Information System Functionalities: Accommodated and Unaccommodated.

The need to improve the current student information system is evident. In devising its planning strategies, however, it is critical that the campus not lose sight of the many things SIS+ does well. SIS+ has strong core functionalities in the areas of admissions, financial aid, student business services, and student records, and these currently accommodated functionalities must not be compromised.

Nevertheless, as UCR looks to the future, it is clear that the time has come for the campus to upgrade SIS+. The following are key observations relating to currently unaccommodated SIS functionalities:

1. The current proprietary infrastructure supporting student web access (known as PAWS / Edify) will only scale at tremendous cost to the university. Although much has been done to improve performance during the past 18 months, the Edify infrastructure should be replaced as quickly as possible as part of an initiative to provide UCR students with a portal (that not only provides access to SIS, but to Blackboard, Web Mail, and other campus on-line services).

2. The campus does not enjoy “easy to use, point and click” access to student information system data needed for planning, analysis, and student advising efforts. The campus should act as quickly as possible to develop a robust student system data warehouse.

3. UCR cannot quickly and easily add new functionality to its existing student system (indeed, the campus can’t keep pace with existing requests for changes and additional capabilities). The campus should consider adding staff to support its existing system or acquiring a new, modern platform so that important new functionality can be provided to the campus.

A complete list of new / upgraded system requirements can be found in Appendix K of this document. Some of the most important currently unaccommodated functionalities are as follows:

A. An automated financial aid award re-packaging system and expanded student budget capability (e.g., to accommodate approximately 40 EAP budgets and summer session budgets).

B. A complete, thorough, reliable, and automated “monitoring and tracking” capability for students’ admissions activities.

C. An automated and flexible “comprehensive review” admissions process (enabling “selective” admissions processing).
D. A simple and efficient report-writing tool that enables end users to easily access SIS data and create customized reports and lists for internal use as well as for correspondence with current and prospective students.

E. A web based, easy to use student advising module that also allows for student “self sign-up and preparation” for advising sessions.