

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICIES

Martha Mondello Hendren, Nick Santilli, Todd Bruce, Barbara D'Ambrosia,
Rebecca Drenovsky, Margaret Farrar, Rick Greci, Jim Krukones, Al Miciak, Michelle Millet,
Maryclaire Moroney, Al Nagy, Catherine Sherman

October 8, 2017
9:00 a.m.; Faculty Lounge

NOTES

Present: M. Hendren, N. Santilli, T. Bruce, R. Drenovsky, M. Farrar, R. Greci, J. Krukones, M. Millet, M. Moroney, A. Nagy, C. Sherman; Guests: E. Brown, E. Carreon, E. Egan, A. Krueger, A. Kugler, G. Lacueva, K. Manning, J. Sully, Melanie Hahn

Today's meeting was devoted to a demonstration of the catalog (bulletin) and curriculum management software produced by the Digarc company. Conducting the session by phone and controlling the screen in the meeting room was Charlotte Behrens, an account executive with Digarc. C. Behrens began a fast-moving presentation by explaining her goals. Acalog brings the undergraduate course catalog or bulletin into the 21st century by not only incorporating the material traditionally found in that document but also enabling students to map out a curricular path. This has become especially important now that students tend to change their major frequently during their undergraduate career. Curriculog streamlines and organizes the curricular approval process. Ms. Behrens pointed out that Acalog can be tailored to the needs of your institution and even look like your university's website. It maintains a history of the changes that have been introduced along the way. It can also be integrated into whatever student information system (SIS) your institution uses. Many schools in Ohio, including Xavier and Oberlin, currently make use of Acalog. C. Behrens said that she would send the links making it possible for those interested to conduct a self-demonstration. She also showed those present the "back end" of the system. The management of the catalog/bulletin typically involves two to three "global administrators" on a campus, who have complete access to the material, as well as a larger number of editors, whose access is limited.

At the end of the presentation, N. Santilli asked about the pricing structure and project timeline. C. Behrens said that the costs included a one-time licensing fee and one-time professional services fee and a yearly hosting and support fee. A special package deal bundling Acalog and Curriculog would be available for the next few weeks and offers a \$30,000 discount off the usual price. Concerning the timeline, C. Behrens said that it typically involves 12 to 16 weeks each for Acalog and Curriculog. In addition, Digarc would do all of the training based on your current catalog and at the pace you determined. Subsequently, inquiries could be made by email free of charge.

A discussion followed the telephone call. There was a general consensus that Acalog would be more useful to us at this point than Curriculog because of our focus on the undergraduate bulletin. A. Krueger said that her previous institution had used Acalog and found it satisfactory. C. Sherman said that it promised to create a living document. E. Carreon wondered exactly how customizable the Acalog system was. R. Greci found the potential for improving the

bulletin appealing but disliked the idea of turning the bulletin into a marketing tool, which is one of Acalog's features. E. Egan like Acalog, too, but pointed out that it would not necessarily resolve issues of content approval and accuracy that have caused problems for the bulletin in recent years. M. Hendren suggested that Acalog might actually help to break the current logjam.

M. Hendren will provide Digarc with an electronic copy of our current Undergraduate Bulletin.

The meeting concluded at 10:20 a.m.

Notes recorded by J. Krukones