

# Slimming down

## SLIMS PHASE ONE: STUDENT LIFECYCLE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

There has been a great deal of activity in marketing and recruitment across the university aimed at meeting our EDGE targets for growth. This has been supported by the work being undertaken in terms of the transition of commencing students and the retention of all students. The creation of a distinctive student experience at UTAS is also a key strategy in developing the UTAS EDGE. In all these aspects of our activity the way we initiate, develop and maintain our relationship with students through their lifecycle at the university is fundamental. The primary relationship with students is the academic relationship founded on teaching and learning. This primary relationship is facilitated by academic administrative processes undertaken in schools, faculties and centrally. The way in which academic administration is undertaken is a significant component in how our students relate to the university and in their experience of university life.

A project has commenced which has at its core the re-engineering of academic administrative processes and their support systems in order to meet the expectations of students and staff into the future. The academic administrative processes manage the principal steps that students take through their lifecycle at the university from enquiry, through application for admission, to offer and then enrolment; unit selection and class registration; assessment and exams; re-enrolment and through to completion and graduation and a continuing relationship as an alumnus. The Student Lifecycle Information Management Services (SLIMS) project in its first phase has two core objectives

1. To articulate the strategic characteristics that will define UTAS' client service model for academic administration over the next 15 years.

The development of the client service model will document a vision and a high level statement of objectives for re-engineering

academic administrative processes based on consultations with the university community - students and academic and general staff.

2. To identify and assess the broad options available to deploy the necessary technology that will best enact the re-engineered processes.

The outcome of this objective is to identify how we are going to acquire core student systems, given the documented risks and inadequacies of our current systems, to develop and sustain a more client oriented and flexible set of academic administrative services.

The project is proceeding under the patronage of the Vice-Chancellor and the sponsorship of Bernard Lillis as Executive Director, Finance and Administration who chairs the Steering Committee. Reporting on the progress of the project will be through the Steering Committee to Planning and Resources Committee and Audit Committee and thence to Council. There will be regular reporting to the whole university community on progress through UniTAS and through a dedicated website ( [www.slims.utas.edu.au](http://www.slims.utas.edu.au) ) which will be populated with information shortly. The project is being led by Nigel Ewan (Deputy, Academic Registrar) with dedicated support from Steve Bugg (ITR) and professional project management support currently being recruited.

Over the next few months there will be opportunities for staff to contribute their ideas in particular to the development of the client service model and the objectives to be achieved by re-engineering our academic administrative processes. Staff are encouraged to take up these opportunities so that your ideas contribute to the way UTAS redevelops its approach to managing academic administrative services across the student lifecycle.