

e*mpac Project News



Enterprise Management and Performance
Through Administrative Computing

UPCOMING EVENTS

PO Data Entry Operator Meeting

- Thursday, April 13, 2005 10:00am Mullins Center Massachusetts Room

Liaison Meeting

- Thursday, April 6, 2005 10:00am 917 Campus Center

FY2006 YEAR END

- It's coming!

Campus Contact

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Project e*mpac Announces

The University of Massachusetts has begun an upgrade to its central financial application. As with the original implementation back in July of 2002, the **e*mpac** project team including representatives from each of the campuses, the President's Office and University Information Technology Services (UITS), are working in collaboration to upgrade the **e*mpac** financial components including Accounts Payable, Asset Management, General Ledger and Procurement.



The project is divided into several phases. Currently we are in the Configuration and Development phase of the project. The Configuration and Development Phase is focused on setting up the configuration data and developing the code and unit tests of the approved modifications and reports.

The upgrade of the **e*mpac** financial application is an important step in the University's continued effort to add value and to provide efficiency through delivery of the financial application. With this upgrade there will be business process changes, as well as a new look and feel. Communications, training programs and workshops will be available throughout the project to aid impacted users in preparing for these changes as we head toward our projected "go live" in October of 2006.

e-Procurement Implementation

As part of the **e*mpac** upgrade project, the University will add eProcurement and hosted catalog services to its procurement component.

What is eProcurement:

eProcurement is an electronic means to request, order, and invoice goods and services using a variety of requisitioning methods

What's New:

Users will have direct access to a variety of popular contract vendors' catalogs via one of two methods:

- **Punch-Out Sites:** Users may 'punch-out' to a vendor's site, search for, and draw desired items into their eProcurement requisition

- **Hosted Catalog:** Item catalogs from some of the University's most popular vendors will be combined in a single UMASS web-based catalog. Users will be able to go here to search, compare and request items for purchase.

Users will load "shopping carts" with the desired items and draw them into eProcurement requisitions. Requisitions will be processed through the Financials Purchasing System and dispatched as electronic purchase orders directly to the vendors. This will save mailing time and allow orders to be received much sooner.

Benefits:

The benefits of implementing these services are numerous:

- The hosted site will include University contract pricing, which will aid users in purchasing items from preferred vendors.
- Much of the information needed to complete a requisition, such as vendor, item description, price, etc., will automatically default into the requisition, requiring less manual entry for users
- Items that are purchased off the hosted site will require less backup documentation.
- Orders that originate from requisitions off the hosted site will turn around faster to vendors via XML (electronic dispatch directly to vendor's site)
- Many vendors on the hosted site will use e-Invoicing, thus eliminating the need to manually enter and pay invoices.

Expense Account Changes

The implementation team is working in collaboration with the other campuses in an effort to prepare the expense account codes for the upgrade. But even more importantly, this effort is needed to establish account code selection consistency across campus and the entire University system. The updated expense account list will be shorter, as codes will be combined, which will make selecting the appropriate code simpler. We will begin phasing in these changes in April of this year. A listing of accounts to be inactivated and the substitute codes will be released prior to April along with a revised version of the Account Codes Handbook to follow later this spring

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