



PAVING THE WAY: A NEW SYSTEM TO BE SELECTED

The SLIMS Project Team has considered six different options for the future of the University of Tasmania's Student Information Management System:

1. Continue developing the current system
2. Purchase a commercially available system
3. Custom design and build a new system
4. Implement an outsourced or bureau model system
5. Hybrid solution - customisation of a purchased system
6. Open source or community source system

The decision to recommend the purchase of a commercially available Student Information Management System (Option 2), was reached after a systematic, lengthy and detailed evaluation of all six options. Each option was assessed against seven criteria by a panel of ten evaluators, including: an academic staff member, a student, systems staff, Student Centre staff, and SLIMS Project Team members. The recommendation of Option 2 was unanimously endorsed by the Steering Committee, Planning and Resources Committee, Audit and Finance Committee. Final endorsement came from Council on November 23rd.

There has been extensive research, analysis, communication and consultation with the University community to reach this stage. *The Project Team would like to thank all those people who have been involved in the process!* Sharing your experiences and expertise has provided valuable feedback and insight into how SLIMS can support excellence in your studies, research, work and service provision.

The SLIMS Project will commence the next phase in January 2008. This phase will involve identifying, acquiring and implementing the best Student Information Management System for the University.

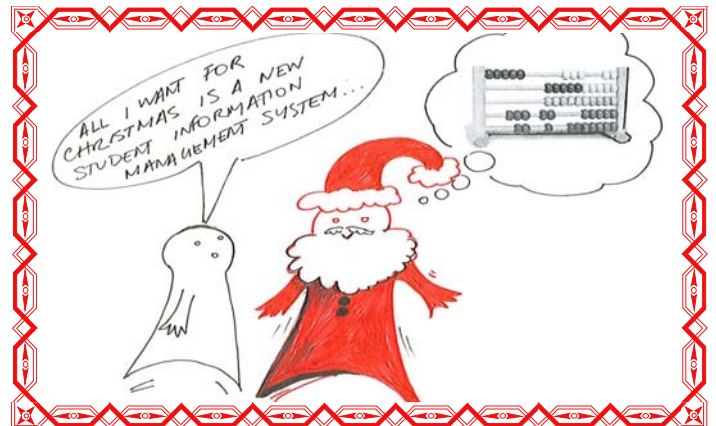


What is SLIMS?

Student Lifecycle Information Management & Services.

This project has been established to review and re-engineer academic administrative processes with a focus on the support and redevelopment of information management and services for students and staff. Where appropriate, the SLIMS Project will replace underlying IT systems.

The development and implementation of a new Student Information Management System will reinvigorate and modernise the way in which academic administration is conducted by both staff and students.



BUZZ WORDS

- ◆ **SERVICE:** A broad concept with different meanings in different industries. Commonly used in the context of "client services" and "service provision". The education sector is increasingly competitive. It is essential to continually strive to improve the level of accessibility and service that is provided to clients (students and staff) to maintain a competitive edge, and thrive as an educational community.
- ◆ **CLIENT FOCUS:** Consciously making systems and facilities easier for people to access and use. Recognising that clients have different needs, and providing flexible options to meet those needs. Options are about offering clients choice in how they will conduct their business with the University.

BENEFITS FOR THE WHOLE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY...



- ◆ A better academic administration system
- ◆ Improved record keeping and reporting capabilities
- ◆ Single portal access to academic administrative services and information that is tailored to suit your relationship with the University
- ◆ Enhanced communication capabilities for students and staff
- ◆ Consistency between different schools and faculties in their student record keeping and reporting
- ◆ Consistency across University faculties in the presentation of course information

SOME CHANGES ACADEMIC STAFF CAN EXPECT...



- ◆ Access to student information through one central portal
- ◆ Faster and more efficient administrative processes
- ◆ Easier access to information and services

THIS WILL MEAN MORE TIME...

