August 2012: News from the SIS Project

SIS PROJECT ANNIVERSARY

The SIS Project wrapped up its first year in July, taking some time to recognize the progress we have made and reflect on our work and collaboration. In July, the SIS Project team reached its maximum with 55 subject matter experts, technical developers, and consultants, many of whom dock at SISville (which is at capacity) between two and five days per week. See the full team at go.tufts.edu/sis.

The nature of year two is very different from year one; we are shifting our focus from designing and planning to implementation-oriented tasks: technical development, testing and configuration, training, documentation, and communications. To prepare for the work of year two, we took advantage of our mobile workspace and re-shuffled our teams to fertilize new collaborations.

As of July 2012, Tufts’ registrars began a new routine that finds them collaborating with SISville colleagues for two-days per week rather than for the full week. This new routine will continue to challenge how we balance the needs of the SIS Project while keeping up with the business of the university. It will take creative use of time and resources to reach the goal.

OUR FIRST GO-LIVE: “COURSE CATALOG”

The first half of August was a countdown to our first go-live, a system building block called “course catalog” that will enable a handful of student services administrators to manage and modify courses in iSIS. Approximately 20 people received training on how to manage courses in iSIS. In-class sessions that occurred on all three campuses were well received.

PROGRESS WITH DATA CONVERSION

Along with the “course catalog” go-live, the SIS Project successfully completed its first data conversion project in August. Conversion represents a major component of the catalog project (and an underlying, critical component of the SIS Project). It is not enough to simply migrate courses from legacy SIS to iSIS. The team has to review, map, and transform approximately 45,000 courses, including course titles, descriptions, and credits – dating back to the 1960s – before the data is ready for iSIS.

One conversion project down, 24 to go!