

**University of North Dakota
Connect 'U'ND
2006**

Implementation:

UND went live with PeopleSoft finance, including grants and contracts administration, and HRMS in January 2005, financial aid and student records in May 2005, and student finance in May 2005 and August 2005.

Student finance was the last module to go live, in August 2005. That module proved to be particularly challenging with its interface to the finance system. Staff in the Controller's Office, Business Office, Accounting Services, and the Budget Office dedicated a very significant effort throughout FY 2006 to address issues regarding cash reconciliation, accounts receivable, waivers, and tuition/fee assessment. A consultant with experience in PeopleSoft student finance and finance worked with campus staff for several months and by the close of the fiscal year significant progress had been made.

The campus Finance and Student Administration Production Teams, consisting of lead staff from administrative departments in finance and student services, continue to meet weekly to facilitate communication between campus departments, identify CND issues and priorities, find solutions, develop strategies, coordinate efforts, and provide encouragement and moral support to keep the effort going.

Campus communication continues to be a priority; Tues. @ 9 information sessions in the Memorial Union Lecture Bowl, the Connect'U'ND web site, and departmental contact listservs are the primary communication links utilized.

It is again due in large part to the extraordinary effort, commitment and exceptional leadership of staff in finance and operations that UND has made significant strides in overcoming significant implementation challenges.

Training:

The campus production teams identified campus end user training as a critical need and in the spring of 2006 partnered with UND Workforce Development to survey campus staff on their training needs. The results of that survey were released in September 2006. Campus staff are engaged in a pilot project with Workforce Development to develop a training program covering selected areas in finance and budget.

ConnectND Governance:

In February 2006 the ConnectND Oversight Committee surveyed campuses on the status of ConnectND – what was working well, what was not working well, and what were the campus' priorities. As a result of the campus survey, a list of "steam valve" issues was compiled, which included performance testing and analysis, functional satisfactory

academic progress process for financial aid, functioning effort reporting in Grants & Contracts, examine security alternatives, validate set-up, improved portal functioning and branding, expanded reports and queries, resolve academic integrity issues, and expanded training and documentation.

In addition, the Oversight Committee proceeded with making changes in ConnectND governance. In May 2006, Bonnie Neas, NDSU associate vice president for federal government relations and director of Information Technology Services at NDSU was hired as interim deputy CIO/executive director for ConnectND. Several weeks later, Randall Thursby was hired to replace Grant Crawford as NDUS Chief Information Officer. The Oversight Committee created a ConnectND Campus Advisory Council to serve in an advisory capacity to the executive director. Peggy Lucke is UND's representative on this council.

Neas has focused her efforts on addressing the most urgent 'steam valve issues'. System performance, particularly in the student system, was an area of extreme focus throughout the summer of 2006. She has also encouraged and facilitated the development and empowerment of functional user groups which serve in an advisory capacity to the Finance, Student Administration and HRMS HECN project directors. Active functional user groups include the registrars, financial aid directors, business managers, and controllers. UND staff are active within all of these groups.