March 26, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to inform you of a significant development within our institution's technological landscape. In 2022, a collaborative initiative commenced involving the collective expertise of COE staff, the Engineering Computing Network (ECN), the Graduate School, and Purdue IT. The primary objective was to conduct an extensive assessment aimed at identifying an optimal solution for the sustained support of GradDB, currently used by the College of Engineering and some College of Science programs at the West Lafayette campus, and the Graduate School Database.

After careful evaluation, it has been determined that Purdue's next-generation Graduate Records Management solution will be built on the Salesforce platform. This decision stems from our commitment to modernizing and streamlining our operations while ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in managing graduate records across our institution.

As a result of this decision, I am pleased to announce that the Graduate Records Management project is underway. The project's overarching goal is to replace the existing GradDB and Graduate School Database systems with a more robust and cohesive solution that will better serve the needs of our academic community.

The project's initial phase will focus on replacing the GradDB, aiming for a targeted go-live date of October 2024. Subsequently, the transition of the Graduate School Database is scheduled to be completed by July 2025. Oversight of the project will be jointly undertaken by Tamara Kinzer-Ursem, Rita Clifford, and me.

I trust that you share our enthusiasm for this endeavor and recognize its potential to enhance our administrative capabilities and support academic excellence. We will keep you updated on the progress of this project and welcome any input or feedback you may have.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Barker, Ph.D.
Acting Associate Provost for Graduate Programs