- ◆ To pursue teaching and research
- ◆ To improve teaching in units and courses
- ◆ For professional development
- ◆ For academic or research consultations with students



SOME CHANGES ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF CAN EXPECT...



- ◆ A reduction in the need for sub-systems
- ◆ Easier access to consistent information about students and courses, records and reports
- ◆ Less repetition in day to day work duties
- ◆ Easier transferability of staff between schools/faculties/ departments
- ◆ Significant reduction in the manual processing of paperwork
- ◆ Improved job satisfaction

THIS WILL MEAN MORE TIME...

- ◆ For up to date training in the new administrative system
- ◆ To assist with course inquiries
- ◆ To facilitate solutions for more complex and out of the ordinary student course issues and inquiries
- ◆ To provide quality feedback for the analysis and improvement of University business processes

SOME CHANGES STUDENTS CAN EXPECT...





- ◆ Increased access to University services
- ◆ Increased flexibility in communications to and from the University


THIS WILL MEAN...

- ◆ Better tools available to self-manage individual enrolments and learning plans
- ◆ Easier access to information about courses and units
- ◆ A better understanding of what is required to progress through and complete a degree

SLIMS PROJECT TEAM NEWS

 Congratulations to Carlos and Kerry Plottier on the birth of their son Alessandro! Carlos is taking leave from the Project to spend time with his family.

 A fond farewell to Annie Geard, who is leaving the SLIMS Project Team in January 2008. As the Senior Business Analyst, Annie has contributed a great deal to the initial phases of the Project. As a person, she has brought a wonderful sense of creativity and humour to the Project. We shall all miss you!

 The SLIMS Project Team welcomes Gail Reardon. Gail has joined us in the Corporate Services Building to work on the Course Structures Project, which is closely related to the SLIMS Project.

ASK SLIMS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS...

Will the new system be easy to use?

◆ Yes! One of the main focuses in the development of a new system is to ensure ease of use and accessibility for all members of the University community.

What will SLIMS do for me?

◆ Whether you are a student, an academic or administrative staff member, the SLIMS Project Team is aiming to make working life at UTas easier. The project will provide a single point of access to academic administration information and services, with customised options to suit an individual's relationship with the University.

Where do I access clear course information?

◆ Currently, staff members and students can access course information in a range of mediums with varying layouts. It can be difficult to locate information and have a clear picture of a student's degree structure. The SLIMS Project aims to make this information easier to access and locate, with a University wide standard guide to presentation and layout.

What is a 'Student Lifecycle'?

◆ Student Lifecycle refers to the entire time in which an individual student is involved with the University of Tasmania. This includes the lead-up to University when a student makes choices about what subjects to pursue in years 10, 11 and 12. These choices affect their future study options at University. The Lifecycle continues through their time as a University student and beyond, as a graduate and as an alumnus.

When will administrative changes occur?

◆ The new Student Information Management System will be operational by mid-2010 at the latest. SLIMS will keep you up to date on any changes that occur to this timeline as the project progresses.

What sort of training will I receive?

◆ All staff members who will be using the new system will have comprehensive and structured training. Training will be tailored to meet the needs of individual staff members. Both group and individual sessions will be available. Ongoing support for staff members will also be available.

Why do we need to change?

◆ The current student record system was designed and built by the University over 20 years ago. It has been continually modified in a reactive manner and no longer meets the University's requirements. The SLIMS Project is an opportunity to be proactive, to use the latest technologies to deliver a system that better suits the administrative needs of the University, its staff and students, now and into the future.

What would you like to see in the newsletter?

Do you have questions you want answered?

Talk to us!

Call us: 6226 6206 or email us: Slims.Project@utas.edu.au

For updates and information, visit our website:

www.slims.utas.edu.au

Newsletter produced by Kate Boden.

*Season's Greetings from
the SLIMS Project Team.
We wish you all a very
Merry Christmas,
and a Happy New Year!*

