

Data & Reporting Team (DART) Minutes, 03-07-19

BL 339

Minutes from last meeting: Previously approved via SharePoint

IT Update: Jeff Wall, Director, Data Services, IT

Jeff provided an update on recent happenings within IT including reorganization, reporting data architecture, Power BI support initiative, etc.

Data Services Org Chart

- Jeff went over the Data Services organizational chart (attached: IT Data Services) and said that some things were still fluid. IT DS is system-wide, and includes HSC and Tulsa campuses. Some things may be more concrete by the April DART meeting. The subteams within Data Services are:
 - DBA—Lead: Josh Wilson; responsible for Oracle across all campuses including HSC
 - Warehousing—Lead: Cliff Mack (HSC DBA)
 - Integration and Interfaces—Lead: Eric Blazek; using primarily Dell Boomi
 - BI Reporting, Analytics, Data Visualization—Lead: Melissa Nestor; visualizations and dashboard using Power BI or Tableau (especially for one-off requests)
 - Cataloging & Metadata—Lead: Matt Wesley; catalog data/metadata for OU data at large; data governance interaction; provide a sanity check for data governance
 - Analysis—(NOTE: OBA moved under IT Data Services after the DART meeting)—Lead: Glenn Hansen; perform in-depth analysis for customers

Priorities

- Priorities include ERP consolidation (Compass), which will consolidate HR/FIN for all campuses. An RFI is early in the process. Once an RFP is complete, the project could run as long as 24 months. IT DS will create analytics/dashboards FIN/HR data and for some student data. Forcing Norman and HSC HR data into an existing PeopleSoft instance is unlikely. It's probably preferable to start with a clean slate with a new PeopleSoft instance where all HR data is integrated. This could be on-premise or a hybrid on-prem/cloud approach. A solution outside of PeopleSoft may still be possible since PeopleSoft is no longer being actively supported by Oracle and OU obtains necessary updates through a third-party, Rimini Street. Jeff said there are ongoing negotiations with Rimini Street over future pricing.

Power BI

- IT does not 'own' Power BI for campus but will use it for certain projects.

- Power BI is used on both Norman and HSC campuses, although Norman uses cloud offerings via Power BI Gateway while HSC has a server on-premise.
- Power BI does not use database security when connected to Oracle, which presents security challenges.
- OU is likely to move to cloud sometime in the future and IT is working on a secure way to share data.

Other

- IT operations and security are being consolidated between campuses, and some units are being co-located.
- Some units will not be consolidated due to funding from grants or federal sources (ex. PACS)
- The Microsoft Power BI On-Premise Server Solution is not optimum long-term.
- A Snowflake POC was completed last year; the viability of cloud warehousing was confirmed, but many questions remain prior to OU considering that route.
- The IT Project Governance Board (PGB), which had helped prioritize IT projects, is defunct. With no prioritization mechanism currently in place, projects are being handled on a first-come, first-serve basis. IT is reviewing current integration requests and may set priorities in the absence of governance, but governance is preferred. A new IT governance group is currently being formed, stay tuned.
- There is talk of a campus-wide (to include all three campuses) data governance board.
- IT will continue using Informatica for on-premise data movement and warehouse ETL, per Cliff Mack, the Warehouse Lead.

Academic Technology Expo 2019 Recap & ATE 2020

- ATE 2019 was a success, and the number of Administrative Staff Track offerings doubled to ten, with some DART members presenting sessions (Thank you!). Planning is underway for ATE 2020, which will include the HSC and Tulsa campuses. Representatives from those campuses will serve on the ATE Planning Committee to help foster participation and ensure ATE 2020 offers value to all campuses.

DART Subteam Updates

- **Community Support** (David Wilkins) This group is planning a Power BI User Group meeting after Spring Break. Over 20 people have expressed interest and invitations will be sent to those at HSC and Tulsa. The first user group meeting will help determine future desired support needs for this group. (Update: Power BI User Group meeting scheduled for 4/24/19 at 3:00 pm. For more info, contact David Wilkins.)
- **Data Dictionary** (David Wilkins) Additional entries were made to the Data Dictionary web app this month for nine objects. This team is finishing a substantial block of entries to be placed in the Data Dictionary web app this spring.

- **Data Review** (Patti Otto) This group has been dormant due to changes in governance structure.
- **Data Quality & Training** (David Wilkins) This group is on hold, but some data quality issues are being addressed through the HR Data group (Military Status, Citizenship Status, Non-binary gender, etc.).
- **Policy & Recommendations** (David Wilkins) This group has been on hold with the advent of the N-DGC and is currently uncertain of future activities pending direction of N-DGC.
- **Reporting Tool Training** (Susie Irwin) Conducted recent Cognos Office Hours (with more this semester) and additional training sessions have been scheduled: Cognos Analytics Report Writing Workshop for Thursday, 3/14, 1-4PM, and Tuesday, 4/9, from 9:30-noon.

Other issues/upcoming activities None were mentioned.

Next meeting: April 25th, 8:30-10:00, BL 339

Special Guest: April Lee, Director for Governance, Risk, and Compliance, OU IT (all campuses)

IT Data Services

- System-Wide
- Jeff Wall (Norman IT) leads
- Supporting data initiatives across all missions

