

March 28, 2011

JEFF BARRETTPPM 200-45 Review Coordinator
Informational and Educational Technology**Re: PPM 200-45 Review: UC Davis Active Directory/Unified Communications Whitepaper**

The Davis Division of the Academic Senate forwarded your request for review to all of the standing committees of the Division as well as Faculty Executive Committees within each college/professional school. The Committee on Planning and Budget responded.

While the Davis Division agrees in principle that standardizing administrative operations and efficiency is a good idea, individual faculty and departments have special needs that must be met and in some cases are comprised by centralization and standardization. In addition, it is crucial that any new system work with multiple computer platforms including Mac, PC, and Linux. Finally, and most important, the creation of any system should never have a negative effect on the campus's educational missions, including teaching and research.

We understand that the whitepaper was intended to provoke thought and broad discussion. Unfortunately, the author did not write the paper in a manner that was easily understood broadly. The Davis Division calls upon campus leadership to continue engaging the community at an early, even conceptual, stage to ensure all impacted have an opportunity to increase understanding of new initiatives as they are fleshed out. However, care needs to be exercised to demonstrate respect for the time devoted by faculty, staff and students involved with all such reviews. Davis Division leadership is always weighing its commitment to timely and thorough reviews against opportunity costs: faculty time and potential impacts of other projects. It must be recognized that time put to one task takes away from effort that might be more fruitfully spent elsewhere. Given the need for increased innovation and transformation on campus now, it is easy to overwhelm the community with a number of conceptual proposals that may or may not lead to a productive outcome.

It is imperative that all proposals forwarded for review include some estimate of the fiscal impact. The proposal in question could potentially lead to a significant campus investment for years to come if the concept were fully embraced and developed. Yet the proposal merely referred the reader to outside sources and failed to clearly articulate campus specific financial implications.

Given the above, the Davis Division is not able to support the concepts outlined in the whitepaper at this time.

Sincerely,

Robert Powell, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Chair & Professor: Chemical Engineering & Materials Science
Professor: Food Science & Technologyc: Vice Chancellor Meyer
Vice Provost Siegel