

What is SLIMS?

Student Lifecycle Information Management & Services.

This project has been established to review and re-engineer academic administrative processes supporting student information management and services.

Where appropriate, the SLIMS Project will replace underlying IT systems.

Why is SLIMS significant?

Consider the processes a student must go through from first enquiry to alumnus. How much planning, administration, information management, and time would you say is needed for these things to run smoothly?

Designed for the 1980's, the current processes and underlying systems have been continually modified to overcome limitations evidenced by expansion and changing requirements.

Over the last eight years, 30 out of 38 Australian universities have made changes to their processes and underlying systems.

However, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE USRS! It's about moving away from being task orientated to becoming a service provider!

The SLIMS project recognises the need for change in order to meet EDGE 2 goals. SLIMS ' objective is to make processes more effective into the future. **It operates on the premise that the best possible service should be made available to staff and students.** The project understands that time is valuable and asks: What is the best way to structure processes to meet student and staff needs?



The SLIMS project contributes to the following University objectives:

Excellence – quality, competitive advantage

Distinctiveness –self-management, access, flexibility, efficiency

Growth – national and international enrolment increase to 15,000

Engagement – support systems and services

Feedback from students shows that:

- There is a need to be flexible and for students to do things when they want
- Relevant information needs to be accessible when making decisions

Frequently Asked Questions

STUDENTS

Q: Why do I have to stand in queues to lodge forms?

A: The ability for students to submit forms and make variations online would eliminate a lot of running around the campus. Students would receive online feedback regarding approval for changes to areas such as enrolment and courses, saving time and frustration.

Q: How can I plan my full course in advance?

A: An online planner showing the compulsory units required and the scope of electives. It would clarify what students need to do and enable them to view where they are at and where they are heading at any given time. Course counselling would still be made available to students.

ADMINIMISE.

Feedback from staff reveals:

- Many staff create subsidiary systems to manage information.
- A substantial amount of manual handling takes place due to a lack of automated processes.
- The current system no longer fully supports the amount or types of data needed in schools.

Frequently Asked Questions

ACADEMIC STAFF

Q: How can I manage assessment results without having to develop my own system?

A: Provide a standard consistent tool (adaptable to specific need) integrated into the student system which would eliminate subsidiary systems.

Q: How can I reduce the time spent allocating students to classes?

A: Provide online capability for students to manage own timetable and tutorials.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Q: How do I know when a student has completed their course?

A: Compile a list accessible to staff, based on simplified course rules.

Q: A reduction in administration would mean...?

A: No need to create new subsystems; access to a comprehensive record integrated access to tools for specific purposes.



Phase 1 of the SLIMS project has been completed!

Commencing in August 2006, the first phase of the project was to consider what is it that staff and students need to accomplish throughout the student lifecycle? How can this be done more effectively? What can we do to help? The vision and objectives were created in consultation with various stakeholders from the university.

Where we are at:

SLIMS is in the second phase of the project. We have used business process mapping to analyse the way we provide services and identify options for improving processes. Discussions with staff and student bodies are underway to identify concerns, inefficiencies, key themes, and needs.

SLIMS is investigating the feasibility; relevant costs and benefits associated with options to deliver new services.

The options being considered are:

1. Continue using current system
2. Purchase a new system
3. Custom design to build
4. Implement an outsourced or bureau model
5. Hybrid solution – customisation of a purchased system
6. Open source

Phase 2 will end with the best possible recommendation.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS VALUABLE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS!

Where is SLIMS heading?

In Phase 3 of the project, SLIMS will implement the most appropriate option for the business needs of the University.

How will change affect you?

- Students will have access to an online self-management service which avoids delays and operates in real time.
- Reduced paperwork and administration will enable staff to provide a higher quality of support and service to students.
- Academic staff will benefit from diminished administrative overhead and greater manageability of students.

Talk to us

We would love to hear from you.

Call us on 6226 6206

Email us: Slims.Project@utas.edu.au

Keep informed: visit the website!

Newsletter by Catherine Hayden as part of Professional Placement, through Journalism at UTas.

Invest in your future!

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