THE ROAD TO FALL 2013… NEXT STOP: REGISTRATION

Regarding student information, the 2013/14 academic year began last September, when Tufts started to receive admissions applications for fall 2013. Through Tufts' online admissions systems, iSIS began to capture information about incoming students to establish their official student record. By December 2012, iSIS was ready to receive admissions deposits and interface to PowerFAIDS, Tufts' financial aid software, so that financial aid for new students could be processed. In early January 2013, the SIS Project team built upon the iSIS “course catalog” and converted the “schedule of classes” from Tufts' “old” legacy SIS to the new iSIS. A few weeks later, Tufts' registrars began to finalize the fall 2013 schedule of classes. At the schools of Arts & Sciences and Engineering, department administrators were given access to edit the fall 2013 schedule of classes, representing the first user group not from student services or admissions.

The next step in Tufts' student information lifecycle is course registration. This March, Tufts will begin use iSIS to support faculty and advisors who meet with students, to plan their registration for fall 2013 classes. Registration will occur in early April at several schools (see table: Summary of March and April 2013 Rollout Schedule).

After registration, the SIS Project team will immediately shift focus to the ongoing work in support of the student financial go-lives in June and July.

SUMMARY OF USABILITY RESULTS

When iSIS becomes available to students and faculty/advisors in March 2013, they will see and interact with iSIS through a custom web interface designed to streamline navigation and consolidate information. This look-and-feel differs from the iSIS components that have been rolled out to administrators thus far, which is a delivery more typical of PeopleSoft.

In late December and early January, the SIS Project team conducted usability tests on the student and faculty/advisor web interfaces. Usability testing evaluated whether iSIS is user friendly, efficient, easy to learn, and satisfying to use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/Unit</th>
<th>Course Catalog &amp; Schedule of Classes</th>
<th>Course History</th>
<th>Advising</th>
<th>Course Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Tufts &amp; Public</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013 (partial)</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Engineering</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013 (partial; not applicable to graduate students)</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friedman School of Nutrition</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical School, Public Health and Professional Degree Programs</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over a three year period, from July 2011 through the summer of 2014, the SIS Project will implement the new Integrated Student Information System (iSIS) with PeopleSoft Campus Solutions as its technology core. For more information about iSIS or the SIS Project, email sisproject@tufts.edu or visit go.tufts.edu/sis.
SIS BY THE NUMBERS
As of January 10, 2013 …
• 17,639 applications were sent to iSIS
• 16,000 new student records were loaded in to PowerFAIDS
• 380 Admission Deposit Transactions occurred, totaling $243,325
• 4,560 class sections were rolled into the fall 2013 Schedule of Classes, covering AS&E, PHPD, Nutrition, and Veterinary
• 7 training sessions were scheduled for AS&E department administrators, representing the first wave of trainees not within student services or admissions; 42 people attended out of 74 invitees
• 1,300 transcripts belonging to active students were reviewed by the SIS Project team

SUMMARY OF USABILITY RESULTS, cont.
Typically, usability is measured by the length of time a user takes to complete a task. Participants were asked to narrate their experience, which provided additional results.

Twenty-six students and faculty on the Boston and Medford/Somerville campuses, representing a mix of schools, and a cross-section of groups, were tasked with ten usability scenarios. A summary of results follows.

Overall, results are positive. Many usability test participants commented that the iSIS user interfaces designed for students and faculty/advisors, are “clean”, “clear”, and “intuitive”. Their comments complement the “ease of use” rating, collected during the exit survey, which averaged 1.83, on a scale of 1 to 5, where one is “very easy” and 5 is “very difficult.”

The differences between SIS/HSF Online and iSIS are stark. iSIS will transform how students, faculty, and staff interact with student and course information. There will be differences in how iSIS looks, how data is presented, and how users access information, and interact with pertinent data.

Recommendations can be implemented in the short- and long-term. Several key recommendations will be implemented before the March go-lives. Other recommendations will need to wait until a later point in time, when they can be evaluated along with feedback we hope to receive from students and faculty, post go-live.

UPDATES

Medical School Applications Live in iSIS
The iSIS admissions team established a process for sending medical school applicants from AMP, the Medical School’s paperless application system, to iSIS. This new process will benefit the medical school’s admissions staff, who will no longer need to manually data enter applicants in iSIS. Applicants will also be visible to staff in the financial aid office, who will receive applicant information earlier in the admissions process.

As of Wednesday, February 6, 685 medical school applicants, who were selected for an interview to the MD program, had been successfully loaded to iSIS. Seventy-six of those students are combined degree applicants.

Update to Financial Aid
Please note a minor change to the SIS Project timeline, regarding financial aid access in iSIS. Current students who are financial aid recipients will have access to their financial aid information via Net Partner, the financial aid website, during the Spring 2013 term. A communication will be sent to students via their Financial Aid office.

Schedule of Classes
iSIS “schedule of classes” went live in early January 2013.

Training and Documentation
The SIS Project training and documentation team continues to build Tufts’ collection of iSIS resources. Please visit go.tufts.edu/sis and click “Learn to Use iSIS” to see the latest additions.

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