

September 26, 2007

MEMO

To: Business Practices Committee
Through: Lowell Catlett
From: Tim Nesbitt
Subject: Progress Related to May 2007 Committee Report

By way of this memo, allow me to update progress toward recommendations made by the Business Practices Committee. Recall in my June 5, 2007 report to you I addressed each recommendation/comment point by point. I am attaching my report to Dean Catlett dated December 7 and 2006 and June 5, 2007 for your record.

Each of the recommendations/comments and the status of the item are listed on the attached spreadsheet.

One goal set out by Dean Catlett has yet to be discussed. Dean Catlett had asked that the committee attempt to discover whether or not other colleges had experienced difficulties in establishing index numbers and processing paperwork.

Recently the Council on Research Centers invited all business managers from the academic colleges to come meet with them to discuss how wide spread current difficulties are. It was clear from that meeting (Dr. Daugherty was in attendance) that the problems are campus wide. Each research center mentioned specifically that it was taking extremely long periods of time to get restricted grant and contract index numbers established.

Further it was discovered in the meeting there were other difficulties related to timeliness of processing paperwork. Jennifer Taylor was in attendance, noted that the Banner module dealing with Grants and Contracts was the weakest module implementation so far. Jennifer discussed the possibility of abandoning the Banner module for grants and contracts and designing a customized system for NMSU. The other condition revealed by Jennifer was a review of the manner in which the chart of accounts had been defined within Banner. Jennifer reported there were complexities created as a result of some design decisions that could be corrected now. There is an on-going review of the chart of accounts in an attempt to streamline accounting.