

Funding for computer facility puzzles UIS

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There apparently are some mystery expenses among the \$31 billion in capital projects approved this week by Gov. Pat Quinn.

The University of Illinois at Springfield, for instance, is supposed to receive \$209,126 to “plan and begin construction of a supercomputing applications facility.”

Which is news to UIS.

“We don’t know where that’s coming from,” said UIS spokeswoman Michelle Green. Green spent Tuesday asking around at the university and came up with nothing. “It doesn’t look like there’s anything like that.”

Sen. Larry Bomke, R-Springfield, also was unaware of the line item.

“I don’t know what that is,” Bomke said Tuesday. “It’s not an appropriation I requested.”

Green said she suspects the expense is a mistake, possibly something intended for the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, which hosts the world-famous National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

However, Green pointed out, that campus already is to receive \$60 million from the capital projects fund for a “petascale computing facility.”

The University of Illinois at Chicago also is making off well. Among its appropriations is \$57 million for a chemical sciences building.

UIS will receive other funds from the capital plan, mainly for building upgrades, Green said.

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