FINANCE SYSTEM UPGRADE

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The Office of Financial Services will be undertaking an upgrade of the Oracle Financials e-Business Suite from version 11.5.10 to 12.1.3 (R12).
Oracle Financials e-Business Suite which is also referred to as elVIS (electronic Varsity Information System) consists of the modules of Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Procurement/Purchasing, Assets, Cash Management and Ledgers.

UPGRADE PARTNER
SDS Group, a Perth based company, were successful in their tender to be our Oracle R12 Upgrade Partner. SDS Group is also contracted as the Support Partner for Oracle products with NT Power and Water.
http://www.sdsgroup.com.au

STEERING COMMITTEE
This project will be overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of
Mark Hewitson - Chief Financial Officer
Ross Springolo - Director - Strategic Services & Governance
Richard Smith - Deputy Director - ITMS & Manager – ISSM
Julie Donohue - Manager Budget and Business Systems, Office of Financial Services
Claudia Hawker - Project Manager, Office of Financial Services
The Steering Committee will meet on a regular basis throughout the project to ensure compliance with University guidelines: the Project timelines: budget and expenditure: and to lend support to the project team as required.

PROJECT TEAM
The Business Systems team of Office of Financial Services will be the principle project team –
Julie Donohue - Manager Budget and Business Systems
Gerard Reid - Business Analyst
Daisy Cabahug - System Analyst
Mark Maderal - Finance System Support
Anna Ikonomou - Training and Liaison
Claudia Hawker who has a high level of finance system/processes experience at CDU and has previously been involved in upgrade of Oracle Financials has been contracted as the Project Manager.
Other project team members will come from Ledgers, Payables, Procurement, Assets and Receivables and Management Accountants.

PLANNING
The go-live date for the new system will be determined during the development phase. It is anticipated that the cutover to the new version will take 6 days. The team is planning cutover to be mid June 2014.

PROGRESS
The new servers for the system are currently being setup by ITMS. Once this is completed the first test environment will be created. This will be used by finance staff to complete rigorous testing on the upgraded software to ensure “business as usual” for the eventual cutover to the upgraded product and to develop testing and training scenarios for all staff using the Oracle e-Business suite.
Finance System Upgrade

TESTING
During the User Acceptance Testing phase (March to May 2014) we will be seeking support from Oracle users to take part in the testing scenarios. This support will entail logging into a test environment and carrying out usual day to day tasks such as requisitioning, receipting, purchasing and running reports.

TRAINING
A training schedule will be developed and all users will have the opportunity to see the new system and receive full training/familiarisation on the new system before the cutover to the new system. Ongoing support will be provided as it is now, through the Finance Helpdesk.

FURTHER UPDATES
Business Systems will keep you updated on the progress of the project. This newsletter along with future updates can be accessed at our webpage.
http://www.cdu.edu.au/fas/financial-services#p7AP3c6_1

PROJECT LAUNCH
The Project was officially launched on Thursday 24th October 2013. Staff invited to attend this launch were from Finance, members of the Steering Committee, Faculty Executive Officers and representatives of Senior Management.

During the presentation the University Partner for the Project, SDS Group from Perth was introduced. Other information that was presented during the launch included: The Business Case for Upgrading our Financial System; Team members; Timeline; Workshops; Training; and Communication Strategies.