

February 28, 2022

DEANS  
SENATE CHAIR  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN  
VICE CHANCELLORS  
VICE PROVOSTS

Dear Colleagues:

Subject: Common Data Platform

At a January 2022 Cabinet meeting we described a new campus priority to replace the mechanisms and processes through which data flows between campus systems and is made available for reporting, analysis and sharing. The current enterprise data warehouse and overall management and stewardship of data requires modernizing to meet the demands of our growing and evolving campus and take advantage of new advancements in technology.

In keeping with all four of the Chancellor's stated campus goals, particularly *improving efficiency, effectiveness and resiliency*, Budget Analysis and Planning in partnership with Information Technology Services has embarked on a transformational initiative to build a Common Data Platform. This is a critical campus priority that has the support of the Chancellor and Campus Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor.

The objectives of this initiative are to:

- Centralize and secure enterprise data through automated pipelines at near real time
- Develop an enterprise data model, including translation of common elements across systems
- Develop and implement a campus data governance program
- Improve the information experience for decision makers, analysts and analytics engineers

We envision a future state that will provide an improved customer experience and empower a data culture with secured curated governed data. This future state will result in better data services that include faster data ingestion and sharing, robust data modeling and analytics, and improved and efficient operations and user services.

A transformation initiative of this size and nature will take multiple years to fully complete. We are embarking on the assessment and planning phase with our focus to deliver a first iteration of a core usable data structure as quickly as possible (preferably within 12-18 months), while paying attention to quality to limit future rework. Determining the actual time frame and scope for that first iteration will be an outcome of the assessment and planning phase. We are aware there are multiple current and proposed system implementations, data integrations and reporting needs that will depend on the rapid progress and success of the Common Data Platform deployment in order for their projects to proceed.

Critically important to the success of this initiative, and to ensure the fastest results possible and minimize downstream impact, will be the participation of key subject matter experts and stakeholder engagement from across the campus. Our Program Managers Todd Graham, Director of Data Management and Laurie Eppler, Portfolio Manager, Business Enterprise Systems will be reaching out to your units over the next few weeks and months to provide an overview of the initiative, gather your input during the assessment and planning phase, and answer initial questions. This will also be an opportunity to seek out employees with in-depth knowledge of current enterprise systems and business processes to participate in this multi-year, transformative initiative.

As was discussed in the January 2022 Cabinet meeting by the Chancellor and EVC, this work is critical to improving the efficiency and resiliency of our campus business processes. It is also necessary to meet the information demands of our campus and to empower the organization to make the best decisions possible.

Prioritizing this work requires your support, by allowing and encouraging your staff to engage and participate in this critical initiative. It is their very expertise which makes their participation and knowledge sharing important to successful progress and completion of this effort. We understand these staff are experts with significant responsibilities and their participation may result in workload constraints within your division. To ease the burden of competing responsibilities, in light of the speed at which this initiative will need to move forward, Budget Analysis and Planning is prepared to offer funds from its own operating budget to allow for backfill of staff or other support, if it is needed. The level of funding will be determined on a case by case basis once the necessary effort is determined and fully understood through the assessment and planning activities over the next few months.

We appreciate your support for this critical initiative and will keep you updated on the initiative as it moves through the various stages.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Register  
Associate Vice Chancellor  
Budget Analysis and Planning



Byron Walker  
Interim Vice Chancellor  
Information and Technology Services

cc: Assistant Deans  
Managers/Chief of Staff  
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