



**University at Buffalo**  
*The State University of New York*

Vice President and Chief Information Officer

TO: Charles F. Zukoski  
Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs

FROM: J. Brice Bible  
Vice President and CIO

DATE: November 26, 2014

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Form Data Governance Council

The Data Governance Executive Oversight Group has completed its preliminary work and makes the following recommendations for your consideration and approval. A more detailed outline of the first year's data governance work is also attached for your review:

- The Data Governance Executive Oversight Group will conclude and recommends that the Data Governance Council (DGC) be commissioned by the Provost.
- The initial DGC membership should be made up of Data Trustees, Vice Presidents and Vice-Provosts who have functional responsibility for institutional data systems, the VP CIO, and the Deans currently on the Data Governance Executive Oversight Group.
- The DGC will also include subgroups such as the Data Stewardship Committee (DSC) and a Technology Infrastructure Advisory Group.
- The VP CIO will serve as the initial Chair of the DGC.
- The VP CIO and others will meet with each Trustee to assist them in selecting and naming the Data Stewards for the functions in their areas.
- The DSC will include three types of members:
  - Data Stewards as named above
  - Ex Officio members whose role within the university's administration makes them important to include such as VP CIO and IR staff
  - Ad Lucem members whose inclusion will lead to more enlightened outcomes and represent the needs of decanal units and ensure a transparent process in line with the data governance principles

- The DGC will formally appoint the membership of the DSC and name a Chair to arrange and lead meetings as well as serve on the Data Governance Council.
- The DGC will meet quarterly or more frequently as necessary.
- The DSC will meet at a minimum monthly to conduct business and will organize smaller ad hoc groups as necessary. The DSC will provide regular reports to the DGC and university leadership as appropriate.
- The DGC will provide an annual report and recommendations to the Provost at the end of each academic year.

### **Approval Signature**

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Charles F. Zukoski

Date

### **Attachment**

CC: Satish Tripathi, President  
Data Governance Executive Oversight Group

ATTACHMENT1

**Ad Hoc Committee on Roles, Procedures and Standards for Data Management  
Goals for Year 1**

Goal	Responsibility	Target Completion
<p>Approve initial scope of <i>Institutional Data</i> that will be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Initial</i> focus includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Student Records</i></li> <li>○ <i>Financial Aid</i></li> <li>○ <i>Admissions (UG and Grad)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Human Resources – Faculty / Staff (Headcount / FTE)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Finances – Budgets, Expenditures</i></li> <li>○ <i>Research – Grants (counts, dollars)</i></li> <li>○ <i>Space – Allocation to Department / Person</i></li> <li>○ <i>Publication / Citation Data – Scholastic Indicators</i></li> <li>○ <i>Organizational Structure – Entity / Hierarchy, Academic Structure</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Data Governance Executive Council</p>	<p>October 2014</p>
<p>Formalize initial organizational structure for data management, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve definition of <i>Data Trustee</i> role and identify resources to fill this role for each of the areas listed above</li> <li>• Approve definition of <i>Data Steward</i> role and identify resources to fill this role for each of the areas listed above</li> <li>• Formalize Data Governance Council and Data Stewardship Committee (DSC)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Name Chair of Data Stewardship Committee</li> <li>○ Add others Ex Officio and Ad Lucem members, nominated by the Data Trustees who have a vested interest in reporting and analysis</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Data Governance Council</p> <p>Data Trustees</p> <p>Data Governance Council</p>	<p>November 2014</p>
<p>Conduct research into Data Management structures within Higher Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review documentation / conference calls to determine lessons learned from peers</li> <li>• From this research, mold / modify UB structure and document to formalize</li> </ul>	<p>Data Governance Council, Data Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>February 2015</p>
<p>Identify / inventory key institutional data elements across domains above (common fact book items)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, <i>Faculty Headcount</i> or <i>Student Enrollment</i></li> </ul>	<p>Data Governance Council, Data Trustees, Data Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>January 2015</p>
<p>Select 3-5 elements from each domain and build inventory of definitions across the various needs / purposes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build process each area will use for the definition phase; this will include creation of sub-teams for each area in addition to review at Data Stewards level to maintain consistency</li> <li>• Beyond definition, begin to assemble the attributes that we will collect on each, i.e. system of record, transformation rules, security, etc.</li> <li>• Store these attributes in a user-accessible repository</li> <li>• Begin process to adapt data models to support these definitions</li> <li>• Debrief on the process to identify opportunities for optimizing / re-engineering</li> </ul>	<p>Data Stewardship Committee, Sub-teams to be determined for each data domain by Data Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>April 2015</p>
<p>Prepare report / recommendation for permanent Data Management structure from experience gained over the past year</p>	<p>Data Governance Council, Data Trustees, Data Stewardship Committee</p>	<p>June 2015</p>

## ATTACHMENT2

### Memo from the Provost

Thank you for your service. I approve your recommendation and charge the Data Governance Council as follows:

#### **Data Governance Council**

- Establishes overall policy and guidelines for management and access to the institutional data of the university
- Provides review, resolution, and approval of institutional data definitions as per guiding principles
- Appoints the membership of the Data Stewardship Committee and names a Chair or co-Chairs who will also serve on the Data Governance Council
- Reviews and reports on the performance of the overall data governance initiative on an annual basis

#### **Data Stewardship Committee**

- Provides consistency in the approach, designation, and governance of data, metadata, and the information base of business processes
- Defines clear and commonly-used structures, models, definitions, and processes to support coordination and collaboration, effective decision-support, and efficient operations University-wide
- Gives guidance and recommendations concerning institutional data related to expanding access, improving quality, strategic planning, assuring security, and business performance management
- Responsible for recommending policies, establishing procedures and guidelines for university-wide data administration activities; the domain of these activities include:
  - classification of data
  - access to data
  - data security
  - data documentation
  - data integrity, validation, and correction
  - data manipulation, modification, extraction, and reporting
- Formalize and adopt roles and responsibilities of individuals involved in the management of university data
- Consult as necessary and provide progress reports on a regular basis to the Data Governance Council