to buy less. ○ Helps Students: Easier access to tools means better projects. ○ Smarter Decisions: We get data on what equipment is being used. ○ Builds Reputation: Shows the university is innovative and cares about sustainability. 	

Recommendation

Option 2: Build ToolShare

The best choice is clearly to build ToolShare. Here's why: it's designed specifically for our university's needs, it costs very little to develop, and it avoids expensive monthly fees. The other options don't stack up—doing nothing means continuing to waste money and frustrate people, while buying a generic system is too expensive. This is a safe bet with a huge potential payoff.