

AIS Citizen

V2 June, 2003

Brief updates for and by members of the AIS implementation project

From the Director

Each day in June the project continues to evolve from a planning effort to an execution effort. I see this change from one end of the project to the other.

Functional teams are completing their individual project plans; these plans integrate the implementation work for specific business processes with required interfaces, reports, data conversions, and approved modifications.

The Technical Team, as Lance notes in his report, is aiming toward a July 3 deadline to complete installation of the production environment; the goal of this early installation is to provide a period of intense testing, tuning, and other preparation for the first scheduled go-live in the fall.

We have a few remaining staff to hire onto the project. David Rosen is leading a search committee for two PA II positions who will support the developers in specific areas.

These two positions are implementation-specific and go away with the end of the implementation and initial stabilization process.

Next month I will initiate a recruitment for our Help Desk specialist. Until that person comes aboard, Eric Roberts is duly gathering tasks and requirements for the position.

A project of this breadth and complexity is a challenge, even in the most stable of budgetary and organizational climates. As UC Santa Cruz creates a new vision for itself in response to our long range plan and the current state budget crisis, keeping our “eyes on the prize” is even more challenging. Let me know if I can help.

Keep up the great work - this project is an exemplary enterprise project, both internally and in the higher ed community. Your good work has created that reputation.
-Mark Cianca

Training & Communication

Test Drives continue. 112 campus community members have attended the AIS Test Drives in the first 4 days the sessions were offered. Participants are getting a look and feel for a sample PeopleSoft application. They are exploring signing in, the menu structure, navigation, and components as well as experiencing their first exposure to “PeopleSpeak”.

These sessions are also providing an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the project, the software, its capabilities, and the timeline. At the same time, we are inviting their input into the project. All questions and concerns are being recorded. Questions will be compiled and posted on the AIS web site in the FAQs area.

Please encourage your colleagues and associates to attend. Sessions are still open for June and July. Consult the AIS web site at ais.ucsc.edu for more information.

Timeline posted. The project timeline with projected Go-Live dates has been posted to the AIS web site.

Next Town Hall Meeting planned. The next campus-wide Town Hall meeting will be held on June 19 at 10:00 AM in the Media Theater on campus. The featured topic will be Degree Audit and Advising Support: Approach and Deliverables presented by Tchad Sanger, AIS Advising and Degree Audit Team Lead.

This topic will be of interest to all of those on campus who work with students. Come and find out what Degree Audit is, what the new AIS will offer in this area, and what does it mean to you.

Project Director Mark Cianca will offer updates on the Enterprise Portal, AIS reporting, and the project timeline. There will be a question and answer period at the end. We look forward to seeing you then.

-Bonita Sebastian

AIS ACADEMIC
INFORMATION
SYSTEMS

Data Services

The Data Services Team has been busy reviewing Business Intelligence (BI) Tool Suites for the best functionality to information access to PeopleSoft Student Administration and Reporting Data Service.

Strategic objectives for the BI Tool Suite are:

- Apply the AIS 70/20/10 model of self service to the access to information

This means that approximately 70% of the users will be able to access data from Student Administration by running prompted reports, ad-hoc queries and multi-dimensional analysis. These users will be able to easily switch between numerical and graphical representation of their information.

20% of the users will be the same skilled report analysts who currently support the various business units. They will be trained in the Business Intelligence Tool Suite and will be able to create prompted reports for the 70% to run. They will also have the ability to create in-depth analyses and reports as required by their units.

10% of the users will be highly trained to create very sophisticated reports and analyses. They will be developing campus-wide and executive reports.

- Provide a timely operational information environment that is primarily web-based

The PeopleSoft Reporting Data Service will be refreshed nightly so that the operational needs of the business units, divisions, departments and colleges will be supplied with current data.

Having web based access will provide data for many users via the familiar footprint of a web browser. The goal is to find a suite that does not require client software or downloaded add-ons to reside on the user's MAC or PC.

- Provide a wide choice in information delivery methods. We are looking for a suite that will allow us to output information as PDF, XML, HTML, CSV, E-Mail, Excel, Word, SQL or paper.

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- Expand the concept of report beyond data on paper

Provide the ability to quickly do multi-dimensional analysis, slice and dice, spot trends

The Data Services Team issued a RFI (Request for Information) to 5 major vendors. These vendors (Actuate, Brio, Business Objects, Cognos, Crystal Decisions) were then each invited to spend a day on campus presenting their products.

After seeing all the demonstrations, the Data Services Team finalized requirements for the tool suite and wrote a detailed RFP (Request for Proposal) which was sent to the same vendors on May 30. Vendor responses are due on June 13.

The team will evaluate the responses and present a recommendation to the AIS Executive Committee.
—Peggy Kelly

Technical

The Configuration database environment was prepared and re-released to the functional teams on May 19. The teams will use this instance to begin configuring the tables for the UCSC data.

We are currently building out the AIS systems in their permanent home in the Communications Building. CATS has dedicated four server racks for the equipment that will support both the PeopleSoft Student Administration and Enterprise Portal applications.

We are finalizing installation of the Development environments for Student Administration. We will be ready for controlled development of modifications on June 9th. We will begin implementation as soon as functional and technical specifications are completed for modification requests!

A last project milestone of note is July 3, which is our target date to complete installation of Student Administration on our Production class hardware. A period of performance, stress and load testing will follow throughout the summer in preparation for our November go-live.

—Lance Peterson