Upgrade Degree Audit Reporting System

Proposed Initiative for 2013-14

Initiative Proposal Process and Timeline:

• 11/01/12 – Individuals/groups submit proposals via email (using this form) to their Unit Head for consideration. “Unit Heads” include:
  - College Deans: Brad Caskey, Dale Gallenberg, Glenn Potts, and Larry Solberg
  - Chancellor, Dean Van Galen
  - Provost, Fernando Delgado
  - Associate Vice Chancellor-Student Affairs, Gregg Heinselman
  - Assistant Chancellor-Business and Finance, Elizabeth Frueh
  - Executive Director-Administrative Services, Michael Stifter
  - Executive Director of University Advancement, Chris Mueller
  - Faculty Senate Chair, Wes Chapin

• 11/16/12 – Unit heads submit approved unit proposals via website to Strategic Plan Progress Committee (SPPC)

• 11/30/12 – SPPC requests any clarifying information needed from Unit Head/Proposer

• 01/07/13 – Unit Head/Proposer provides clarifying information to SPPC

• 01/17/13 – SPPC completes ranking and review of initiatives

• 01/22/13 – Rankings and feedback forwarded to Faculty Senate, Cabinet, and Proposers

• Spring semester 2013 – Initiatives finalized, built into 2013-14 budget and communicated to campus.

1. Proposed initiative
   Upgrading our Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS)

2. Person, administrative department, or college proposing the initiative:
   Registrar’s Office

3. Which strategic goal does this initiative support?
   Distinctive Academic Excellence

4. Describe how the initiative supports the goal(s). (limited to 1000 characters or less)
   With upgrading our Degree Audit Reporting system it will enhance the student to adviser relationship by having the report more interactive for the students. We would also have the ability to utilize the Degree Audit reports which would give us the ability to build schedules based on student needs. This would help us to more effectively plan a schedule of classes by using the data we have in the Degree Audit tables, we will be able to look at what classes students need in order to complete degree requirements.

5. Based on the definition of university-wide Initiative [initiative that spans across colleges, units, and departments], indicate how the proposed initiative has a university-wide impact: (limited to 1000 characters or less)
   All University students would benefit from upgrading our Degree Audit Reporting System by having an Interactive Audit for them to better understand their degree requirements. Faculty would benefit from this as a more user-friendly audit along with the ability to roll our DARsWeb for department chairs to enter program exceptions instead of the Registrar’s Office. Along with this we would build our Transfer Articulation in DARS and automate the transfer credit process which would allow for consistency in transfer credits. Within the upgrade, we would be able to provide more data from the DARS tables which could help in building a schedule based on course demand, which would help with students meeting graduation requirements in a timely manner. We would accomplish this by analyzing the
course data in the Degree Audit Report tables to see what courses students need and by offering them when students need to take them.

6. **Please provide a set of benchmarks and / or indicators of success to support your initiative. (limited to 1000 characters or less)**

   We’ve talked with the Registrar’s Office at UW – Madison as they upgraded last fall and have nothing but good things to say about the upgrade. We will see an improvement in the degree audit appearance and functionality. We could use the students and advisers as indicators to the success of the upgrade. The students and advisers have indicated the current degree audit is not very user friendly, the new audit would provide many benefits (eg…graphs and pie charts and would allow the students to better interact with the audit). We believe there would be great satisfaction by both students and advisers.

7. **Indicate, to the best of your consideration, which of the foundational elements mentioned below will the initiative engage. You will have opportunity to elaborate on each element on the next page. (Please indicate YES or NO each of the foundational elements.)**

   Sustainability-YES
   Inclusiveness-YES
   Human Capital-YES
   Technology -YES
   Facilities - NO
   Finance  -YES
   Other

   **SUSTAINABILITY:** Indicate how SUSTAINABILITY would be affected by the initiative. If SUSTAINABILITY is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. With upgrading our Degree Audit Reporting System we would have the ability to utilize reports to track and predict students’ needs and we could build a class schedule based on needs, which would help all academic programs. We would accomplish this by analyzing the course data in the Degree Audit Report tables to see what courses students need and by offering them when students need to take them.

8. **INCLUSIVENESS:** Indicate how INCLUSIVENESS would be affected by the initiative. If INCLUSIVENESS is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. All students and advisers would benefit from an improved audit and the advising experience. It has many benefits (eg…graphs and pie charts and would allow the students to better interact with the audit).

9. **HUMAN CAPITAL:** Indicate how HUMAN CAPITAL would be affected by the initiative. If HUMAN CAPITAL is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. There would be some Human Capital within the Registrar’s Office and Division of Technology Services. This is the direction the Registrar’s Office would like to go. We are
always looking for ways to better serve our students and faculty and we feel the additional human capital would be necessary to get to the next level of the Degree Audit.

10. TECHNOLOGY: Indicate how TECHNOLOGY would be affected by the initiative. If TECHNOLOGY is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. We have used the Degree Audit Reporting System at UWRF since 1991. The software product has been very stable and useful at our institution. We have not invested in this product for the past seven years. We feel now is the time to upgrade this product and need assistance from our Division of Technology Services to assist us. We feel this product has a lot of potential and we would like to utilize this on our campus.

11. FACILITIES: Indicate how FACILITIES would be affected by the initiative. If FACILITIES is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. There would be need to additional facilities. This upgrade would happen with the Registrar’s Office with support from the Division of Technology Services.

12. FINANCE: Indicate how FINANCE would be affected by the initiative. If FINANCE is not affected by the initiative, please describe why not. There would be an additional cost for the Registrar’s Office to upgrade the degree audit system. Like noted before, we have not put any additional resources in this product for over seven years. We feel this is the time to have the students more engaged in their degree audit and also to have more functionality to help support academic programs. We have been with this product for over twenty years and would like to continue.