

LASER Project Steering Committee
Thursday, July 29, 2004, 1:30pm
Hemisphere Room, Hale Library

**DRAFT PREPARED BY: Viki Horan, LASER Support*

**REVISIONS BY: Jennifer Gehrt and Beth Unger*

Attending

Al Cochran, Diana Blake, Jennifer Gehrt, Dave Hillier, Jim Koelliker, Gary Leitnaker, Larry Moeder, Monty Nielsen, Keith Ratzloff, Ron Semarge, Bruce Shubert, Betty Stevens, John Streeter, Harvard Townsend, and Beth Unger.

Absent

Chris Altoff, Rebecca Gould, James Guikema, Matt Thornton, John Struve, Wayne Usry, Lloyd Walker.

Approval of minutes

The June meeting minutes were approved without changes.

OSEE Conference – Buffalo State

Eleven OSS team members, including Jennifer Gehrt, attended the OSEE Conference at Buffalo State. The conference provided a good opportunity for networking and the establishment of good contacts. Participants learned that two of the universities had come to the conclusion within the last few weeks that Oracle's Financial Aid software module was not going to be ready when they were ready to go live, and they are looking into purchasing another software system. None of the institutions has implemented all of the student system modules and have no intention in the near future of shutting down their Legacy systems. One institution thought it would take years to convert their data because it is a very slow process. It was good to hear that others have similar concerns and to learn of possible solutions.

Beth Unger/Jennifer Gehrt visit to Oracle Headquarters

Discussions with John Wookey and Shirley Kang encompassed the current architecture and future directions for architectures at Oracle. Thus far, the architecture for OSS is not an object-oriented system. Oracle is moving in that direction with other products by using a relational database to support this model by adding a layer to carry the semantics of the data and carry the triggers in order to simulate an object-oriented database and by moving to a modularly-based architecture. K-State believes that an object-oriented system is necessary for long-term success. Oracle has agreed to let Beth see the design documents for the layer in the Health systems that have this hybrid object-oriented model. DIA will evaluate the documents and may be able to use them as a layer in the transaction hub, which performs some of these functions.

Initial indications are that the OSS relational database cannot integrate directly with other current K-State systems, demanding that they be another silo of data. This is certainly not what we would wish, but would desire to have the Oracle databases follow the logical model at K-State that is developed from the Enterprise model. Another possible solution to our challenge to be able to easily customize the OSS would come from the ability to directly access the Oracle

databases without going through the applications. It is company policy not to give customers the access rights to do this.

Oracle has committed to having all Financial Aid gaps fixed by the IGS.M release in December 2005 or January 2006. That is during K-State's implementation time, so Oracle will provide earlier releases and any relevant documentation to K-State. K-State needs to advise Oracle of the deadlines for gap fixes. Oracle said they have work in process to have upgrades go in on the fly, requiring no more than one-hour down time.

K-State has 21 gaps in OSS; a few have been resolved, and few are waiting on testing. Oracle will provide LASER with beta or early releases to get the process going. Specific individuals have been assigned to each gap.

Oracle is working with Skidmore to test DARS. After initial testing they realized that some data elements were missing, so they added 25 new fields to the DARS interface. Lansing is at a testing phase of Schedule 25/Resource 25. Jennifer is working with Mike Lynch on a gap concerning mid-term grades to see if the university's requirements can be changed or if the gap can be dropped all together. Oracle now seems to have a greater understanding of a comprehensive research university, and is committed to this project.

Newsletter--Electronic in August

Aimee is finalizing the electronic newsletter, and it will be widely distributed in August.

CRP Rooms and Fairchild Training Rooms Update

The VPAST Office will buy 18 PCs, and ISO is buying furniture for the training and CRP rooms in the Foundation Center. There are 12 stations in the ISO training room, and 8 stations in the CRP room. The training center in Fairchild 9 is targeted to go live the first week in December with 30 stations. Trainers are finding that it is extremely difficult to train 30 at a time. A great deal of interaction is needed during training. It can take up to 1½ hours for four or five people to get through one module. A presenter plus several people walking around to assist are needed. Departments may need to prioritize who gets the training, timing the training late enough so staff won't forget what they learned.

Funding for Fairchild 9 is coming out of the LASER training budget.

Ernie Perez will load J-initiator software on laptops to permit spillover into other rooms. A technical student will be in the training facility to ensure that IT problems are fixed quickly.

The portal needs to be brought in relatively quickly to enhance usability.

Project Scope Changes--CRM--Advanced Recruitment

The Project Team has felt for some time that CRM must be implemented to enable recruitment like K-State is used to doing. Executive sponsorship agrees that CRM should be implemented now instead of at the end of the project.

A consultant is in this week to help the team with learning the system and setup.

The consultant doesn't think implementation should take any longer than three to four months, and is planned for late spring or early summer.

A demo is scheduled on August 4 for the Admissions management team.

ISO is looking at adding an additional person half time to the technical team.

OFA Update

The Oracle Financials Implementation Status Report and Objectives were distributed. The team is analyzing the functionality in OFA and comparing it to K-State's needs. The initial expectation to meet or exceed current functionality was refocused. Phase I will determine what functionality is critical just to do business (not at the current level) and phase II will bring functionality up to initial expectations. Oracle lacks certain functionality, e.g. fund accounting, project accounting structure, etc.

It is important to note that the Division of Facilities will not be included in the OFA central system until Phase II. A consequence of this decision is that CNS and ISO personnel will have to operate two separate OFA production systems, one for central accounting and one for Facilities, until such time that Facilities can be incorporated into the central OFA system.

OSS Update

The team is testing and going to training.

Architecture Infrastructure Update

An environment like the production environment is being established. There have been some problems on the Sun side of the clustering software. The team is approximately two months behind on that. The team could go ahead and start testing Discoverer if they had a single processor environment. They need to find out what kind of a box is required for that and determine its cost. If it mirrors Raptor for HRIS, it can be used later as a new box for HRIS. HR and the VPAST Office may split the costs. Gary and Harvard will work together on this.

The specifications for the PCs required to run Oracle across campus are being developed. Harvard and John Streeter will approve them.

The August LASER Steering Committee meeting has been cancelled. We will meet again in October. Please send suggestions for agenda items to acabrera@ksu.edu.