

Adopted: June 1, 2004

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-613-04/MF

**RESOLUTION ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE
MODULE OF PEOPLESOFT**

- 1 WHEREAS, The CSU is going through the worst budget crisis in its history; and
2
3 WHEREAS, Implementation of the student module of PeopleSoft is an expensive component of the
4 new CMS project; and
5
6 WHEREAS, Vice Chancellor Richard West in his letter dated February 6, 2004 has given CSU
7 campuses the option of postponing the implementation of new CMS projects; and
8
9 WHEREAS, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, is the only CSU campus not postponing the implementation of
10 a new CMS project; and
11
12 WHEREAS, Cal Poly has not done a thorough and transparent cost analysis of other available products
13 to upgrade its student administrative software; and
14
15 WHEREAS, Borrowing millions of dollars to implement PeopleSoft is a major impediment in our
16 future recovery from the present budget crisis; therefore, be it
17
18 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly encourage President Baker to accept Vice
19 Chancellor Richard West's statement of February 6, 2004: "Given the current systemwide
20 budget constraints, new CMS campus implementation starts for HR, Finance and Student
21 Administration planned for FY04-05 will be deferred for one year, " and be it further
22
23 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate of Cal Poly encourage President Baker to halt any plans to
24 borrow money to implement PeopleSoft.

Proposed by: Manzar Foroohar, statewide Academic Senator
Date: May 4, 2004
Revised: June 1, 2004

State of California
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ACADEMIC SENATE

CAL POLY

SAN LUIS OBISPO
CA 93407

To: David Hannings
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: June 30, 2004

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: Robert Detweiler
Lawrence Kelley
Jerry Hanley
Kimi Ikeda
George Yelland
George Lewis

Subject: Response to Academic Senate Resolution 613-04/MF
Implementation of Student Administrative Module of PeopleSoft

The student administration system provides the technology to allow students to apply, enroll, receive financial aid, pay bills and monitor their progress as we serve them throughout their academic experiences at Cal Poly. The system also records and maintains the students' records while providing information to students, faculty, and advisors as students progress to their degrees.

The student administration system probably is the most visible and mission-centric technology system in the operation of a university. Cal Poly's polytechnic mission carries with it an expectation that we will have current and reliable technology that is responsive to those we serve. We are reminded regularly about the importance of quality service by students, faculty and staff.

Because of the importance of the student administration system, as well as our commitment to provide quality systems and service, we cannot allow Cal Poly—its students, faculty and staff—to be put at risk as a result of aging systems or failing support for the system.

We have reported the reasons for proceeding with implementation of the PeopleSoft Student Administrative system, as well as the funding plan, to the campus community regularly over the last several months but would like to reiterate them here:

- The CSU system selected the PeopleSoft suite of software products in 1998. After discussions in the summer of 1999, the CSU Presidents and Chancellor agreed that each of the 23 campuses would implement all three of the PeopleSoft systems (Finance, Human Resources and Student Administration) as a part of the Common Management System (CMS) by 2008 (the original deadline of 2007 was moved to 2008). Cal Poly was an integral part of the selection process and concurred with the choice and the decision to move forward as a system. Other products considered during the selection process were systems from SCT (now SCT/SunGard) and Oracle.

- Cal Poly took a lead role in the CSU in implementing the Finance and Human Resources systems. We have been using those systems since 2001 and both systems are working well. The cost to implement those systems was funded out of the general operating budget on a pay-as-you-go basis in a better budget climate.
- Implementing the Student Administration system completes the campus installation of an integrated campus administration package. Cal Poly believes in the importance of an integrated administrative system that provides human resources, financial and student administrative support on a common platform. There is value and efficiency in having easy, seamless integration and compatibility among the Finance, Human Resources and Student Administration systems. The cost to implement the Student Administration system, just as was the cost to implement the Finance and Human Resources systems, is part of operating a full service university.
- Cal Poly did not implement the PeopleSoft Student Administration system previously because we did not think the system was ready. The PeopleSoft student administration system was relatively new and had not been modified to meet the specific needs of the CSU. PeopleSoft has upgraded the system, the CSU has made valuable modifications to the system to facilitate its functionality and the Student Administration system has been successfully implemented on seven CSU campuses, as well as other universities across the nation. It has been tested, is working well and is ready for implementation at Cal Poly.
- The current Student Administration system in use at Cal Poly was designed by Westinghouse Corporation in the 1970s. It has served us well, but the mainframe architecture and CICS/VSAM technology on which it is based is old and not easily adaptable to the 24/7, Web-based access/functionality expected by users today. While the company that currently owns the software (SCT/SunGard) continues to maintain it, we remain concerned about the company's long-term ability and commitment to maintain and upgrade this aging system in a timely manner and to offer the functionality available from competing systems. Due to its underlying, outdated architecture, we also don't feel it is cost effective or prudent to build too much new functionality on such an old technology base.
- Cal Poly's current Student Administration system runs on a mainframe computer for which support for both the hardware and the operating system will end by February 2007. To continue to use them beyond the next couple of years will require additional expenditures that will have no continuing value. By beginning the necessary migration now, the new system can be fully operational for the 2006-07 academic year.
- In order to provide quality, reliable service to the students, faculty and staff at Cal Poly, a Web-based system using current user-friendly technology that is actively supported by the CSU and the vendor is needed. The additional alignment and integration of the Cal Poly system to the CSU on a common platform and with common applications and similar Web-based interfaces for users is now both achievable and beneficial to students, faculty and staff.

- One example of how the PeopleSoft Student Administration system can further serve us is when we act to integrate that functionality with existing and emerging learning management systems—an objective being pursued by both Cal Poly and the entire CSU.
- Cal Poly is working with the Chancellor's Office to finalize details of a funding plan which allows the implementation to begin now, preventing risks from obsolescent hardware and limitations from legacy applications while minimizing the impact on the current operating budget.
- Acting now allows money to be used productively. If the implementation were deferred, the need would be even greater, and the cost would increase as we would be spending money to patch together aging software and hardware while still needing to replace it.

For the reasons identified above, Cal Poly has chosen to move ahead with the implementation of the PeopleSoft Student Administration system. The campus needs a new software system to process and record student admission, progress to degree, records, financial aid and accounts—a new Student Administration system. The CSU has chosen—and is requiring—the PeopleSoft system as a part of the Common Management System for all 23 campuses.

In this context, I can offer in response to the Academic Senate Resolution 613-04/MF resolve clauses the following comments:

- *Resolved that we accept Vice Chancellor Richard West's statement that, "... new CMS campus implementation starts for HR, Finance and Student Administration planned for FY 04-05 will be deferred for one year."*

Response: To defer or disrupt implementation of the student administration system would increase the risk of failure for the Cal Poly community, as well as increase the cost of the student administration system. We need to proceed now, and Executive Vice Chancellor West is in agreement with this approach.

- *Resolved that we halt all plans to borrow money to implement PeopleSoft.*

Response: It is necessary to implement the student administration system now. If we draw on the current budget to fund that implementation, we will have less money to fund faculty and staff positions and operations in general. Borrowing allows the cost of the system to be spread over a longer period of time, thereby reducing the burden on the current budget. While we accept the challenge proposed by the Senate and will act to minimize borrowing, we must avoid taking steps that could jeopardize our current budget plan and result in reduced service to our students.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that I appreciate the careful attention that the faculty, through the Academic Senate, has given to this matter. This is an important decision and I am grateful for your considered advice and counsel.