

THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OFFICE

The Administration Division The Division of Business & Finance

Request:

The North Carolina Community College System Office (System Office) will over-expend within their General Funds Budget Code (16800) the Budget Purpose 1200 (Administration Division) by an amount not to exceed \$1,763,261. This amount represents an over-expenditure of 8.9 percent of the Certified Budget amount of \$19,667,697. The transfer of an equivalent amount from Budget Purpose 1600 (State Aid Fund), Object 536932 will cover the over-expenditure. The deviation is precipitated by a major release of software (Release 18) by the Datatel Corporation that is the operating system (Colleague) of the NCCCS “College Information System”, and the requirements for migrating to the new release of the software.

Therefore, the NCCCS Office requests that the Education Oversight Committee approve the deviation by transfer of funds from Purpose 1600 to Purpose 1200 to migrate to the new software.

Justification:

The NCCCS “College Information System (CIS) project has been an ongoing effort since June 2000. Currently, all 58 colleges are operating Datatel’s Colleague Release 17 (with enhancements) under a legally binding agreement with Affiliated Computer Services. Release 18 (R-18) of the Colleague software is now available from Datatel, and the timeline for the termination of Colleague Release 17 (R-17) maintenance and support is December 2007.

A migration plan has been developed with Datatel and Affiliated Computer Services to ensure the successful migration of the NCCCS – CIS template from R-17 to R-18. The migration plan takes into account the need for joint vendor/NCCCS-Office project management; software testing at the System Office level; a controlled release system to “push” the new software out to each of the 58 colleges; training for college staffs; and a support center for software code migration, problem resolution and technical support.

In order to successfully accomplish the migration from R-17 to R-18, it is absolutely necessary to amend the current contract with the vendor partners. Because the migration will occur over two fiscal years (2006-08, at a total cost of \$6.1 million), the System Office requests only the portion of budget in excess of the certified amount with which to pay for services delivered in fiscal year 2006-07. Budget projections for fiscal year 2007-08 indicate that there are sufficient unencumbered funds to pay for deliverables without causing a deviation in the 1200 Budget Purpose.

System Office Capacity:

The System Office does not presently have the information services staff with technical competencies to successfully migrate from R-17 to R-18 in a phased roll-out and implementation process and only has a limited amount of budget availability to fund the migration. Cognizant of this fact, the System Office approached the 2006 Session of the General Assembly with a request to ultimately build internal capacity in order that, for future major software releases and migrations, it will not be necessary to contract externally for the required vendor services. In response to the System Office request, the 2006 Session approved the creation of 20 positions¹ necessary to transfer the maintenance and administration of the CIS project from the vendor(s) to the System Office.

Over the next year, the System Office will employ, train and deploy the additional staff required not only for the maintenance and operation of the CIS project, but also for Release 19 of the Colleague software, which can be expected in three to four years.

Because the System Office does not presently have the capacity, a contract amendment has been successfully negotiated with the current CIS vendors. The System Office does have a limited amount of budget availability, within the CIS project funds, within the 1200 Budget Purpose. to absorb all but \$1,763,261. This is the amount of the budget deviation.

Approval of External Authorities:

The amendment to the current contract, to facilitate the cost of migrating from R17 to R-18 of the Colleague software, has been approved by the both the State Chief Information Technology Officer (George Bakolia), Information Technology Procurement, and the Office of State Budget and Management.

Attachments:

- Agenda Item from the State Board of Community Colleges
- Release 18 – Project Cost Distribution
- Approval of the Project by the State CIO

Contact Persons:

Kennon D. Briggs
Vice President for Business & Finance

Dr. Saundra Williams
Vice President for Administration

¹ Pursuant to Section 8.3 of Session Laws 2006-66, with the approval of the Office of State Budget and Management, and in consultation with the Office of Information Technology Services and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.