The New Rules of Institutional Excellence

Four Steps to Becoming a Modern, Agile Campus

It's no secret that higher education is experiencing a sea change. Non-traditional students are becoming the new normal, and improving outcomes is top-of-mind for every leader on campus. Competition is heating up, and campus leaders are quickly realizing that to stay competitive, and in business, they must find new ways to do more with less.

Campus Leaders Under Pressure

As the focus on containing – and reducing – costs continues to rise, campus leaders are under increasing pressure to rationalize spending, optimize resource allocation, and deliver a consolidated, transparent view of operations. They are also being asked to find new, innovative sources of revenue, and are increasingly looking at partnerships with industry to establish new programs and drive funding.

Campus leaders are also being held accountable to operate efficiently and embrace fiscal stewardship at unprecedented levels. Resources are scarce, and the importance of focusing on them on the core mission of the institution – teaching, learning, and research – is more important than ever. And what campus leaders are also realizing is that the current operating model, one that relies on tuition as the primary source of revenue, is no longer sustainable. It's time to change. But how?

To start, institutions must embrace four foundational principles of institutional excellence:

- » Simplify
- » Standardize
- » Centralize
- » Automate

Simplify

To simplify institutional operations, campus leaders must first embrace a single best process for the institution. By looking to best practices from industry, and adopting what makes sense, institutions can implement a process that links the institution's strategies with campus initiatives. And this shift enables colleges and universities to transform their campus to a simplified, standardized, agile business model that reduces inefficiencies and allocates resources strategically, all while supporting the academic and research initiatives.

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Standardize

Over the past 20 years, colleges and universities have embraced technology to support business processes, and in many cases, have customized the technology to meet their unique needs. But with the shift to a simplified business process, institutions are realizing that they must also adopt a standard operating model, one with flexibility to respect the autonomy desired by its departments and colleges. And that means letting go of heavily customized, hard-to-maintain systems and processes. The good news is that modern systems – many of which are cloud-based – enable institutions to make this shift, reducing operating and maintenance costs along the way.

Centralize

Driving prudent stewardship of institutional resources – human, financial, and physical – is a key step to improving operational efficiency. But if every department on campus has its own process, and possibly even its own systems, it's nearly impossible to rationalize data, spot potential cost savings, and identify new sources of revenue. That's why institutions must consider centralizing their core processes by moving them to a shared service or center of excellence, with defined global process owners as key stakeholders. It's this type of centralization that enables institutional leaders to gain greater insight into institutional operations, leading to continuous refinement of how best to align and allocate strategic resources to support the goals of the institution.

Automate

Today, students, faculty, and staff want information at their fingertips. And on campus, empowering faculty and staff through a self-service model is not only critical to managing costs, but also to driving data-driven discussions. By giving everyone across campus access to the data they need, when they need, campus leaders enable people within the various colleges, schools, and departments to innovate and make strategic decisions based on facts, not hunches. And this type of self-services drives increased productivity across campus, both for faculty and staff and for organizations supporting them.

Now is the Time to Transform

For colleges and universities, modernization is no longer a question of if, but a question of when. The current operational model is outdated and no longer sustainable. To survive, institutions must embrace transformation and align all their diverse initiatives and operations into becoming a smart, fast, agile institution. The good news is Oracle can help.

Our comprehensive portfolio of solutions provides colleges and universities with a continuum of choice for both the consumption and delivery of modern cloud services. We deliver data models specifically designed for higher education that include interactive dashboards with unique and powerful strategic and predictive modeling capabilities. And, our proven strategies for managing strategy, planning sustainable growth, improving operational excellence, and managing costs helps campus leaders improve accountability, achieve transparency, and deliver traceability.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERING WITH ORACLE

- Reduce the cost of operations through consolidation and standardization
- Increase operational efficiencies while obtaining better insight to make better decisions
- Achieve accountability and effective utilization of human, fiscal, and physical resources
- Enable strategic decision making
- Promote innovation by delivering actionable insight

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