The Right Recipe for Curriculum Management

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With spring just around the corner, it's time to begin planning and preparing for one of my favorite traditions, family reunions.

It's time to start discussing menus, coordinating activities, confirming dates, and sending information out to everyone about the event.

As I begin thinking about what I'm going to prepare, which is the same dish every year with some tweaks here and there, I find myself wishing I made notes as to what I had changed each year and whether or not the change was a success. Or even better, a quick map showing if I changed something in the dish, who might have been affected by way of allergies, preferences, etc.

I also wish I had a way to know where we are in the communication process. Does the finicky aunt approve of this years location and date? Has grandma signed off on the menu? Are there any new allergies? Did everyone request their time off from work? If only there was a software that could help manage all of these moving parts.

Colleges and universities are a lot like family. Managing curricula, like reunions, can be a challenging task to manage and most ERP systems do not handle the job effectively. First, when a new course is entered into an ERP system for review and that course is not approved, many times there is not an easy way to get that course deleted from the system without asking technology personnel to get involved. Once deleted, you lose your history of the course proposal and the comments and decisions made throughout the review process.

Second, when it is comes time to review the curriculum, there isn't an easy way to review what courses are used throughout the institution as prerequisites, corequisites, or even how they might be used at other campuses in your university or college system. And, when changes are made to a degree or certificate program, wouldn't it be nice to easily see what changes have occurred in other terms by having those changes highlighted and on one screen?

Lastly, when it's time to review and renew your curricula by adding new courses, degrees, and/or certificate programs, wouldn't it be great to communicate and review the items electronically amongst the multiple committees, deans, chairs, and upper administration? Or even better, track all the actions required for approval with just a few clicks on a keyboard.

Here's the great news…it does exists! The first module of Kuali Student, called Curriculum Management, offers this and so much more. You can take a new or proposed program and/or course and move it through a series of reviews and approvals until it is finalized and becomes part of a university's or college's course catalog.

With Kuali Student, you can manage courses and programs easily and effectively, through the use of dependency matrices, version queries, and easy searches that even allow queries into course descriptions. As courses and programs are created and reviewed, workflows allow for easier monitoring of the entire process including approvals, comments, and rejections. And the best part is that Kuali Student can be implemented to augment and integrate with your institution's current ERP.

Now, colleges and universities can remove much of the complexity involved in managing curricula and programs. They can take a very manual, cumbersome, and in many cases a paper-based process, and move to an electronic system allowing for easy communication, monitoring, and nightly backups preventing loss of data and time.

If you are ready to learn more about Kuali Student or would like to see it in action, please contact us. Now, if only managing family and upcoming reunions could be made easier with software!