

Business Computing Services (BCS) plans for future application enhancements

The A&M System Office's Business Computing Services (BCS) department continues its planned development of administrative computing applications to enhance the employees' ability to access information to better perform their job duties and responsibilities. Several major initiatives are underway and more are planned. The following represents major initiatives currently in process or planned in the foreseeable short term future:

SciQuest **Purchasing** application – a new third party software application is being implemented and interfaced with FAMIS to streamline and simplify the purchasing experience. The application has been branded "AggieBuy" for this campus. This is a robust web application that will allow individuals making purchases within departments to personalize their view of the marketplace, while at the same time having a greater exposure to product offerings with pre-negotiated or favorable pricing offered to the A&M community. Preliminary testing will start in the winter with a planned rollout to pilot departments in the late spring.

Following the implementation of AggieBuy, the A&M System most likely will be using the same business model and will start the implementation of a **Travel** and Entertainment System. There has been a growing need to have a comprehensive automated solution to assist in the arrangement and reporting of business travel for A&M System faculty and staff. Several third party vendors have developed robust solutions which include many business partners for air travel, car rental and hotel accommodations. It is anticipated that these business relationships would reduce overall expenses while the application would greatly facilitate the scheduling, tracking and processing of business travel expenses. An RFP is being prepared to solicit bids for a suitable product to implement within our business environment.

Employee **Training** is an area that has received considerable attention over the last few years. The Texas Legislature and the A&M System have stressed mandatory training in many areas. As a result, the requirement for a more comprehensive training solution for members of the A&M System has been highlighted. While the TrainTraq application has met its original reporting design requirements, the new requirements demonstrate how much the application needs to be enhanced. As a result, at least a two phased process is underway to meet the immediate needs in this area. The first phase will add employee/supervisor relationships, establish role-based security, allow access to the application directly from Single Sign On (SSO), rework the training assignment process, improve reporting of training delinquencies, improve course integration and content development, improve the quiz function, improve the process to accept training from external interfaces, and many other smaller items.

As a follow on to the re-write of the Annual Enrollment process, the **New Employee Enrollment System** (NEES) is being rewritten as well. The user interface is being entirely redesigned to provide a new and simplified experience from which new A&M System employees can receive self-service selection of their major insurance benefits. This new version of the existing application is planned for summer 2009.