



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

THE SCOOP

Office of the Chancellor ITS Department News

June 2009

Accounting Web Application - It's Here!

On June 8th the new Accounting web application rolled out to all campuses!

The application had been in pilot at several institutions since April 16th and performed very well.

This new application contains new and improved features in many areas, such as:

- Chart of Accounts, Encumbrance Transactions, Payment Transactions, Expenditure Correction, Voucher Transactions, Transaction Transfer, Posting Business Expenses, Transaction Search/History/Modification, Lease,

Perkins Grants, and Security.

However, much of the functionality of the application remains the same as it is today; only with a new look and feel.

Videos, Documentation, Open Office hours:

http://www.its.mnscu.edu/isrs/doc/accounting_webapp/index.html (scroll to the bottom for video and open office information).

In an effort to reduce travel expenditures and be respectful of your time we are

providing several ways for you to get up to speed on the new application; including on-demand informational videos, comprehensive documentation, and Open Office Hours via WebEx.

Several Open Office Hours have already held and the result has been very positive; with much learning and sharing occurring.

Please check out these resources, watch the videos and register for an Open Office WebEx with any questions or just to hear what other campuses are experiencing.

Listservs - Be "In the Know"

Did you know that the best and fastest way to hear about all things ISRS is to join a Listserv?

Signing up for the appropriate Listserv guarantees that you will know about the

latest and greatest ISRS module upgrades, changes and fixes ; also any downtime or performance issues – all by email.

Also, since you only sign up for the Listservs that affect you, you won't get a lot of information that you don't need—the information is tailored for each specific module.

On the Listserv page you will see many, many Listservs listed. Some are open to any system employee and some are only open to people with specific security rights. All of the

Listservs below are open to any system employee.

ISRS Listservs: accounting , admissions, cnci (Contract/ Non-Credit Instruction), communications, cs-gf (Career Services/ Graduate Follow-up), facilities, fauser (Financial Aid), house (Student Housing) , imagenow, purchasing, registration, scupps (HR), webapp (Web Applications).

To Sign Up for ISRS Listservs:

<http://www.its.mnscu.edu/technical/listservlists.html>

Join a Listserv today and see what you've been missing!

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Curriculum Module- New Web Version on the Way!

A project that migrates the Curriculum module to a web-based solution is now in Quality Assurance for both functional and performance testing!

We have been working on this new design with a small group of developers, curriculum support staff and registrars for the past 11 months, primarily by e-mail with occasional face to face meetings.

Advantages of moving to a web-based solution:

- Reduced cost
- Improved ability to maintain the system

- Improved flow and ease of data entry for users
- Parts of the job become portable
- Elimination of the need for current side systems (you are welcome to keep them if you wish)

New Features?

The converted curriculum module contains a very basic work flow that moves courses from proposed to review to approved status.

We also made a few minor database

changes to accommodate the new ability to store courses in ISRS prior to approval and do plan in the future to provide faculty with a much simpler and more intuitive way to share their great ideas for new courses, as part of their existing web menu.

We have provided a way for users with certain rights to jump over the steps in the work flow. This feature will be important to those of you with side systems.

We will be releasing the converted curriculum and term course modules, and their

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Student Housing-If you improve it, they will come

Make it easy for students to come to our institutions and provide the highest level of service once they are here.

The student housing module redesign illustrates this principle, and demonstrates yet another way the system is leveraging technology to attract and retain students, while also streamlining processes for campus staff.

Benefits— Sure to score a homerun with campus users for convenience and ease of use, the improved Web-based module will be more automated and better integrated with other online student applications. These enhancements will make it easier for new and returning students to:

- Reserve housing
- Choose rooms
- Request meal plans
- Sign contracts
- Prepay
- Review room assignments
- View roommate information

Additionally, campus staff will have access to real-time reporting data, which will give administrators the ability to address housing-related issues more efficiently.

History—The original student housing



module was first implemented in the fall of 1998. At that time, the system was comprised of a manual room- and meal-assignment process and a limited-functionality interactive tool. In order to remain competitive with other institutions and meet the increasing student-housing demand, the student housing module redesign effort launched in the fall of 2006.

Next Steps—In its final phase of development, production and testing, the redesigned student housing module will be rolled out to all campuses system-wide in several phases.

Stay tuned for news about this exciting initiative in the coming months!

eTranscript-Back on Track

The eTranscript project, which was delayed due to the Oracle conversion, is back on track and progressing once again.

The current plan is to re-engage the pilot schools; St. Cloud State University, Winona State University, Inver Hills Community College and Hibbing Community College in mid- to late-June, with system-wide release to follow.

What will you be able to do with eTranscript?

- View and print official transcripts, including back sides, from other system schools for any enrolled students or new applicants

- View and print MN Transfer Curriculum Audit Reports from other system schools for any enrolled students or new applicants
- Move course detail from these remote schools into your local transfer tables (data will appear on the 'Education' and 'Trsf Courses' tab of ST1100UG)
- Move that same transfer detail into DARS for articulation
- An existing process will move the articulated coursework back into ISRS

Why is this so exciting?

- Admissions, financial aid and the registrar will have the information they need on transfer students and dually enrolled students in 'real-time'.
- Students transferring from one system school to another will no longer need to request or pay for official transcripts to be sent

Look for more information later this summer, in the meantime, for more information on this project, please contact Russell Roering, Project Manager, at russell.roering@csu.mnscu.edu.

