

Subject: SEL Project Update

Date: Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 7:29:24 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Dixon, Melanie

To: Moore, Reyna, Stephenson, Jeffrey, Aubert, John, McDaniel, Kimberly, Javier, Miriam, Blodgett, Hannah, Poindexter, Michael, Gonzalez, Mauricio, Oesterman, Emmie, Carrasco, Joe, Perry, Jana, Day, Michael, Beckhorn, Roy, Geary, Parrish, Arevalo, Maricela, Flores, Juan, Martinez, Lupe, Goff, Kim, Beyrer, Kimberlee, Aguilar, Gary, Danford, Thomas, Ross, Gabe, Glycer-Culver, Betty, Brown, Davin, Cranston, Monica, Nelson, Jessica, Moreno, Camille

CC: Nye, Jamey, Greene, Thomas, Bush, Edward, Gutierrez, Michael, Yamamura, Whitney, Thomas, Christine, Neal, Robin, Poindexter, Michael, Emiru, Tadael, Lawrenson, Lisa, Garcia, Albert (Dr.), Montanez, Robert, Pactol, Monica, Jones, Cheri

Dear SEL Workgroup,

On behalf of the SEL Executive Sponsorship Team, I wanted to share an update with all of you on the ongoing discussions about the suite of tools we have previously referred to as the student experience lifecycle (SEL). As you know, the conversation about identifying an SEL for Los Rios began with the hope that we would find one technology solution to meet all of our needs. Unfortunately, during our discussions over the past 18 months, the RFP committee appointed by the SEL workgroup reached the consensus that there was no single solution available that would fully address our requirements. However, the committee indicated that some of the solutions reviewed showed promise in a particular aspect such as early alert. After the SEL workgroup concluded its search, a new possibility surfaced that offered a potential answer to the limitations of other products. Although we continue to hope that a comprehensive solution may become available in the future, there are pressing needs that must be addressed in order to serve our students effectively as we move towards Guided Pathways. In this highly fluid environment, our challenge is now to select solutions that can quickly address our most pressing needs while simultaneously considering how each will integrate into a more seamless student experience.

We are pleased to announce that the executive sponsors of the SEL project have determined that it is best to move forward with two vendors in an effort to provide the colleges with a robust suite of tools that can be quickly implemented and fully integrated with PeopleSoft.

- The first product is the [Hobsons Starfish Enterprise Success Platform](#), affiliated with the statewide Education Planning Initiative and [endorsed by the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges](#). While this product meets many of our needs (e.g., Starfish CONNECT & EARLY ALERT), its degree planning component lacked the desired integration with PeopleSoft.
- A second product package, which is intended to close this gap, is HighPoint's [Degree Planner](#) and [Schedule Builder](#). These products will supplement Starfish with educational planning and scheduling tools that we anticipate will help students better understand the implications of their decisions. They will also provide a dashboard so that, as we map programs as part of the Guided Pathways work, students will have more clarity about the right courses to take and when to take them. All of HighPoint's products are custom-designed to integrate with PeopleSoft, allowing for the smoothest possible implementation. Another benefit of these products is that their alignment with our existing system is likely to make the Financial Aid Course Audit (FACA) process easier.

We are in the process of scheduling demos of the Degree Planner and Scheduler Builder tools for this group, and anyone else at our colleges who would like to see them. The locations of the demos are still being determined, but the schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, November 13

District Office	10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Folsom Lake College	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Wednesday, November 14

Cosumnes River College	9:00 am – 10:30 am
Sacramento City College	11:00 am – 12:30 pm
American River College	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Additionally, as you know we acquired Ad Astra with the interest of having student educational plans inform class scheduling. That implementation is going very well, and we are on track to be live by Fall 2019. Eventually, Ad Astra’s product will incorporate Los Rios educational planning data in its analytical tools. It is believed that the HighPoint solution will provide a solid option to interface with Ad Astra in respect to those student educational plans.

The four college presidents have agreed to lead this effort by working with their respective colleges to identify how the use of these tools can best meet the diverse needs previously identified through the SEL workgroup. In terms of the [Hobsons Starfish Enterprise Success Platform](#), each College will have the latitude to decide their own adoption and implementation timeline over the next 18-24 months, in recognition of the myriad other system changes they are facilitating.

These decisions represent significant wins for Los Rios students and our ability to support them as they work towards reaching their academic goals. There will be many opportunities in the near future to learn more about these products and the functionality that they offer. We also look forward to hearing your input on how they can best be used to improve the student experience.

Sincerely,

The SEL Executive Sponsorship Team

(Made up of the Chancellor, College Presidents, Deputy Chancellor, Vice Chancellor of Education and Technology, Associate Vice Chancellor of Communications and Media Relations, and Associate Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Student Success)

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