



Minutes

Gateway Steering Committee Special Meeting

September 26, 2003

Attendees: Bruce Vieweg, Ellen Harshman, Austin Winkleman, Paul Jackson, Michael Burks, Elizabeth Winchester, Julie Weissman, Steve Miller, Jeff Kapp, Mark Schmotzer, Ned Harris, John Goerke

Absent: Chris Cannon, Paul Schnable, Sandy Pritt, Steve Dina, Robert Heaney, Bobbi Kysar, Lee McDurmont, Robert Winchester, Bob Woodruff

Topic	Discussion	Action
Reporting tools recommendations from the reporting team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Goerke – We started with five vendors that were invited to come in and give demo presentations. The team narrowed it down to three vendors which was Brio, Cognos and WebFocus to come in all do a hands-on presentation. After the hands-on demonstration the team decided that Cognos and WebFocus were the top to vendors to consider. • Cognos – Almost 100 partnerships with schools that use Banner. Tool had many features; seemed easy to produce reports. Provide metrics management, dashboards and scorecards. Proposed license for 500 total users; only 150 can create their own reports; and 25 people to run dashboard. Code is SQL based; the same as Banner. It is easy to find staff members who know SQL code when hiring new staff, also. • Information Builders (WebFocus) - Have an establish relationship with the university with a good customer service track record. Should be able to take existing FOCUS and WebFocus program and make them work with Banner. Proposed open license. Capability to point and click reports. Can support PDAs, e-mail request for reports and distribute e-mail reports. Information Builders can interface with Banner security. They would provide a character based focus to use on Sun system for a year. Willing to donate interface for the IDX system (\$92,000.00 up front). Offered free registration at conference for the first year for 10 people. 	
Reporting tools recommendations from the Executive Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Wednesday, September 24, 2003 this information was presented to the Executive Steering committee, and they unanimously agreed to recommend Information Builders to Steering Committee. • Bruce Vieweg – When I met with the reporting team they felt that both vendors were functionally equal in every aspect. 	
Reporting tools discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Goerke – The only difference is that IB prefers that the data source be stored in cubes. This provides quick access, but can be a maintenance issue. Could require three servers, 	

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	<p>which makes tools more hardware intensive. The SCT has agreed to provide support for the data marxs. I talked to Washington School and was informed that it took two years to develop their cube.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Lyons - If you took the difficulty out of the cube for Cognos, then would each product be equal? Response: Cognos is a more higher end product. WebFocus generates the same reports very easily. • Bruce Vieweg – If these two products are equal then we must examine all of the risk factors of implementation. The largest risk factor for me is the additional learning curve for ITS and the functional areas. On top of work that that we already have concerns with, we would be adding an additional function to learn. Another downside is that the language. Cognos is a standard SQL language, and we can find people to support this language. It is quick to learn and also taught here at the University. WebFocus is more proprietary. • Julie Wisseman – Questioned the logic of using a proprietary language. It would difficult for a new employee to come in and learn. • Bruce Vieweg – Even though there are a large majority of people with knowledge of SQL based language, our ITS department and functional areas are familiar with WebFocus. I would feel less risk about moving into a new direction. Our risk factor increases when ITS and the functional areas will have to learn additional information. • Mark Schmotzer – When Banner goes live we will only be 60% functional and adding another learning aspect for us increases the risk when you have technical people trying to learn several new things at one time. • Austin Winkleman – have you examined the total cost? • Bruce Vieweg – Over all Cognos would be higher. I discussed Cognos with colleagues who used them. They are no longer using them. Was dissatisfied with the license policy. Cognos under estimated required licenses and customers are forced to purchase additional licenses which inflates total cost of tool. • Austin Winkleman - Concerned about will each tool support what we need, how will it interface with Banner, and does the tool have the metric measurements that we will need? • John Goerke – Each tool can provide us with the tools that we require. 	
Reporting Tools decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee was asked to entertain a motion. Bruce Vieweg motioned that committee votes on a reporting and Ellen Harshman second the motion. The Vote • Ellen Harshman – WebFoucs • Bruce Vieweg – WebFoucs • Phil Lions – WebFoucs • Michael Burks – WebFoucs • Jeff Kapp – WebFoucs • Ned Harris – WebFoucs 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Goerke – WebFoucs • Paul Jackson – WebFoucs • Steve Miller – WebFoucs • Mark Schmotzer – WebFoucs • Elizabeth Winchester – WebFoucs • Austin Winkleman – WebFoucs (<i>Go on record to recommend a redesign of process</i>) • Linda Noyes – WebFoucs • Julie Winchester WebFoucs (<i>Go on record to recommend a three year revisit of decision</i>) 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	