June - July 2013: News from the SIS Project

ISIS STUDENT FINANCIALS PART TWO: BILLS & BALANCES

On Monday, June 24, iSIS became the system of record for student financial information. To effect this change, the SIS Project team orchestrated a complex and highly-coordinated go-live that securely converted student financial information from the legacy SIS to iSIS, updated technical interfaces to/from Sallie Mae/Higher One, CashNet, and other essential financial systems, and activated features in iSIS to support the next era of student financial information management.

The Student View: Bills & Balances

This transition impacts all students on all campuses. When students log in to iSIS, they will see their financial information on the “Bills & Balances” tab (see the image at right). Actual account balances and pending credits are presented within the pagelet. Other features include:

- Links to access eBill and eRefund, where students can manage their account or make a payment.
- Information to help students keep track of important financial documents.
- A feature to manage meal plans in iSIS (Medford campus only).
- A secure link to the 1098T form for tax year 2012 on our vendor’s website.
- A link to JumboCash.
- Health Insurance Waivers (also under the Request menu as of 6/3/13).

Benefits to Integration

Bills & Balances displays a student’s unique financial profile in a more seamless presentation. iSIS simplifies what was a functional but multi-step process that required students to log in to SIS Online or HSF Online and in to eBill with a separate username/password. In iSIS, students will connect to eBill/eRefund through secure Single Sign-On, which does not require that extra login.

Another iSIS benefit is improved data synchronicity. SIS Online and HSF Online were often out of synch with the eBill system. It could take a full day (or more) for new charges to cycle through the system. Now, students who take a leave of absence or drop a course will see balance adjustments in real-time and students who pay online through the eBill site will see their electronic payments post real-time.

Transition Matters

Although iSIS is now the system of record for student financial information, students may still need to refer to SIS Online or HSF Online to view the details of summer activity. In iSIS and in eBill, students will see up-to-date balances only. More information is available at http://go.tufts.edu/isis_financials.
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.

**PROJECT ROADMAP THROUGH DECEMBER 2013**

We have made great progress toward our goal of implementing a new student information system for the 2013/14 academic year. Though we still have a few major development items ahead, the SIS Project team has begun to shift its objective from implementing iSIS to maintaining, supporting and enhancing the nascent system.

As each major component is rolled out, it enters into a stabilization period. Members of the SIS Project use this time to assess iSIS in production, make adjustments where needed, and continue to support members of the Tufts community as they transition to iSIS. Focused on continuous improvement, the SIS Project team has the following tasks lined up in the upcoming months.

**June**
“Bills & Balances” becomes available to students; Billing, Cashiering and Other Financials (including Bill Production) also go-live. On June 24, 2013, iSIS becomes the system of record for student financial information.

**July**
Related to the student financials go-lives in late June, we begin to calculate tuition for fall 2013, load charges from the housing and dining systems, load anticipated aid and aid disbursements for fall 2013. The week of July 8, we start bill production in iSIS.

**August**
On August 19, 2013, iSIS becomes the system of record for student academic and biographical data, and all temporary academic and biographical data interfaces stop their thrice-weekly run. Staff will still need to be mindful of the transition and its effects, however the need to maintain data in two systems will diminish significantly. In addition, the SIS Project team will convert data including transcript text, honors and awards data, as well as dental class rank and test scores. We will also go-live with transcripts.

**September**
iSIS begins to support grading, details of which may differ slightly at each Tufts school. In addition, the SIS Project Team begins to evaluate the impact of recent PeopleSoft bundles, which are quarterly updates from Oracle. Although this process will not be an easy task, it is a chance to reevaluate what we have built to support Tufts’ students.

**October**
In collaboration with the Office of Institutional Research & Evaluation, the SIS Project Team, will administer the second of three annual SIS/iSIS User Experience Surveys.

**November**
iSIS will begin to support graduation – the process students will follow to apply for graduation. In addition, work to evaluate the impact of PeopleSoft bundles will enter development and testing phases, which may require updates to training and other internal process documentation.

**December**
Go-live with work related to bundles. Continue to support the SIS Project’s stabilization period through summer 2014.

**UPDATES**

- **Title IV Authorization Forms and Health Insurance Waivers** were made available in iSIS in early May and early June, respectively. Both were relatively quiet go-lives and many students have successfully completed Title IV Authorizations and Health Insurance Waivers in iSIS.

- The **StarRez Housing Portal** was integrated with iSIS as of June 6, 2013. It is sending to and receiving data from iSIS to support housing charges that would impact the student bill.

- **Tufts’ Data Warehouse** will go-live with an iSIS Enrollment universe at the end of July.

- The SIS Project development team continues to make great progress with **technical development**, having completed many items in a relatively short period of time. Since May 1, over 100 new issues were created, some of which were bugs and enhancements. Among these items, some will be moved to the Parking Lot for review at a later date.