



## *CAMPUS MANAGEMENT TEAM RECOMMENDATION*

**Process:** Reporting Strategy for CM

**Description of Recommendation:**

Ultimately, the reporting solution for CM will be SAP's Business Warehouse. However, until that is available, an interim solution has been developed by the CM Reporting Team.

Based upon an analysis of current reports and available technology, the following strategy is recommended.

1. For real-time reporting of CM data, tools available within SAP will be utilized. Careful analysis will be done to ensure that the correct tool is chosen to maximize efficiency, reusability and accessibility.
2. Historical data and data that must be "frozen" will be housed in an Oracle database. Tools, including WebFOCUS, will be available for accessing this data.
3. Current FOCUS databases will be enhanced to accommodate more reporting needs, and a full conversion to WebFOCUS will be undertaken.

**Underlying Opportunities:**

This recommendation provides a solution for the diverse reporting requirements in CM for both technical and non-technical constituents. Through the careful identification of logical data structures, reporting can be streamlined and reduced. Report data can be presented in a variety of formats, particularly Excel and Word, for greater ease of use. The existing catalog of FOCUS reports can be transported seamlessly into WebFOCUS, and the campus can be trained on this web-based tool, minimizing their need to learn complicated data structures or query tools.

**Pros Supporting the Recommendation:**

1. End users will be empowered with the tools needed to generate their own reports in the format they desire. This provides them more convenient access to and manipulation of their data, while allowing technical staff to concentrate on issues other than routine reporting.
2. The use of SAP tools such as logical databases, selection methods and infosets will enable numerous reports to be generated more easily from one data source. This will greatly reduce the programming requirements.

3. This strategy provides the needed flexibility during the implementation phase when some data will be in CM and some in SIS. By combining the data from diverse sources into a database, the end user is sheltered from this technical disconnect and will continue to use familiar techniques for reporting.
4. The existing investment in FOCUS technology, not only in the software and hardware, but – more importantly -- in the large catalog of existing reports and the knowledge base, will be leveraged.
5. Converting historical data from tape to an Oracle database will provide easier and wider accessibility to this data.

**Cons Against the Recommendation:**

1. There is a cost for the adapter which provides WebFOCUS access to Oracle data. The choice among the following purchase and lease options is dependent upon the anticipated conversion to SAP's Business Warehouse.  
One-year lease: \$23,980                      One-year purchase: \$41,692  
Two-year lease: \$45,460                      Two-year purchase: \$46,804
2. A significant investment in terms of staffing will need to be devoted to developing the logical and physical databases, populating the data, and learning the reporting tools for data selection, retrieval and presentation.

**Issues, Concerns, or Currently Unresolved Aspects of the Recommendation:**

A more formalized approach to database administration, including designated staffing, needs to be developed to provide direction and support for the design, population and operation of the Oracle databases.

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**Submitted by:**

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