Current Project Progress
Oracle Conversion Talking Points:

- ISRS will be down for at least two days (planned to begin on a Friday night), and possibly up to four days: one day to run the conversion, followed by a full day of verification testing. If problems are identified, days three and four will be used to create solutions.

- Presidents are requested to discuss conversion timelines with key administrators on campuses. The ideal date for the conversion occurs after 2nd semester drop/add is completed, but at least two weeks before fall term registration begins. The President’s Day holiday weekend (February 16) is one option campus staff may wish to consider.

- On day 1 of the conversion schedule, the conversion programs will run. If, insurmountable issues arise during the verification process, ITS will execute a “conversion fall back plan.” Components of that plan will include restoring the software that points to the Rdb database instead of the new Oracle database, followed by a day spent verifying that everything is working properly.

- It is expected that there will be some errors following the conversion, despite exhaustive testing. These will be addressed immediately as they are identified following the conversion. It is important to manage expectations, as no conversions are totally without some issues.

- While the conversion will involve some pain as the inevitable minor conversion problems are identified and corrected in the real environment post conversion, there are several critical benefits that will be immediately realized:
  
  o Students will be able to change their data once rather than at every institution they now attend, have attended or will attend – presenting a much more seamless face to our students
  o Institutions offering partner and consortium courses and programs will find it much easier to manage them and to provide student support
  o It will be much easier to integrate commercial, vendor provided software
  o We will eliminate the risk of continuing to operate on a database for which it is increasingly difficult to find expertise
  o We will eliminate the risk of sudden discontinuance of vendor support
  o We will find it much easier to hire and retain critical staff
  o We will be in a better position to make platform independent hardware decisions –(Rdb database only runs on VMS operating system, which only runs on HP equipment)
  o Centralized reporting will be easier
  o Enables synchronization of IDs across databases, positioning for Identity Management
  o Enables future “Student Centric” services in the future