**IT Steering Committee**

**12/12/17**

**Update on PeopleSoft 9.2, REX-Finance Reporting and Other Business Process Improvements (BPIs)**

* Presented by **Ben Lowenthal**, Associate VP, Financial Services and **Sasha Hudson**, Assistant VP & Controller
* BPIs:
  + PageUp is currently live and has increased the number of applicants for open positions.
  + E-Travel upgrade went live in November and has received good reports so far. (Help is available on the electronic form itself, within TAP – Toolkit for Administrative Professionals, and from Peggy Ingle.)
* REX Reporting will have additions in several areas in early 2018. (REX Finance training is offered monthly. New reports will be highlighted in these trainings.)
* The go-live date for PS 9.2 (Finance only, not HR) is March 21, 2018.
  + The environment will look completely different and will allow for electronic approval processes for requisitions and payment requests.
  + There will be lots of training before the go-live date: in-person, videos, documentation, TAP, and brown bag lunches.
  + AT go-live there will be lab-based drop-in support.

**Cybersecurity Discussion**

* Presented by Mark Cather, Chief Information Security Officer
* Mark was recently required to attend a meeting called by a representative of the US Department of Education. The meeting was to announce a new set of rules requiring higher education institutions to follow the same (very complex) financial privacy rules as banks, rather than the State of Maryland rules we had been following.
* It will be overwhelming for institutions to comply with these rules and the penalties for non-compliance are steep (could lose Title IV funding).
* USM has escalated the issue to the AG’s office and EDUCAUSE has also gotten involved to ask the Dept. of Ed. what they are doing and why they are doing it.
* While this is being explored further, UMBC will be compliant. (We don’t want to end up as the example of what happens when the rules are not followed.)

**Update on Student Persistence Initiative**

* Presented by Robert Carpenter, Associate Provost
* This initiative aligns with both the UMBC Strategic Plan and the Middle States Accreditation Self-Study. It uses data analytics to increase the likelihood that “at risk” students will continue from one term to the next, all the way to graduation.
* The three-year plan follows this basic format:
  + Last Year: Evaluate, acquire, and implement vendor platforms that will supply data analytics.
  + This Year: Increase understanding of how to use the tools and being pilot programs
  + Next Year: Asses pilots and either continue and scale, or discontinue.
* Pilot Example 1: Data show that students who register early tend to persist and those who register late tend not to persist. Program sends targeted emails to encourage students to register within the window of time that indicates the greatest likelihood of persistence.
* Pilot Example 2: Data show that students who use the math lab are more likely to pass a fundamental math class. Program sends targeted emails to encourage use of math lab (and congratulatory emails when they have used the lab).

Feel free to send questions my way.

Sharon Paul

spaul@umbc.edu