Computing and Communications (C&C) / Vice Chancellor Student Affairs (VCSA)

Student Information System (SIS) Planning Group

Initial Meeting

July 17, 2002

Minutes

Time: 10:30

Location: C&C Conference Room 119

Presiding:
Elizabeth Bennett, Registrar, VCSA
Chuck Rowley, Associate Vice Chancellor, C&C

Attendees: Betsy Bainbridge, Dennis Bauers, Elizabeth Bennett, George Groty, Sheryl Hayes, Jackie Kottler, Josee Larochelle, Mary Livaudais, LaRae Lundgren, Carol Mahlum, Beth Rogers, Chuck Rowley, Sharon Salinger, Linda Scott

Absent: None.

Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Background –

Chuck Rowley, Associate Vice Chancellor of Computing & Communications, welcomed everyone to the first of several SIS Planning Group meetings. He also asked everyone to introduce himself or herself, and he gave a brief background on the Student Information System. The committee has been formed in response to Vice Chancellor Jim Sandoval’s request for a high level SIS planning document. This document will ultimately be shared with Executive Vice Chancellor David H. Warren. The Committee is co-chaired by Rowley and Elizabeth Bennett, Registrar.

Rowley noted that the current SIS will not scale to meet campus needs during the next 10 years. While UCR’s SIS has some powerful capabilities and the PAWs system provides web access to important functionality, the system has significant “holes” that do not meet campus needs (student advising, wait list) and the system does lend itself to quick modifications or data extraction.

2. Discussion of the Planning Committee’s Charge –
A discussion occurred regarding the need to have an extensive process to evaluate alternatives (UCR’s initial evaluation is expected to take six months). Many other campuses have already led the way (including UCSC that that has selected PeopleSoft). Response by Bennett, Rowley, and others, is that UCR’s SIS environment is different than other UCs (in many ways FAR more advanced than UCSC’s for example) and that UCR’s decision criteria will differ from other campuses. In addition, since our priorities / expectations are different, anticipated costs might also differ.

The committee was given information on the new system purchased by UC Santa Cruz and UCLA’s approach of modifying the legacy SIS system running on the mainframe.

A discussion also took place concerning funding. Currently there is no FORMAL commitment by the campus to fund a new or upgraded SIS. However, Executive Vice Chancellor David Warren, Vice Chancellor Jim Sandoval, and Vice Chancellor Gretchen Bolar have requested the planning effort, and they are all aware of the current SIS shortcomings.

**Actions:**

The committee agreed to move the discussion of “Make versus Buy” until AFTER two campuses are visited (which will be discussed at the next meeting). The committee will be looking at “like” schools, not necessarily other UC campuses, comparing size and complexity. A concern was pointed out that due to the start of school in late September, a campus visit in October might not be possible. The committee also made the decision not to have a Student Affairs Officer present, since the Registrar’s office is aware of their needs.

A web site will be available to the committee with minutes from the meetings and to allow recommendations from committee members.

The committee was asked to submit a one and a half page document to Elizabeth Bennett and Chuck Rowley by August 21, 2002 detailing the SIS functionalities that are required as well as desired in the new / upgraded system. A consolidated version of these documents will be distributed to the committee at the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting ended with each member committing to the success of the project, with the understanding that the goal is to provide the best possible Student Information System for the campus. The next meeting will likely take place the early part of September. Scheduled topics will be a review of the high-level needs analysis and determining what campuses / vendors to visit. Cindy Cardenas will be contacting everyone regarding the next meeting.

Ending time: 11:30