

COGNOS Management Information System (MIS)

Current Developments and Future Plans

Purpose of the MIS

The UWS Management Information System is an on-going business intelligence project being undertaken within the Office of Planning and Quality. Reporting processes and associated systems are being developed to ensure the timely provision and ready accessibility across UWS of relevant, reliable, accurate and quality-assured management information via the Cognos Web portal.

The Cognos BI suite is currently being used to develop multi-dimensional cubes based on a series of datamarts encompassing a range of student-related and other information. Standard reports are extracted from these cubes and disseminated to the UWS community by OPQ to assist in tracking performance, and planning. The cubes can also be queried by users to answer a range of ad-hoc enquiries. Benchmarking of UWS against the sector, our competitor institutions, and other institution groups is built in as an essential parameter where appropriate.

Future Plans

There will be a significant broadening of the way in which BI data is provided to our users when the existing system (Series 7) is migrated to Cognos 8 in mid-2007. Scorecarding and metrics will be added as methods of representing and tracking data against targets, and of visualising data trends. Standard reports will be developed by OPQ and deployed to all users via Cognos Connection (the C8 web portal), but is also envisaged that users will also have the capability to query an increased range of data which will incorporate Callista, Oracle Financials, Research and HR systems. This move to C8 will make creating a single report from multiple data sources easier, and will increase the flexibility, breadth and depth of reporting and analysis across UWS.

Current data

The MIS currently offers the following cubes:

1. **ADMISSIONS:** Universities Admission Centre (UAC) information including Applicant Demographics, Course Cutoffs, Offers, Preferences, and Unmet Demand
2. **COURSE COMPLETIONS:** National and UWS course completions
3. **COURSE EXPERIENCE QUESTIONNAIRE:** National and UWS CEQ data
4. **DEST FINANCE:** University Cash Flow, Financial Performance, Financial Position, Equity as reported to DEST
5. **GRADUATE DESTINATION SURVEY:** National and UWS Graduate Destination Survey data – information on employment, median salary and other outcomes for graduates
6. **LOAD AND ENROLMENTS:** National and UWS Load (EFTSL) and Enrolment trends, and Callista extracts (including course and unit enrolments, and EFTSL)
7. **QUESTIONNAIRES:** Survey results for questionnaires conducted by UWS including Student Feedback on Teaching, Student Feedback on Units, and Student Satisfaction Survey.
8. **REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY:** ABS Occupations, population projections, and related demographic data (growth descriptors, LGA profiles)
9. **RESEARCH:** DEST Research (including Expenditure Type, Research Activity, Research Fields, Source of Funding), and HERDC data
10. **SELECTED STATISTICS:** Data published by the AVCC and DEST.
11. **STAFF:** National and UWS staff data, and *trial* UWS HR data
12. **STUDENT OUTCOMES:** Student Grade Point Average and Results (Callista extracts), Retention Rates, and Progression/Success Rates
13. **STUDENT STAFF RATIOS:** National and UWS student staff ratios

A data dictionary, explanatory notes, and a PowerPlay Web Users Guide are also available.

How to access the Cognos MIS

Cognos cubes are accessible via the Cognos Web Portal. For a login, password, and an individual one-to-one training session at your home campus, please contact Anne Barrie, ext. 7455, or email a.barrie@uws.edu.au. 'Refresher' training is also available. Training in Cognos 8 will commence in late-2007.

Anne Barrie
Cognos Manager
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