Online Course and Curriculum Management

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• Please silence your cell phone/pager

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• If you must leave the session early, please do so as discreetly as possible

• Please avoid side conversation during the session

Thank you for your cooperation!
Introduction

Several institutions will present their experiences with vendor and homegrown solutions for managing courses and curriculum online. Panelists will discuss campus needs, governance, best practices and system implementations, along with, future developments and trends in technology to support catalog publication, class schedules and integration with degree audit and registration applications.
University of Wisconsin - Madison

- Founded in 1848
- Total Research Expenditures #4
- Total Students: 43,193
- Total Schools and Colleges: 13
- Number of Degrees Awarded Annually: 10,054
University of Wisconsin - Madison

- Oracle/PeopleSoft – Campus Solutions
- Homegrown course proposal process
  - Not integrated with Campus Solutions
- Manual paper-based process for programs, majors, etc
- “Homegrown” web CMS for current online catalog
- Provost charged committee to investigate the need for a “single source” for curricular and academic policies
Deciding, Communicating, and Implementing Academic, curricular, and policy matters: Current State

Examples:
- Course created
- Major added

School, College, and/or Department Governance

Gaps in Communication and Implementation

Inefficiency, errors, stymied

Students, Advisors, Staff, Parents...
University of Wisconsin - Madison

- Recommendations:
  - Pursue a vendor solution for a consolidated, digital repository for curricular, program, and academic requirements
  - Create a service unit to provide coordination and support and to administer the single source repository
Institutional Catalog and Repository Ecosystem

Vendor Integration Approach

Vendor Solution: Academic Policy Repository Application

Vendor Solution: Course Catalog Repository Application

Web Services Infrastructure

Browsable Online Course Catalog

Marketing and Communications Tools

Advising Tools

Academic Policy Browser

Source data from various authoritative campus systems

Vendor-based solutions providing functionality around course catalog and academic policy, including administrative management tools and workflow and a mechanism to publish information for consumption across campus and beyond.

Potential examples of consuming services and applications the institution which might rely on this up-to-date, reliable information.
Brown University

• Private, research institution in Providence, RI known for “Open Curriculum” (no distribution requirements & no GPA)

• Approximately 8,800 degree candidates across the College, Graduate School and Alpert Medical School

• Course and Curricular approvals centralized by one of the three degree granting schools

• Using Banner as SIS

• Surveyed faculty, deans, and department staff and process was overwhelmingly the most painful…Buy In was “easy”!
Brown University

- Went paperless with curricular approvals (courses & offerings) during 2010-2011 academic year.

- Brown is using a hybrid model. Curricular solution and workflow largely developed internally as bolt-on to Banner self-service as no vendor solution existed. Instant load into Banner tables once approved.

- Provided efficiencies, transparency, and tracking. Faculty/departments know exactly where proposals stand in workflow throughout and some approvals are done in hours rather than weeks.

- Leverage Courseleaf’s CAT product for presentation of curricular information and as mechanism for general program requirement changes. Banner drives everything else from course and offering standpoint.
Brown University

- Never 100% right off the blocks. Added enhancements/features and bug fixes first two years in production.
- Extended to allow classroom feature request to approved offerings as well as departmental space pre-assigns.
- Was able to do creative internal staff re-organization to free up resources and direct in other areas and engage in other technology solutions both realized and in future.
- Decision point - Stay in house with current solution or transition to vendor solution once mature.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Private, research institution located in Cambridge, MA
- Mid sized: 4,500 undergraduate, 6,800 graduate students
- 3,400 degrees awarded
- 1,021 faculty members, 11,840 employees
- 5 Schools, 30+ academic departments
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Legacy SIS. Banner purchased in early ’90’s and has been customized since.

- In house online course proposal system was deployed in 2001-2002 and remains in use today. Feeds into SIS.

- “Online Subject Listing” which includes course descriptions and term schedules developed in the 1990’s and is used today.

- Programs (majors, minors, graduate, etc.) are proposed via paper process.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- MIT Bulletin (course catalog) is compiled via a paper submission process. We are converting to an online submission process this year using a vendor product.

- We offer print and digital versions of the catalog (does not include subject listings).

- Internal subject structure analysis project completed this year in preparation for new scheduling software and digitized curriculum management system.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Course Proposals (Current = Digital)

Program Proposals (Current = Paper)

Curriculum Proposal and Approval Process (Future = Vendor)

Scheduling System (Vendor)

Online Subject Listing (Homegrown)

MIT Bulletin (Transitioning to Vendor)

System of Record

MITSIS
Yale University

- Private, research institution in New Haven, CT
- 11,880 students; 4140 faculty; 9300 staff
- Yale College, Graduate School & 12 professional schools
- Decentralized course & curriculum management
- Vast differences in review practices for each school
Yale University

- Offering catalog
- Printed bulletin for Yale College
- Very manual and cumbersome processes
- Course number re-use and cross-listing practices
- Curriculum process manual and paper-based
Yale University

• Retired homegrown systems in favor of vendor solution for course management in spring 2013

• Implemented CourseLeaf for Yale College

• Catalog publication (CAT), course management (CIM) and class scheduling (CLSS) done in CourseLeaf

• Plan to implement curriculum module of CourseLeaf for YC and full suite for GSAS and prof schools
Why use an online system?

• Centralized information
• Business process efficiencies
• Workflow tracking
• Revision history
• Reporting
• Integration with other programs
Thoughts and Recommendations

• Know what you do and what you want to do when engaging a vendor
  
• Document business processes and workflow
  
• Who can see what, when? Who should approve what, when?
  
• Know where data of record will be housed
Thoughts and Recommendations

• Be aware of where you deviate from a “standard path” and prioritize which deviations must be preserved in an updated process

• End users are now generally technically proficient

• Consistency of branding across vendor products – how do end users experience notifications that emanate from various systems?
Thoughts and Recommendations

- Clean data cannot be over-emphasized!
- Have the right people involved from the beginning, communicate often and well
- Take advantage of the opportunity to bring about related business and process changes
- Consider whether making changes before or after transition to new system brings most benefit
Summary

Take aways

• Involve the right people
• Policy and practice review
• Well documented needs and requirements
• Homegrown vs. vendor solution
Questions?
Thank You!

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