

## January '09 - Message from Martha

### **A MESSAGE FROM MARTHA GARLAND, VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OFFICE OF ENROLLMENT SERVICES AND UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION, AND SIS PROJECT SPONSOR**



Martha Garland

#### **Features of the new Student Information System (SIS)**

2009 promises to be a very productive year for the university and for the SIS Project as we work to achieve our goal - to establish and fully implement an integrated and flexible data system for student information.

As we enter the final stretch of the project, many of you are enrolled to attend training in the new system. Others, who will need mainly to view students' information, will soon be invited to training that offers a broader view of the system. Regardless of your level of access or how you will use the system, you will learn to work within an integrated system that provides access to all student-related information.

As you begin to train and practice in the new system, you will find that many of its features differ considerably from those of the systems you have been using:

- SIS is a web-based system and can be accessed from any web browser on campus or off campus. Our current (legacy) data systems (MARX, BARS, SAM, and PRODCICS) are housed in separate mainframes, and while they can call up information a bit faster, they do not provide integrated student information.
- In addition to integrating the current student systems, the SIS is also integrated into the existing HR system. This allows information about all people associated with the university, regardless of whether they are students or employees, to reside in a single system. It also allows for streamlining processes that require information about people who are both students and employees, such as Federal Work Study.
- The SIS will store far more information than any of the legacy systems it replaces. Although a single screen in one of the legacy systems may include more information than a page in the SIS, navigation from page to page is facilitated by the tab at the top of each page, and many pages include links to more detailed information.
- The SIS is a more flexible system and can easily manage information from both quarter and semester calendars. Currently, law classes are offered on a semester term, while all other OSU classes are offered on a quarter term. If the university decides to convert to semesters, the SIS could accommodate the change.
- The SIS does not depend on SSNs as identifiers, and the SSN is no longer the primary identifier for students.
- The new system will provide enhanced functionality that was not available in the various, separate legacy systems.

- Graduate Fee Authorizations for teaching assistants will be processed through HR, streamlining the current, complex process.
- Transfer credit, when posted in the SIS, will include both the source (transfer institution) and target (OSU) information.
- Beginning in April, students will be able to select or decline student health insurance independently of registration for classes. Staff taking classes will no longer have to opt out of student health insurance, since the SIS will handle this automatically.

The SIS also provides separate centers where students (Student Center), staff (Student Services Center) and faculty (Faculty Center) can access links to various business and academic functions specific to their needs. A more detailed explanation of these centers is featured below.

For many of us, these next few months will be an exciting and challenging time. Many of you will need to learn to operate effectively in a new system, parts of which may not always work as you expect. We will all need to work together to ensure that the new system functions as it should, and your input, diligence, and patience will help make that happen.

Happy 2009 to all!