April - May 2013: News from the SIS Project

MIDPOINT REPORT ON FALL 2013 REGISTRATION

On March 14, 2013, iSIS became available to students, faculty and staff on all campuses. On March 18, the Veterinary School was the first to use iSIS to enroll 4th year students into their required clinical rotations. This “block enroll” process added the 17-course “block of rotations” to the schedule of 99 students, for a total enrollment of 1,683 courses. On April 8, online registration opened at the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, in which students registered themselves. Finally, on April 22, registrars at the Sackler School, Friedman School, and TUSM Public Health and Professional Degree Programs opened online course registration and advising to students at their schools.

Typical of large system rollouts, we dealt with expected and unexpected issues. In all cases, we were able to respond quickly. We also received a lot of feedback and have begun to catalog ideas that have reached us through the iSIS support queue, our registrars and student services desks, and the iSIS feedback form. General iSIS statistics also provide us with a glimpse of the system.

As we reconcile user feedback, we first need to understand which difficulties are part of the learning curve and which make iSIS less usable. All of this cannot be assessed in full until iSIS becomes the system of record on August 19, 2013, and perhaps even some time after that.

Some Trends

• The iSIS learning curve may be steeper than some expected, particularly with regard to course search. This is due to new terminology and logic in iSIS.

• Confusion exists regarding the iSIS Course Catalog, which contains ALL Tufts courses, even those not currently scheduled, and the Schedule of Classes, which only includes classes that are scheduled for the current term.

• We continue to hear questions regarding the transition from SIS to iSIS. iSIS becomes Tufts’ system of record for student information in August 2013. In the meantime, SIS Online/HSF Online will continue to be the source for spring and summer 2013 data. Students and faculty/advisors should continue to visit legacy SIS to see unofficial transcripts, manage advisors and majors, edit names and addresses, and so on.

• iSIS enforces some data elements, like prerequisites or department consent, which SIS Online/HSF Online did not. Faculty, advisors, and staff can reach out to their registrar, should they have any questions about how their school codes class attributes and prerequisites.

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.
Although iSIS is not yet Tufts’ system of record for student information, it still needs information from legacy SIS, admissions, and other systems, to support students, faculty, and advisors as they prepare for the fall 2013 term. iSIS also needs to securely share information with systems that rely on student information to do business. To manage data flow, the SIS Project team has established numerous technical interfaces designed to integrate data, some of which are temporary.

The thrice-weekly “Temp Enrollment Interface” transfers student academic data from legacy SIS to iSIS. This technical data transfer updates iSIS with Program/Plan changes (including majors), grade, enrollment changes, and more to support those who are actively engaged in fall 2013 registration. When it runs in the early morning hours (typically kicking off around 4AM), iSIS becomes unavailable. After it runs, members of the SIS Project team and Tufts’ registrars manually reconcile any kick outs, which is a laborious process for all involved. Fortunately, when iSIS becomes the system of record in August 2013, data will no longer need to be sourced from legacy SIS.

Other interfaces function to synchronize iSIS with other Tufts systems that rely on student information. For the most part, the permanent interfaces are typically transparent, automated data transfers into or out of iSIS. Establishing these iSIS interfaces is an ongoing and significant effort.

### iSIS INTERFACES*

**Admissions (Complete)**
- TAMIS, GAMS, Dental School, AMP

**Financial Aid**
- Interface to PowerFAIDS (Complete)
- Interface from PowerFAIDS (June 2013), includes anticipated aid & disbursements

**StarRez (Spring 2013)**
- Interfaces to/from StarRez to support housing charges, dorm address data (used extensively by Dining Services and Mail Services)

**Billing (June/July 2013)**
- eBill and eRefund, includes student data, billing data, and refund data to Sallie Mae
- Interfaces from Sallie Mae include real-time payments
- General Ledger Interface for item-type summarization

**Cashiering and Financial Transactions (June/July 2013)**
- CashNet interfaces include student data and account transactions, and General Ledger reconciliations
- Process to upload charge transactions from Health Services, Library, Public Safety, etc.

