

Vivantech's New Direction

Randy Ozden / 07.2015 / News

SAN DIEGO, CA — July 6, 2015 — For over seven years, we at Vivantech proudly participated as an active Kuali Commercial Affiliate (KCA) member of the Kuali community on many levels, including membership on the Kuali Foundation board. However, over the course of the last year the decision made by the Kuali Foundation to create the for-profit commercial company KualiCo has caused us to question how this advances the vision that gave rise to Kuali and its goal of providing free and open access to its community-developed products. We continued to maintain professional relations with the Foundation during the transition, but as time progressed, we witnessed how the commercialization of the Kuali Foundation negatively impacted the essence and ethos of Kuali. Therefore, Vivantech's board of directors decided not to renew our membership as a KCA. We sent a letter to the Kuali Foundation notifying them of this decision on June 29th, 2015.

The drastic changes to the Kuali community at large have left many uncertain as to Kuali's future. I assure you though no longer a Kuali Commercial Affiliate, we will continue to support institutions that desire to take advantage of Kuali software as the marketplace evolves. Not only are we ready and willing to support current Kuali clients, we are also eager to support the new institutions that have embraced and endorsed our improved Kuali products and services, such as Ekualiti.

The commercialization was not in the best interest of the Kuali community, including current users of the products as well as potential users. A clear delineation between the Foundation and the new commercial entity, KualiCo, does not exist. In fact, the foundation is a major investor in KualiCo, using dues paid by Kuali members to fund the commercial start-up. Since its inception, Kuali products have intentionally been open source and available to all, including non-paying members, without charge. However, during the past year many changes have been made to the development procedures that direct it down a different path. Were Kuali products truly open source, changes would be made in the open for all to follow. Several institutions on the collaboration lists have pointed out with disappointment that changes now take place in a proprietary fashion. This is not activity that we can support, and is in opposition of our mission to provide service excellence to the higher education and research community.

This change will have no negative effect on the level of dedicated service that we provide to institutions. Vivantech has become a trusted partner for Kuali implementation and support for dozens of institutions, both on-premise and through our Ekualiti SaaS offerings. Our recent announcements of new clients are a testament to this. We've proudly served higher education and research institutions for a good portion of our 12-year history. We will continue to be a leading implementer and innovator with quality state-of-the-art services, including open source and commercial ERP software services, and cloud-hosted SaaS and systems integration.

– Randy Ozden