

Announcement about IST Support for Our Unit

Due to the campus economic situation and restructuring within the College of Natural Resources (CNR), CNR will no longer develop or support the "Our Unit" application. Understanding this application is important to many departments, CNR worked with the campus Chief Information Officer Shelton Waggener. It was agreed the OurUnit application code would become the responsibility of the Web Applications unit in Information Services and Technology (IST) effective immediately. The group will provide transitional support for Our Unit while a long-term roadmap for the application is developed. To that end, an IST team has been in place for the past two weeks working to develop transition plans in consultation with CNR and Nancy Schimmelman

We understand there are a lot of questions regarding the future of the Our Unit application and recognize that many departments depend on it to run their operations. IST is committed to making the transition as smooth as possible, and to identifying sustainable, secure service models for the key features provided in Our Unit. Our immediate plan is to continue to operate Our Unit as is and hold meetings with Our Unit users, both in town hall settings and individually, as we assess the future roadmap for the business functions served by Our Unit.

One key factor to the stability of the upcoming transition is an immediate freeze to all non-essential changes to the system. We ask that if you have enhancements planned or underway for Our Unit, that you contact the IST Our Unit team at the email address below so that they can discuss them with you. We will provide an exception process to the freeze, but the changes must be coordinated and the IST Our Unit team must review all changes that affect production systems. Additionally we will be making an immediate change to the management practices now in place to implement "separation of duties", which is a UCOP and SAS 112 systems management requirement. Starting today, all code changes to the production system must undergo a security and functionality review and approval process prior to release. We understand the freeze and review processes will be a change for users of Our Unit and we regret if they may initially feel arduous. However, this is the kind of action that will help protect the University (and your departments) from significant liabilities due to improper function or -- even worse -- system compromise.

You may send any support requests, concerns, or comments to ourunit@lists.berkeley.edu, which will create a support ticket and provide you a tracking number.

Escalations or more complex concerns should be sent directly to Wendy Jones (wjones@berkeley.edu), project lead for the Our Unit transition, or to Bill Allison (wallison@berkeley.edu), manager of the IST Web Applications unit.

We ask that you bear with us during the coming months as we all work together to make this transition happen.

Thank you for your support.

Barbara Lane, Assistant Dean, College of Natural Resources
Michael Mundrane, Deputy CIO, IST