

From: Jeff Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2003 4:42 PM
To: Faculty and Staff
Subject: Meetings On Upcoming UMass Web Portal Initiative

The University of Massachusetts System has launched a Web Portal Strategy initiative with the objective of identifying the possibilities for supporting a portal environment across the system. Like other universities, UMass faces the challenge of connecting a broad range of users with a variety of independent systems. Online portals provide a unified and personalized access to systems and information to the many different constituent groups across our University. Most of our students now come to the University with baseline expectations for customized and adaptive web access for all information they use in their day to day life.

To bring us current, President Jack Wilson and University CIO Council has taken the initiative to sponsor this important engagement as the first step towards identifying a "Portal Strategy" and "Roadmap" for the UMass System. The engagement will focus on the needs of the University's five campuses, UMass Online, and the President's Office. The deliverable from this first phase of work will be the identification of a "straw man" proposal for a portal framework at the University.

The University has contracted with NEC/Netio Partners to lead this study. The initiative is being led at the University level by a core team comprised of members from each of the campuses, UMassOnline, and President's Office. Richard Conley from Information Technology will be coordinating Lowell campus involvement and can be contacted at richard_conley@uml.edu or via phone at x4794.

During the first week of December the Lowell campus will be participating in the first phase of the Portal Strategy Development initiative. The objectives for this "discovery phase" are as follows:

- gather information on the current state of portal use across the University (inventory current sites and tools.) Conduct "Round Table"
- discussions for University constituent groups (Students, Faculty & Research, Administration & Staff, Alumni & Institutional Advancement, and Admissions & Recruiting)
- share examples of portal use in higher education
- document the business drivers and portal vision expressed by campus constituents.
- identify near term goals for portals at the University

The approach will include documenting current strategies, objectives, and initiatives relevant to portal use at UMass. The engagement will examine current applications from both functional and technical perspectives, and will assemble an inventory of the University assets/tools available in today's environment.

On December 2nd there will be two open "education sessions" conducted on campus for interested faculty and staff to learn more about portals and their potential use in higher education. Additionally, there will be a series of "constituent sessions" providing a forum for representatives of key University populations to share their vision and expectations for a portal environment at UMass. These activities will provide the baseline understanding from which the University can begin to identify the "next steps" for a portal environment.

As you can appreciate, the scheduling of the proposed sessions at the campus level poses a huge logistical challenge. We are committed to ensuring the greatest levels of inclusion for constituent groups as we begin to understand the portal requirements across the University. The schedule and identified participants for the Lowell campus are listed below:

Portal Primer and Best Practices Sessions

Tuesday, December 2

9:30 - 11:00

UML South – O'Leary 222

General invitation to all faculty & staff

Tuesday, December 2

1:30 - 3:00

UML North – Media Center - Lydon Library Bsmt

General invitation to all faculty & staff

Technology Session

Tuesday, December 2

3:00 - 4:00

UML North – Media Center - Lydon Library Bsmt

Campus Participants: Michele Pagliarulo, Amy Yacus, Gerry Nelson, Nancy Fowler, David Mann, Jason Kramer, Michael Lucas, Maria Shortisianitis, Kareem Abu-Zahra

Constituent Sessions

Students

Thursday, December 4

2:30 - 4:00

UML East – Wannalancit 4th Floor

Participants: Thomas Taylor, Annie Ciaraldi, Mary Connelly, Edward Stoner & 5 students to be determined

Faculty & Research

Thursday, December 4

4:00 - 5:30

UML East – Wannalancit 4th Floor

Participants: Ann Marie Hurley, Susan Gallagher, John Callahan, Lou Petrovic, Mitch Shuldman, Luvai Motiwalla, Steve Tello, Judy Davidson, Chris Carlsmith, Diana Archibald, Chad Montrie, Nicole Champagne, Craig Slatin

Administration & Staff

Thursday, December 4

10:30 - 12:00

UML East – Wannalancit 4th Floor

Participants: Fran Zannoni, Jeannie Tremblay, Dan Brosnan, Louise Griffin, Mai Nguyen, Joyce Burris, John Perroni, Chris Dunlap

Alumni & Institutional Advancement

Thursday, December 4

1:00 - 2:30

UML East – Wannalancit 4th Floor

Participants: Matt Eynon, Maria Shortisianitis, Deme Gys, Patricia Kelleher, Dane Netherton, Diane Earl, Kathrine Hastings

Admissions & Recruiting

Thursday, December 4

9:00 - 10:30

UML East – Wannalancit 4th Floor

Participants: Lisa Johnson, Kerry Mead, Lori Gevelinger, Jane Worthley, Linda Southworth, Jim Magarian, Elizabeth James, Jacqueline Moloney, Catherine Kendrick

Additional material and details will be forwarded to individuals selected to participate in the sessions. Questions should be directed to Richard Conley. Your attendance and input to these discussions is very important to our future. Please make every effort to attend.

Thank you.

Jeff Thompson

Vice Chancellor for Information Technology Services