Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

I&R Faculty Tracking System (FacTrac)-PPM 200-45

February 23, 2011

Request for Davis Division review of a conceptual framework for a system designed to track I&R Faculty FTE. The review is required through campus Policy and Procedure Manual 200-45 which sets forth a process for broad consultation whenever a major campus system is proposed.

Administrative Partners (DANN TRASK)

February 18, 2011 3:54 PM

Dear Professor Powell,

The L&S Executive Committee has discussed the proposed new I&R Faculty Tracking System and would like to raise several questions and concerns:

· Although the Office of Budget and Institutional Analysis (BIA) clearly believes that a new tracking system would be more useful, why does this need to be done now? What is the nature and extent of the problem that would impel devoting resources to address this issue at this profoundly precarious time?

· Beyond BIA, there initially seems to be little advantage to the Dean's Offices and other users, especially considering the investment necessary to develop the system and the time required for staff training. Current databases tracking faculty FTE and research appear sufficient at present, at least for L&S use.

· The proposal would have been much more convincing had it been able to present evidence of the new system's utility to a broader base of campus units. The Executive Committee supports BIA's important role and contributions, but was left uncertain about the value and efficacy of this initiative beyond that organization.

· Department and College staff are already severely constrained, so it is essential to determine if the new system would be at least workload neutral for end-user offices. Will implementation require more work, less work, or different work? What is the value-added impact of the system for those users not in BIA? The proposal lacked sufficient details to make a reasonable assessment on these questions.

· The proposal implies that 1.5 FTE programmers would be assigned internally. Given past experience with the level of technical personnel deployed for the development (and maintenance) of other UCD internally-produced software, does this allocation of resources seem realistic and sufficient?

· In light of the scope of the system and the range of accessibility, privacy concerns should be more fully addressed.

Sincerely,

Patricia C. Boeshaar, Chair
Executive Committee
College of Letters and Science

Council of School & College Faculty Chairs (BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES)

February 24, 2011 9:56 AM

 We wonder if now is the best time to implement a major new administrative system. Ongoing systemwide activities will result in considerable reorganization of administrative functions, which may render portions of the proposed system inefficient or obsolete.

Council of School & College Faculty Chairs (MANAGEMENT)

February 17, 2011 8:51 AM

It is not clear how big the cost savings from this effort will be. The cost appears to be 1.5 programmer FTE for some unspecified period of time (page 8). With no discussion of the dollar cost and dollar savings, it is impossible to tell whether this is a prudent use of resources.

Elections, Rules & Jurisdiction

March 2, 2011 10:15 AM

No response at this time.

Information Technology

February 16, 2011 9:03 AM

The Information Technology Committee has reviewed I&R Faculty Tracking System (FacTrac)-PPM 200-45 and has the following response:

Standardization of software systems would be one area which could lead to administrative efficiencies, but it seems unclear whether any campus should be independently evaluating any new software without first assessing whether other campuses are already using different (and possibly better) software. The report doesn't establish which relational database software is being proposed for this project, nor whether the database software and related web applications would be easily upgradeable. 1.5 programmer FTEs have been assigned for this project, but presumably there would also be some requirement for annual maintenance/bug fixes etc. Could this, and should this, be costed? It might also be useful to know whether there are any foreseeable problems in switching to a model which would seemingly rely on a constant web connection in order to create and access reports (as opposed to local file storage of Excel spreadsheets). In the current financial situation, we really need to know what this will cost, how much it will save, and/or whether there are problems that truly need to be solved and will be solved by this initiative.

Planning & Budget

March 8, 2011 1:48 PM

CPB has reviewed the PPM 200-45 Request for the I&R Faculty Tracking System. CPB agrees in principle that standardizing administrative operations and efficiency is a good idea. However, 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 this system should never have a negative effect on the campus's educational missions, including teaching and research.