

# Catawba College

## Information Technology (IT) Update

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### 1) **Banner Implementation**

*Stabilization Phase on a Brand New System:* As of the end of May 2012, the business and academic areas will have finished a full academic year using Banner. Deliverables by IT during this time period include:

- a. Online grade entry and viewing, including early grading for graduating seniors
- b. End-of-term processing (grades, GPA, honors, probation)
- c. Graduation processing
- d. Official transcripts
- e. Online Course Evaluations
- f. Notification to advisors and instructors regarding student schedule changes
- g. Student "change of major" notifications
- h. Additional business and academic reports, especially for Admissions, Development, Finance, Institutional Research.
- i. End-of-fiscal-year processing
- j. CatLink and email announcements to targeted populations based on data in Banner
- k. Conversion of day program recruiting data from R+ to Banner
- l. Software upgrades: installed latest versions of Banner 8 modules and upgraded Oracle database and application server from 10g to 11g
- m. Lots of end-user support

*National Recognition:* Two projects completed as part of the Banner Implementation were recognized as "Models of Efficiency" in the April issue of University Business magazine.

- a. Online Registration and Advising System
- b. Online Work-Study Tracking System

For the full story, see

<http://www.catawba.edu/news/archive/2012/04/03/efficiencymodel.aspx>.

*Banner Work in Progress for FY12-13:*

- a. Automating loads of Admissions data files into Banner (test scores, search tapes from various agencies)
- b. An online application for day admissions that feeds directly into Banner
- c. Open up CatLink portal to prospective students with content developed specifically for this population
- d. Implementing Banner Relationship Management for Day Program Admissions – will replace R+ and TargetX for communicating with prospective students and managing the relationship
- e. Data Standards documentation and associated data integrity scripts
- f. Additional reports/scripts/interfaces for all business areas
- g. Implement a new version of the Blackboard Transaction System that powers the campus Catawba ONE card and interface the new system with Banner
- h. Begin implementing Banner Recruiting & Admissions Performance for data analytics that increase understanding, inform decision-making, measure performance against goals and help align resources to goals

*Banner Budget Information:*

The project was approved with a \$3.8 million budget in late 2007. Implementation began in June 2009 and all business areas were live with Banner by June 2011. Expenses to go-live were \$2.8 million, with \$1.8 million funded by restricted gifts and grants and \$1 million funded by the College's unrestricted budget.

Of the remaining \$1 million project budget, \$450K was spent in FY11-12, \$225K less than budgeted. For FY12-13, \$350K has been requested for the Banner implementation activities noted above.

**2) Classroom Technology Improvements**

In FY11-12, audio/visual/computer presentation technology was added to 5 classrooms (Hedrick 203, 204, 218, 318 and Science 200) . In FY12-13, this technology will also be added to Ketner 314/315. The total project cost is \$47,550 and is funded by gifts given for this purpose.

### **3) New Laptops for All Employees**

In April, the College took delivery of 221 Windows7 ThinkPads and 7 Lion OS MacBooks to replace 5-6 year-old employee laptops and desktops. Each laptop is equipped with a fast processor, solid-state hard-drive, 8GB of RAM, 3-year warranty, and includes a docking station and new full-size keyboard and monitor in the employee's office. It took IT staff several weeks to build and test a software image for each of the 3 hardware platforms being deployed. Deployment began in early May and is expected to continue through the summer and into August. Cost of the project: \$421K funded by a 3-year operating lease.

### **4) Upgrade Desktops in Academic Labs, Classrooms, and Library Information Commons**

During summer 2012, IT staff will add a solid state drive and 4GB of RAM to 230 desktop computers in academic computer labs, classrooms, and the library information commons. These desktops will also be upgraded from Windows XP to Windows 7 and loaded with the latest versions of Office and Adobe and other standard load software products. Another 24 desktops in offices will also be upgraded. Total cost of this project is \$55,442 and will be funded from accumulated restricted giving designated for technology improvements.

### **5) Network Infrastructure Upgrades**

Goals of this project are:

- wireless improvements (support for faster 802.11n standard, denser coverage, easier management and troubleshooting)
- better/easier network access control for student computers and computing devices (such as smartphones, tablets, games)
- replacing near-obsolete (8-9 year old) network switches
- creating on-campus secondary data center for business continuity and disaster recovery and to relieve strains on primary data center
- increased ability to keep network and systems operational during scheduled and unscheduled downtime
- increasing the performance of the network, application servers, and systems that are the foundation for all IT-enabled innovations and improvements

Total cost of needed upgrades is \$1.39 million. The College currently has \$500K in gift money designated for this purpose. Need to identify an additional \$880K in funding or look at doing an operating lease to spread the cost of the project over 5 years.

These are the various pieces of the project and their costs:

- a. Fiber upgrades - This part of the project got high priority due to a break in the 15 year-old fiber to the Student Center that could not be repaired. New fiber was run, including additional multi-mode and single-mode (i.e. extra fast but more expensive) fiber to support 10GB transmission speeds. \$31K from FY11-12 IT budget.
- b. Increase campus internet bandwidth –planning to go from 50MB (with 10 MB internet2) to 250MB (with 50MB internet2) by August 2012 via new Fibrant connection; plan to negotiate to a total of 400MB when TimeWarner Telecomm contract expires in October/November; increasing internet budget by \$13K per year to accommodate this level of internet service increase; special line for data replication to MCNC in Raleigh has already been increased from 40MB to 200MB at no additional cost;
- c. Increase server capacities and performance – complete Summer 2012; \$55K;
- d. Establish business continuity data center – complete Summer 2012; \$155K;
- e. Replace network core routers - complete Summer 2012; \$200K;
- f. Implement new network access control system – complete Summer 2012; \$40K;
- g. Replace wireless network infrastructure – will plan to spend \$25K Summer 2012 based on current funding; need \$305K in additional funding;
- h. Replace wired network infrastructure – will plan to spend \$25K Summer 2012 based on current funding; need \$575K in additional funding;

## 6) **Digital Signage**

IT is working with Chartwells and the Science department to pilot digital signage on campus. Digital signage is the 21<sup>st</sup> century answer to the old-fashioned bulletin board and is used to communicate multi-media information, as well as marketing messages, to the campus community and campus guests. Chartwells is funding multiple signs for the remodeled dining area, and a restricted gift for the Sciences is funding a sign for the main floor of the Shuford Science building. Total costs for this project are yet to be determined.

## 7) **Automated Door Access**

IT is working with the Facilities department to add automated handicap access and ONE card door access to the handicap-accessible doors of 5 campus buildings – Ketner, Student Center, Center for the Environment, Shuford Science, Library. The College has obtained \$10,815 in grant money to help fund this project. Total costs for this project are yet to be determined.

## 8) **IT Budget Request for FY12-13**

The IT operating budget request for FY12-13 is \$2,183,983. This is a decrease of \$121,869, or about 5.4%, from the FY11-12 budget. This budget number includes \$350K for the Banner project and \$139K for employee laptop lease payments.

An additional \$568K in IT capital projects will be completed using restricted gift/grant money, including classroom technology upgrades, upgrades of desktops in labs and classrooms, network infrastructure upgrades, and automated door access.