System IT Board Report February 2022
February 9, 2022
Three Key Information Technology Projects

This month I wanted to highlight two key projects that System IT has been involved in on behalf of the system office and the colleges.   These projects involve both technology and significant business process implementations for the overall organization.

Qualtrics

In October the decision was made by the Presidents and Chancellor to move forward with a system to track Covid vaccinations and testing.   Qualtrics was selected as it allowed for both data collection and storage, along with automated processes for reminders and tracking, using a friendly survey-based user interface (UI). The system needed to be in place for the 2022 Spring semester.   Parallel processes were developed for both students and employees to enter data and documentation into Qualtrics regarding their vaccination status. And a significant number of student vaccination records were provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). If someone was not fully vaccinated or did not provide information, they were moved into the testing protocol for that college or the system office. The data for both students and employees is consistent across all colleges, but the workflows needed to be customized to an extent for each college based on their business processes related to monitoring and enforcing testing protocols.   Most colleges and the system office have had project teams working on the project and all have gone live successfully. Pikes Peak Community College was the key pilot college and the first to go live. PPCC's implementation was very comprehensive including monitoring of test results and follow up with students and employees who did not submit test results.

Course to Program of Study

Course to Program of Study (CPoS) is a comprehensive project to help the colleges stay compliant with Federal Financial Aid regulations and ensure students are taking courses that apply to their degree program of study and thus remain eligible for financial aid. The project was primarily led out of System Student Affairs/Financial Aid and involved project representation from the colleges along with system IT.   The project impact included modifications as necessary to the scribing of the program requirements used in Degree Works which is our degree audit system.   Accurate scribing of degree requirements and electives is critical to help students stay on track in their degree programs and identify discrepancies so that students can be advised regarding their financial aid status and adjust their course schedule as necessary. The project is planned for completion in April, 2022 for the Summer term, but Arapahoe Community College which has been the primary pilot college, has already gone live using CPoS to manage financial aid eligibility for the Spring 2022 term. Community College of Denver has also gone live ahead of schedule.   CPoS automatically processes a student's schedule and identifies the courses, if any, that are off track.   A college defines its own business processes, but in essence the college's Student Services staff reach out to the

student and let them know there is a problem and they could lose part of their financial aid by taking a course that doesn't meet their degree requirements. If the student continues to be enrolled in a course that doesn't meet degree requirements, their financial aid is adjusted according to Financial Aid regulations.

These two projects both represent the integrative nature of our technology projects. These projects not only required system IT staff from Business Technology and Application Development, but also functional knowledge participants from the colleges and system office.