

Say goodbye to TALON

UW-L to implement PeopleSoft

Shane Allen

Issue date: 10/1/08 Section: News



UW-L is renovating the way students access their information online, phasing out TALON and replacing it with a new system called PeopleSoft Campus Solutions. The PeopleSoft project will provide students, faculty, and staff with a more interactive access to admissions, financial aid, records and registration, student financials and academic advising. This project occurs in phases with a set completion deadline for fall 2009.

"We are real excited about what is called Student Center, where students will be able to go out and be able to monitor their admissions, their financial aid, whether they registered for classes, paid for student bill and so forth," said Debbie Veglahn, Project Manager for the PeopleSoft implementation Team. The Student Center is the interactive website in which students interact with academic information.

Veglahn believes this interactivity will benefit all students, bringing up a checklist option students can use in making sure they get their application goals done efficiently.

"One of the nice things about the Student Center is a checklist/to do list option. If you're going to look at your financial aid and there's nothing there, you'll see that you might still be missing your tax forms. It will tell you what you need to do right there to finish an application," said Veglahn.

With a current completion of the Admissions module early this month, the Admissions office have already started using the software to get prospective UW-L students in the system.

"On September 8th, we started working on the admissions process for fall of 2009," said Corey Sjoquist, the Admissions Lead of the operation. "We had to convert all of our prospective student data from our old system and move that into our PeopleSoft environment. Once the data is in there we are able to start entering in new

prospects, applicants, making admissions decisions and start sending out letters."

With students already immersed in the program by filling out the college application, the PeopleSoft team expects students to have a more connective communication established with UW-L.

"One of the most exciting things for admissions is that our prospective students or applicants can go onto that Student Center website as soon as they apply and check the status of their application," Sjoquist said.

With current students switching over to the new program in '09', Sjoquist commented on how the program is already implemented in the Admissions office.

"Our student employees in the Admissions office use the software because of the job requirement. They were used to the old system, but they are able to find information easily with the new system. This gives me a lot of hope that the rest of the student body should transition pretty easily."

UW-L is among nine other UW campuses to have already implemented the new system, including University of Wisconsin-Madison. The UW Systems mandated that all schools in the system switch over to PeopleSoft campus solutions. UW- Eau Claire and UW- Stout are also implementing the new system in the same timeframe as UW-L.

The implementation team has given the title of the new program, calling it WINGS.

"We wanted to stay with using the concept of the eagle," Veglahn said. With 40% of goals completed, the PeopleSoft implementation team looks towards fall 2009.

Additional information can be found on the PeopleSoft website at <http://www.uwlax.edu/peoplesoft>.