

Update: Kualu Student and UW Student Systems Modernization Strategy

The UW has been an active participant in developing student information system software through Kualu Student since 2008. Throughout this time, Kualu Student has been the UW's preferred solution for modernizing our aging student information systems (SIS).

In August 2014, the Kualu Foundation announced a major change in approach that presents new choices—and opportunities—for the UW. At the same time, new developments in the SIS marketplace offer expanded options for the UW to consider.

The following provides information on the changes and opportunities before us. Identifying a path forward will be a collaborative effort involving all key stakeholders.

The UW invested in Kualu Student to actively influence options

The UW joined the Kualu Student consortium in 2008 because none of the existing vendor products at the time were seen as a viable replacement for the UW's Student Database (SDB). Kualu Student represented an opportunity for the UW to actively influence the development of the new system and influence the options in the marketplace. The UW's participation in Kualu Student has been viewed as a success by the University community, benefiting the University in several ways, most notably through the implementations of MyPlan and Curriculum Management (still underway).

The Kualu Foundation undertakes a major shift in approach in 2014

To address growing concerns about the pace of adoption, the Kualu Foundation made a significant change in its community source development strategy in August 2014, launching a for-profit affiliate called KualuCo. The goal of KualuCo is to develop and offer cloud-based, software as a service (SaaS) products for higher education institutions. KualuCo chose the student information system as the first module it would build from the ground up, to take advantage of modern, cloud-based software architectures.

As a result, the development of Kualu Student moved to KualuCo, decreasing the need for community resources from the UW and other contributing institutions. In addition, the previous memorandum of understanding (MoU) between investing institutions and the Kualu Foundation was canceled. This change represents a significant transition from the community source development model that has characterized the UW's engagement with Kualu Student to date.

This shift, combined with other changes in the SIS vendor marketplace, prompted the UW to defer a decision about entering into a new MoU with KualuCo for Kualu Student development.

Opportunity for UW to focus on its own priorities

The shift of Kuali Student development to KualiCo, and corresponding reduction in reliance on UW resources, provided the UW with an opportunity to re-allocate staff to address pressing internal needs and to maximize the value of our Kuali investment to date through the following initiatives:

- **Developing new features in MyPlan to address student needs**, specifically building out UW Academic Explorer, which will allow students to more easily discover and explore the UW's numerous program offerings and identify their academic path.
- **Accelerating delivery of Curriculum Management** by expanding the team working on this project. Implementation of Curriculum Management will support online review and approval processes for courses and programs, improving transparency and efficiency.

New options in vendor marketplace provide more choices for UW

The vendor marketplace for student information system solutions has changed dramatically since 2008. When the UW originally invested in Kuali Student, the other marketplace solutions were relatively old and did not provide the significant improvements the UW was seeking. Today three vendors are actively building modern SaaS student information system solutions—Oracle, Workday and KualiCo. While all three will likely eventually meet the UW's needs, functional roadmaps, timelines, and costs are unclear. The UW will continue to carefully monitor all options in the coming year.

Deciding on a solution path will be a collaborative effort

Ultimately, the UW benefits from having a variety of choices available as we continue to evolve our strategy for replacing the UW's aging student information systems. Evaluating the options and recommending a replacement strategy will be a collaborative effort among central student service organizations, representatives from academic units, UW-IT, and the UW's IT Strategy Board. All key stakeholders will be closely involved in evaluating the options and developing a plan to move forward.