

SLIMS and Transaction Processing For Enrolments

A survey of 335 North American higher education institutions which have undertaken business process reviews and implemented new technologies, indicated that higher levels of performance improvement have been made in transactional processes - [Good Enough! IT Investment and Business Process Performance in Higher Education](#) by Robert B. Kvavik and Philip J. Goldstein, with John Voloudakis for Educause Centre for Applied Research (ECAR), 2005.



What is the scale of transaction processing say in enrolments at UTAS?

There are 310 active awards offered by UTAS in 2006 and 3107 units were offered at all levels. There were over 10,100 individual unit offerings in 2006 across the 16 physical and virtual teaching locations and all the teaching periods. Each of these course and unit offerings needs to be maintained on an annual basis.

There were 19,363 individual students enrolled at UTAS in 2006 with 2041 of them at locations outside Tasmania. This is 1145 more students than in 2005. These students generated around 60,000 enrolment transactions with nearly two thirds of them as variations to an original enrolment. Just under 80,000 individual unit enrolments at the relevant census dates were reported with a total load of 13,274 EFTSL. Enrolment confirmation notices reflecting these enrolment transactions were issued and all enrolments were manually approved.

There were 1008 papers for formal examinations in 2006 (excluding the deferred ordinary and supplementary papers for Semester 2) with 48,300 individual sittings of which 3,105 sittings had alternative arrangements accommodated. Each unit enrolment had a result recorded for it and the results were published for access by students.

Students, excluding transnational students, received over 40,000 invoices with a total value of \$68m and were granted \$2.65m in fees scholarships or waivers. Payments of just under \$29m were processed and \$36.4m was deferred by domestic students under the HECS-HELP and FEE-HELP schemes. Around 38,000 Commonwealth Assistance notices (CANs) were issued to record each Commonwealth assisted student's debt to the Commonwealth and their consumption of their Student Learning Entitlement (SLE).

Many of these transactions currently have significant manual interventions required to complete them and in some cases double handling of data and multiple checking to assure accuracy and compliance with internal and external legislation.

Other areas of academic administration with high transaction numbers are enquiries, admissions, continuous assessment in schools, graduation certification and graduations. Any streamlining of these high transaction processes will produce benefits to UTAS.