Getting Ready—Change Ahead

July 3 marks the next key milestone for RevSU. The lynchpin in our enterprise resource planning project has been the update of our 20 year-old Colleague platform to the latest version, Colleague XE. At the same time we are implementing a number of bolt-on applications to minimize customizations that make it hard to upgrade over time.

Colleague has three major components. There is a Human Resources module that we implemented January 2, involving the migration of over 650,000 data elements. We continue to evolve those capabilities, and are in the process of bolting on a suite of EngageSU personnel support tools.

The second major component is a Finance module. Implementing this allows us to upgrade our Chart of Accounts from 13 to 17 digits to allow for better reporting and support other endeavors like ProcureSU, a new eProcurement tool we are bolting on. These changes are to be deployed July 3, to coincide with the start of our fiscal year.

The third component is a Student module. This houses all of our student records, including admissions and financial aid, and is the workhorse of the Colleague system for the university. While we were planning to implement this in July, we have decided to delay the launch until the fall to allow more time for testing of several mission-critical functions. Fortuitously, narrowing our focus to Finance and ProcureSU for July 3 minimizes Colleague downtime and makes it easier to work through considerable training those initiatives require. These considerations are consistent with our overall objective of providing a positive and improved user experience.

There are a variety of communications planned for this month to help prepare the campus for July 3, and we are anticipating an additional wave of training and communications again in September and October when the majority of our students and Faculty return. Please pay attention to your emails and look for a go-live checklist to help you prepare.

Even amid challenges, RevSU moves steadily forward to our goals of leveraging modern tools and operational practices, creating an effective and efficient operational environment, and transforming the university’s technology processes. It is exciting to think that the next month will bring major changes to Seattle University that will benefit us for years to come.

Travis Nation, RevSU Project Director and Associate CIO

Readiness Checklist & Forums

Does this sound like you or someone you work with:

You already know that major changes are coming on July 3, and you know that you should be getting ready ... but the scope of RevSU is so big that you still aren’t sure if or how the changes affect you. You are having trouble feeling confident that you are actually ready, but you have plenty enough to do with the end of the school year.

Don’t fret—get the July 3 Go-live Checklist! To help you prepare, RevSU has identified the key ways Faculty and Staff may be affected. With a couple of simple questions, you can self-assess your level of preparedness for the July 3 go-live and locate supporting training and information.

RevSU has also planned open forums for the campus community to review the particulars of what is changing. These will be led by the Project Director, Travis Nation, and provide an opportunity to develop a better understanding of what is going on behind the scenes. As an added inducement, cookies will be provided at these forums being held:

- Tuesday June 13, 2pm-3pm, Pigott 100
- Thursday June 15, 9am-10am, Pigott 100

The checklist is available on the RevSU website and hard copies will be available at the briefings.
ProcureSU Training is Open!

With the planned go-live date for ProcureSU only a month away, now is the time to be thinking about training. There is a menu of training options designed to meet the various needs of different users. These range from in-person sessions and lab consultations to self-service video instructions and quick guides.

In-person sessions begin June 19, and continue through mid-July. Faculty and Staff who plan to be procuring goods and services starting July 3 should consider attending this month. For those who are unsure which training is most appropriate for them, there are half-hour introductory sessions that provide an overview of ProcureSU and the other training options available.

Signing up for sessions and accessing materials is all handled by the university’s new training tool, EngageSU Learning and Development (L&D). Using EngageSU L&D, Faculty and Staff are able to browse or search for all training options available to them, sign up for individual training sessions, view videos, and download materials. Any training that has been taken or material that has been accessed is retained in the user’s Transcript, allowing managers to report on their area’s readiness.

### Training for July 3 Go-Live

Click <LIVE!> to See Training Details and Sign Up for Sessions—SU Login Required

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Subject</th>
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Meet the Team

• Patti Flynn •

RevSU: Describe your role in RevSU.
PF: These days I am heavily involved in testing the Colleague XE Student Module. What I do, essentially is I try to break it. I’d rather it break during testing and the migration process than when Students, Faculty, and Staff are in the live system. One of the ways to break it is to do things that you aren’t supposed to do to and see if it will let something happen that shouldn’t happen. Every time we migrate more data, we need to test it all again. Also, this is not my first migration...I’ve been through two migrations with previous employers, and I know that in migrations you can shove data in anywhere and it can be completely wrong. So I look for those things.

RevSU: How do you keep it all straight?
PF: With a little help from a lot of other people. The work of the project coordinators and testing across departments have been instrumental in keeping it all straight.

RevSU: How did you get your start in higher education?
PF: I spent about ten years at a police record unit. I was looking for new challenges, and I have always loved higher education. It’s so much more encouraging to be around young people who aren’t in handcuffs!

RevSU: How do you like to unwind?
PF: Have you seen the Red and White Harley Davidson Soft-tail Deluxe out in the parking lot? That’s one way. I hadn’t even been on a motorcycle until after my kids were grown. Then I got to ride on the back of one with someone and I loved it! And instead of carrying around a helmet thumbing rides from crazy motorcycle drivers, I figured I could be one of the crazy drivers myself.

RevSU: How do you like to unwind?
PF: Yes, all the time. You know the deli across the street from Starbucks? They have really good sandwiches there, the prices are reasonable, and there’s no line at lunchtime! What is so interesting is that I was going through the country codes in Colleague and I came across a country I had never heard of—Eritrea, and wondered how many students we had from there. Then, not long after, I’m at that deli. I ask one of the guys who works there where he is from, and it’s Eritrea! Colleague may be a relational database, but this is really a relational world.