**Admissions Deposits Interfaces (Complete)**

**Student & Enrollment Data**
- Advancement (July 2013)
- Blackboard Transact (June 2013)
- Community Relations (August 2013)
- fasaAtlas, includes new and existing students (Complete)
- Health Services (July 2013)
- Identity Management Systems, including Tufts Username/Password, email, WhitePages, SendWordNow (May 2013)
- Library (July 2013)
- Mail Services (July 2013)
- Public Safety (May 2013)
- StuART (June 2013)
- Trunk (Complete)
- TUSK (August 2013)
- WebCenter & Portfolio (Spring 2013)
- Tufts Univ. Bookstore (Complete)
- EMS Room Scheduling (Complete)

**Human Resources**
- Common counter for “next” EMPL-ID (Complete)
- Faculty/Staff Bio-Demo from HR (Complete)
- Student data to HR (May 2013)

**INTEGRATING DATA: SUMMARY OF CURRENT TECHNICAL INTERFACES**

Having trouble with iSIS?

iSISsupport@tufts.edu

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Later this spring, students at all Tufts schools will begin to use iSIS to manage their student financial accounts and view their financial aid. Functionality will roll out in stages; financial aid will be the first component to go live in early May.

iSIS will display a student’s unique financial aid profile in a secure, seamless presentation. iSIS simplifies what was a functional, but multi-step process that required students to first log in to SIS Online or HSF Online, then link to a separate website with a different look and feel, and log in a second time.

In iSIS, students will be able to see:

**AWARDS:** Year-to-year summary of all awards, including summer FA.

**BUDGET:** The numbers used to calculate financial aid eligibility; students can see budgets from previous years, for as long as they have been at Tufts.

**DOCUMENTS:** Required documents and their status. We expect this will be what students use the most in the Financial Aid section. It will be updated nightly.

**FAMILY CONTRIBUTION:** Available only to undergraduates, this tab summarizes the parent contribution and need (Budget – Total Resources).

**MESSAGES:** Official messages to students that can be attached to any award.

**TITLE IV:** Students will have the ability to complete Title IV authorization online, in which a student gives permission to use Title IV money to pay their bill. Data will feed automatically to the billing system, and carry on year-to-year.

**Gateway to Student Financials**

Remaining student financial components will roll out over the next few months. By July, students will use iSIS to see their bills, balances, and loan information, link to eBill and eRefund, select a meal plan, link to Jumbo Cash, and complete their health insurance waivers.

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**UPDATES**

Changes made via SISOnline or HSFOnline may take up to 2 business days to be reflected in iSIS. If you have any concerns, please contact your student services or registrar’s office.

**ID Cards**

As a result of the iSIS implementation, all Tufts students will receive new ID cards before the start of the fall 2013 semester. Because the ID numbers are changing, the cards have to change as well.

iSIS identifies students using the Tufts ID number, a 7 digit number that synchronizes iSIS with the PeopleSoft systems that support Human Resources and Finance. Having a single numerical identifier helps clarify a person’s record and eliminates redundancies. This is especially useful when an individual holds multiple Tufts roles or affiliations (e.g. students who become employees or staff who take courses).

For more information about ID cards, visit the Public Safety Website: go.tufts.edu/6things.

**Grading, Graduation, and Transcripts**

Now that course registration has gone live at six Tufts schools, our registrars have begun to work on transcripts, grades and graduation procedures. To begin, each topic will be thoroughly examined. We will identify required outcomes, for example all variations of transcripts, as well as business process flows. More to come.

**Scheduled iSIS Downtime**

To keep SIS and iSIS in synch, the SIS Project will run a temporary, technical interface three times a week until August 19, 2013. The “Temp Enrollment Interface” will transfer updates from the current system of record, to the future system of record. The process will occur in the early morning hours on most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, typically kicking off at 4AM. During this time, iSIS will be unavailable to all users. The schedule may shift from time to time, due to holidays or periods of intense activity (e.g., graduation).

**New Timeline**

A new timeline with minor updates is included in this issue of the SIS Project Update. You may also download a PDF at go.tufts.edu/sis.

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**SIS BY THE NUMBERS: FALL 2013 REGISTRATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Successful Enrollments at ASE between April 8 and April 19</th>
<th>Classes scheduled for Fall 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4/8/2013</strong> 209</td>
<td><strong>ASE UNDERGRAD:</strong> 1,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4/9/2013</strong> 915</td>
<td><strong>ASE GRAD:</strong> 1,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4/10/2013</strong> 1168</td>
<td><strong>DENTAL POST-GRAD:</strong> 14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4/11/2013</strong> 411</td>
<td><strong>NUTRITION:</strong> 38</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4/12/2013</strong> 73</td>
<td><strong>TUSM PHPD:</strong> 91</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4/13/2013</strong> 361</td>
<td><strong>SACKLER:</strong> 75</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4/14/2013</strong> 40</td>
<td><strong>VETERINARY:</strong> 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4/15/2013</strong> 37</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong> 3,417</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4/16/2013</strong> 979</td>
<td>(Count excludes labs, recitations, and thesis components; DMD, Fletcher &amp; PHPD Physician Assistant classes not yet scheduled as of 4/22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4/17/2013</strong> 1309</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4/18/2013</strong> 394</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4/19/2013</strong> 180</td>
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</tbody>
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