

Information Technology Committee
Rich Lehn, Assistant to the CIO, NDUS
Joshua Riedy, NDUS Associate CIO and Director of SITS
October 9, 2012

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Rich Lehn, Assistant to the CIO, North Dakota University System. Also appearing with me today is Joshua Riedy, NDUS Associate CIO and recently appointed Director of the NDUS System Information Technology Services Division. Josh will talk more about this in a moment.

I am here today on behalf of the System to provide an update on current status of the NDUS IT Facilities being constructed on the UND campus. Josh will report on the status of IT initiatives the State Board of Higher Education has identified be undertaken to maximize results through efficiencies. Included will be information on organization restructuring.

NDUS IT Facilities Update

At your last meeting I mentioned bids for the IT Office building had come in approximately 10% higher than anticipated. This increase was due in large part for general contractor costs. Mechanical and electrical bid costs were in line with estimated costs.

After additional reviews of the projects, the State Board of Higher Education approved an increase in the construction budget from \$15,726,023 to \$16,848,523. As you are aware, legislative approval for the IT facilities was a \$12.5M appropriation plus authorization of an additional \$5M from identified savings found through IT efficiencies for a total authorization of \$17.5M.

At this time, both the IT Office building and the remodeling of existing warehouse space for the data center are in the early phase of construction. Footings for the office building are being pouring with approximately half completed and the remainder to be completed later this week. Foundation walls will follow and steel work is scheduled to begin in early November through December. Installation of geothermal wells is scheduled to begin the week of October 15th.

Renovation of the warehouse space that will become the new data center is progressing nicely. Demolition of the space has been completed and new construction within the site is underway. Exterior work to level out the area where equipment such as the generator, air cooling equipment and associated equipment that will sit outside has been completed. Footings and foundation walls for the unloading dock are poured. Interior walls to separate out spaces for the different sections (mechanical, UPS power, battery room, network operations, staging area and the raised floor machine room) are being built.

Construction on both facilities is expected to be complete by August of 2013 and we will begin moving in shortly after construction has been completed.

This concludes my update on the buildings and I'll take any questions you may have of me before I turn the status of SBHE IT initiatives update over to Josh.

SBHE IT Initiatives – “Maximizing Results Through Efficiencies”

As was mentioned at the last meeting, the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE) identified several IT initiatives that working in consultation with the campuses, the Chancellor will pursue a strategy to implement System-wide services that are cost-effective, easily integrated and consistently improving.

An action plan for each initiative has or is being developed with a recommendation on direction to be taken. While Chancellor Goetz had approved some of the initiative action plans, those remaining have been delayed to give Chancellor Shirvani time for attending to other priorities and also time to review the remaining initiatives.

Lecture Capture and Content Management

An action plan for the first initiative, Lecture Capture, was presented to the Oversight Committee on March 30th for their review and recommendation. The Oversight Committee approved the action plan and forwarded it to the Board. Board approval was granted on April 12. The approved Lecture Capture product is Tegrity and this product had been implemented across all NDUS institutions in time for the Fall semester.

The lecture capture system includes common software, hosting, and content delivery. It is an online technology that can readily and easily record video, audio and content that provides a vast new opportunity for teaching and learning across the System.

Faculty are able to incorporate recorded tutorials or lab assignments into their curriculum. They can also choose to record their daily classroom lecture. In turn, students have the ability to watch the recordings at any time on almost any PC or mobile device.

Learning Management System (LMS)

On April 30, background information was presented on learning management systems used within the NDUS. An action plan is being developed with a final recommendation to be made in November. This will allow faculty time for input and discussion on future directions.

Document Imaging Scanning

A document imaging scanning initiative had its action plan recommendation approved by the State Board of Higher Education on June 14th and planning continues with the intent that this will be hosted at the UND/NDUS data center for all NDUS institutions.

The document imaging scanning system includes common software and hosting. Most institutions use document-scanning software for some current business functions, such as invoice processing, contract management, electronic personnel files and student records. Since ImageNow was being used already across many of the campuses it was a logical choice to implement ImageNow as the solution and leverage the buying power of all NDUS institutions. Improving efficiencies and being able to provide a common administrative approach were priority considerations when making the selection of vendor product.

Integrated Approach to Delivering IT Services

System Information Technology Services (SITS) is the central organization overseeing information technology infrastructure for the North Dakota University System. It is this

infrastructure that enables the delivery of vital services to North Dakota citizens, students, faculty and staff. SITS strives to streamline and reform IT operations system-wide in order to increase efficiencies, improve services, and keep pace with modern technology.

Effective July 1, the North Dakota University System (NDUS), System Information Technology Services (SITS) and University of North Dakota (UND) Chief Information Officer (CIO) units were merged. The new organization is led by Randall Thursby (NDUS CIO). In addition to my duties as the University of North Dakota Chief Information Officer, I am now responsible for operational oversight of the NDUS System Information Technology Services Division.

Other Initiatives

- Unified Communications System
- HR Electronic Workflow

This concludes my testimony. Thank you and I will answer any questions.