• Mike Quinn •

RevSU: Describe your role in RevSU.
MQ: As one of the Executive Sponsors, I represent the colleges and schools and give the perspective of the academic side of Seattle U. I make sure that we are thinking about the issues that affect the faculty and staff so we ultimately have the best possible outcomes for our students.

RevSU: What has it been like to work on RevSU?
MQ: I’ve learned a lot about how complex our system environment is. We can certainly reduce the amount of customization, but there isn’t one piece of software that can handle every situation on every campus, so we need to make a few changes to make sure it works well in our environment.

RevSU: What in your background has prepared you to be in this role?
MQ: I was a software engineer at Tektronix back in the early 80’s. We were developing desktop computers with graphics. This was pre-Macintosh! So I understand the complexity of developing a software system, and I know how hard it is to get it right. I can really appreciate the work involved for the RevSU team to roll out a new payroll or cost accounting system that works perfectly on the “go live” date!

RevSU: What has been rewarding about working on RevSU?
MQ: I’ve really enjoyed being able to work with people from across campus. When you work on a committee like this you get to know people better. We’ve got really good people working here at Seattle U.

RevSU: Is there anything else you’d like to share?
MQ: If you look at our mission and values, the first value we list is care for students. But I think that also extends to our faculty and staff. Working on RevSU has really reinforced the idea that we try to do the right thing, given the resources that we have. It really makes me feel good about this university.

RevSU: What do you like to do outside of work?
MQ: My wife and I both grew up in Portland, so we have been going down there more regularly to spend time with family and old friends. That’s becoming more of a priority—focusing on relationships that we have. I have discovered that Portland has an amazing children’s museum—very interactive! It’s the perfect place to take our two-year old granddaughter.
**Kurt Matthews**

RevSU: Describe your role in RevSU.

KM: I focus on Identity Management—getting information about a user from a source of record, and then pushing that information out to the various systems that need that user’s information. Organizational identity is like human identity—it’s complicated!

RevSU: What do you like about that kind of work?

KM: The vision we have of data being inserted into ColleagueXE and then having that data cascade into all these different systems really appeals to me. It’s beautiful.

RevSU: What is it like to work on such a big project?

KM: RevSU is a project where there is so much going on at any given point that it can feel like you are on a teacup ride. It can be overwhelming. The PMs and management have done a phenomenal job of keeping people grounded, but there is no way to escape the feeling that RevSU is massive.

RevSU: Speaking of tea, I hear you are an aficionado. What’s the story?

KM: This goes way back. As a kid, when I was sick my father would make chamomile with honey...and a teaspoon of whiskey! Growing up in Germany I could only watch once English channel, SKY1, and was bombarded with ads for Tetley tea. So I started drinking the cheap stuff in middle school. In college I branched out—don’t judge—to Teavana’s fruit and blended teas. That evolved into an interest in pure teas.

RevSU: Do you have a favorite?

KM: What is so cool is that there is only one tea. It’s all biologically the same plant and different processes create all of the different types of tea. If I need something light, I’ll go with a tea like Silver Needle. If it’s a Monday, that’s when I go to a Puer. Also with Dim Sum. But if I’m just chilling out, man I love Oolong. Milk Oolong is currently my favorite tea. It has got a sweet fatty flavor that has no business being in a plant product, but there it is. I can chug Milk Oolong like its nothing.

**Hayley Koenig**

RevSU: What is your role in RevSU?

HK: I’m helping to build InformSU. We are taking data from multiple source systems around campus, bringing it together to form one vetted source of truth, and then building a reporting environment on top of that.

RevSU: You are from Seattle—how did you come to work at Seattle University?

HK: I was working on affordable housing issues. I had wanted to get into more techy work, but my employer didn’t have much going on in the IT department. So I taught myself SQL and became a data person. Still, I was interested in working in an environment where there was a real hunger for data, so came over here to work on RevSU.

RevSU: How does SUDDS compare to the Seattle homeless situation?

HK: That’s a ridiculous question! Homelessness and housing in Seattle is a huge issue. The common thread, though, is that we are trying to use data to solve problems so that institutions that fundamentally serve people can be the best that they can be.

RevSU: So what is SQL like?

HK: It’s a relatively simple language used to query data. We have tables that contain data. Using the language I can tell a table of data what I want to see. So I can say, “Show me all the students at SU!” which in SQL is, “Select All from Student Table.” But of course it gets more complex than that.

RevSU: Do you speak other languages besides English and SQL?

HK: English and SQL are my two primary languages. I would say I know a bit of Python, too, but not fluently.

RevSU: When you aren’t building data solutions, what do you like to do?

HK: I’m big on biking and also food. But these days I’m involved in a DIY remodel of my house. All my free time actually goes into drywall and window installation.

RevSU: What do you find rewarding about working on RevSU?

HK: I enjoy detangling things and creating elegance. We are putting a huge amount of effort in now to build something that will be useful to SU for many years to come. It’s great to invest myself in something that has so much potential. When I hear about a problem that has been driving someone nuts for months or years, and I can code a solution so they never have to worry about that thing again, that’s really cool.

RevSU: What is the best part about working at SeattleU?

HK: The people I’m working with, definitely. There are so many incredibly smart people working extremely hard to make RevSU happen. It’s fun to be in an environment where people are constantly sharing their ideas and intersecting experiences. I’ve learned so much.