Spotlight on... Tossy Kelly

Tossy Kelly hopes to one day rule the world. For now, he is content to be a web developer working out of the Minneapolis ITS office.

His current project is the eTimesheet application and says that one of his coolest work experiences was finding out that his current teacher is using an application that he worked on shortly after joining the system.

His Supervisor, Dick McMullen, says "Tossy has had a big part in developing the eTimesheets system that is now in use by many of our schools, and he brings a great attitude to work with him every day. And, he is a member of that special breed of com-

puter programmers who are born with a sense of humor."

Some of the things that Tossy likes to do while not at work include playing soccer, playing chess and checkers online, listening to music, watching movies, working on software projects, and plotting to take over the world.

He says that he once saw a falling star 1/4 of the size of the moon and that was his queue to take over the world (as you can tell Tossy has a great sense of humor)!



Tossy's Sons—Joel Pete & Tossy David

Last Book Read: Huck Finn

Last Movie Seen: Spiderman 3

Favorite Snack Food:

Patti (a Jamaican snack that is a half moon

shape with a golden, flaky crust and can have many different fillings; meat, veggie, seafood, etc.)

How Did You Get Your Name: My parents played a trick on me

Favorite Music: Reggae

Favorite Sports: Soccer, Tennis, Football

3 Adjectives that Best Describe You: Tall, Dark and Handsome

Where Were You Born: Jamaica, in the parish of Trelawny



Updates: ISRS HelpDesk, Financial Aid, Accuplacer

ISRS HelpDesk Tool -

At the end of April we reported that we would be implementing new HelpDesk software in mid-May. Usability issues have forced us to delay this implementation. We are currently in negotiations with the software provider and will know within the next couple of weeks whether or not they are able to make the necessary modifications.

We are currently piloting the new software and will continue to do so until the full implementation occurs or is canceled altogether. Most of the necessary usability issues affect our ITS analysts - not the campus end user. The end users do not seem

to be having any difficulty with the product.

We will keep you updated as we know more about this implementation.

Financial Aid—

Things are looking up in the world of financial aid...at least when it comes to ISRS.

As you are all trying to get used to Core Data and the combined database environment, other than a few (not minor, but lower impact) outstanding issues, we are moving forward.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all of you for having patience and understanding while

we work out the challenges and opportunities that have come about with a merged database.

Our next big challenge will be programming changes needed for the year round Pell grant which need to be in place for spring term (20105). The new regulation is currently in effect, however, the requirement is optional for the 20101 summer term, and programming is not yet in place for the ISRS system to accommodate this. We anticipate this to be a fairly large project, and we are awaiting finalized Federal Regulations so

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Where Are We?

Can you guess where this outstate ITS office is located?

- Home of the US Hockey Hall of Fame Museum
- The largest hockey stick and puck in

the world are located here.

- The Leonidas Mine, the deepest underground mine in the world, of its time (1890s), is located here. It reached a depth over 650 feet.
- With the development of low grade

ore, called Taconite, mining is, once again, the area's chief industry.

- This is our newest ITS office.

Good Luck!

(The answer is on page 4)

We would love to hear from you! Please send your ideas for future editions to: Valerie.Schmidt@csu.mnscu.edu

Veteran's Re-Entry Education Program Grant

We have been given an exciting opportunity to develop a Veteran's Re-entry Education Program through a Congressionally-directed grant.

The goals of this program will be to:

- Increase the ability to award credit for military training and experience (MOS)
- Provide up to date, responsive train-

ing for academic credit in cooperation with the military.

- Provide easily accessible computerized tools for veterans to identify educational and life planning services to assist them in attending higher education
- Understand the mental, physical and behavioral health needs of students

who are veterans to be able to program for these needs

This project is currently in the planning and requirements gathering phase. For more information please visit the PMO website at:

<http://www.its.mnscu.edu/projects/current/vets/index.html>

Summer Grilling Tip 1—

Trim beef steaks to 1/8 inch fat-this reduces grease drippings to help minimize flames. If you like your hamburgers juicy, go with ground beef that is 15 to 20 percent fat. Fish fillets should be cut from 1 to 1 1/2 inches thick.



Summer Grilling Tip 2—

Whenever barbequing, use tongs to turn the meat. A fork should never be used as it will punch holes in the meat and allow the natural juices to escape, causing the meat to lose flavor and become chewy. Enjoy!

Curriculum cont.

associated validation and control maintenance features together at one time. As we move closer to production release there will be many opportunities for anyone interested to see demonstrations of the converted systems and to participate in training.

An important goal of these early conversions was to get a sense for what it would take to convert modules without making significant changes to functionality at the same time, and the results of this work have been very encouraging.

We are also currently in the process of

doing the same thing with the Term Course module and are making rapid progress.

For more information on this project, please contact Cynthia Mehoves, Business Analyst, at cynthia.mehoves@csu.mnscu.edu.

Updates cont.

that we can begin the necessary modifications.

Accuplacer/ISRS Upload —

The Accuplacer/ISRS Upload process is working again.

A new version of Accuplacer was released in late February with new tests, significant improvements and changes. It was then necessary for our developers to make changes to the ISRS screens and reports used during the upload process.

There is one known issues with the upload that will be resolved in the near future. The issues are:

- The responses to the two parent education questions are not uploading (waiting for changes from Accuplacer)

All other information uploads correctly.

Watch for an announcements from the ISRS Help Desk this issue is resolved.

Answer to Where Are We?
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