Curriculum Management Task Force Recommendation
to the Academic Leadership Council
October 7, 2024

Recommendation

After comparing potential vendor products to CARMIn, APPEAR and IU's current course catalog and bulletin, a majority of the task force agreed that IU should pursue an RFP for a comprehensive vended solution that will allow the entire academic process from idea to implementation to take place in one system.

Task Force Findings

Selected Recommendation – Pursue an RFP for a comprehensive vendor solution

Members who recommended this path (13) cited system integration as the primary benefit. With three separate systems, it is currently difficult to track progress, consistency, and compliance. Integration with Stellic was another consideration. Curriculum management needs to work well with Stellic if IU wants to connect curriculum and courses to student success.

Some members specified that while they were open to pursuing an RFP, this did not mean they had yet decided that a vendor solution would be an improvement over IU's current systems. They were still open to exploring options and getting additional information. Caution against pursuing change for change's sake was a common theme in the task force discussion and is a worthwhile consideration in any solicitation review.

Potential Recommendation #1 - Pursue only a partial vendor solution

Members who do not think an entirely new system is needed agree that the bulletin and APPEAR should likely be replaced by a vendor in support of increased functionality and improved integration. But they do not agree that a vended solution is the right option for CARMIn and its functions. On the whole, CARMIn works well for IU and care should be taken to preserve its functions and benefits if a vended product is selected.

Potential Recommendation #2 – Pursue only in-house fixes

One member advised waiting until Stellic is fully implemented to pursue an RFP. There were also questions about the IU-led Bulletin Redesign project from a couple years including where that stands and if that would be a viable option to pursue if adequate resources were provided. The task force then discussed weighing the financial cost of maintaining/enhancing existing IU systems versus pursuing a vended solution. Members suggested any selection committee should do a cost/benefit analysis of each option (in-houses fixes vs. vended solution) to determine which would be in the best interest of those utilizing those systems.

Process

After receiving its charge in May 2024, the task force worked over the summer to build upon the work of the earlier Academic Approvals Matrix task force. They identified IU's needs for a course

catalog, bulletin, and curriculum review and approval. Among the needs identified were integration, sustainability, consistency, and improved routing and tracking with better logs, dashboards, reporting, and reminders.

The group invited three vendors to demo their products ([Coursedog](#), [Modern Campus](#), and [CourseLeaf](#)). Once all demos had been completed, the task force reviewed and made its final recommendation to proceed. Following the vendor presentations, a survey was sent to task force members to gather additional feedback and responses to the specific questions of whether to pursue a vended solution and, if so, whether a vended solution should address all curricular management components or just select functional components. Of 20 respondents, the majority (13) were in favor of a complete vended solution.

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