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The University of California, Irvine is INFAMOUS (Irvine's New Financial Aid Management On-Line Users System)

by Otto W. Reyer and Hiroshi Ueha

The University of California, Irvine (UCI) is now in its second decade. In the fall of 1981, the University had an enrollment of approximately 11,065 students, inleuding 8,489 undergraduates, 1,592 graduates, and 984 medical students, interns, and residents.

The campus is located about 40 miles south of Los Angeles and five miles from the ocean. The Irvine campus was planned from the beginning as a general campus. The establishment of five schools representing five fundamental areas of knowledge was and is the foundation of this model. The five fundamental schools are: Biological Sciences, Fine Arts, Humanities, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences. Areas of knowledge that cross these major boundaries are represented by departments or programs, grouped together under the Council on Interschool Curricula. Included in this grouping are the program in Social Ecology, which bridges interest in the social and biological sciences; the program in Comparative Culture, crossing disciplines in Humanities and Social Sciences; and the Department of Information and Computer Science, which crosses all major disciplinary boundaries. In addition to the basic schools and the associated cross-disciplinary programs and departments, there are three schools that have an orientation that is primarily professional: Management, Engineering, and Medicine. The remaining academic units consist of the Office of Teacher Education and the Department of Physical Education, UCI has achieved distinction nationally and internationally because of the high quality of its programs and faculty. The campus challenges students both academically and personally and relies on the commitment, curiosity, imagination, and judgment of faculty and students to assure its continued intellectual and cultural vitality.

The Financial Aid Program at Irvine is one that has been very strong and deep-rooted since the opening of the campus. Approximately 6,000 students are receiving some type of financial assistance, either through financial aid or employment. Approximately 5,000 students are receiving need-based aid or Guaranteed Student Loan funds. The University administers all Title IV programs, with a funding level of approximately \$12,000,000, a State Scholarship Program of approximately \$1,400,000 and institutional need-based aid totalling \$2,500,000. The Financial Aid Office makes all need-based awards to undergraduates, graduates, and medical students. It also monitors all graduate awards, including Teaching Assistantships Research Assistantships and all student earnings on the campus.

In 1977, the University of California System decided to decentralize all large cen-

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tral computer systems (i.e., Registrar, General Ledger, Financial Aid, Payroll, and Accounts Payable), so that each campus could achieve control over its own data processing. Financial Aid had been operating on a central system, (with six other University of California campuses) called the Financial Aid Information System (FAIS).

The UCI replacement for FAIS is INFAMOUS (Irvine's New Financial Aid Management On-line Users System). The concept of this local system involved three basic interfaces:

1. Interface with the present and future Financial Aid Office's day to day operations.

2. Interface with other partners in the system (Registrar, Admissions, etc.)

3. Interface with others who are not on the system (i.e., Accounting, College

Scholarship Service (CSS), Pell Grant Tape Exchange, etc.)

INFAMOUS was integrated with the Student Information System (SIS) which has five major participants: Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate Admissions, Academic Information Reporting, and Financial Aid. The Registrar was the initial developer of the system, followed by Undergraduate Admissions and Graduate Admissions. One of the unique aspects of developing INFAMOUS was that the Registrar and Undergraduate Admissions had made the decision to implement an on-line system and were in the process of designing their systems. Subsequently the Financial Aid Office initiated the development of INFAMOUS, which was an addition to the systems used by the Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions, and Graduate Admissions.

An important managerial concept within SIS states that the systems staff will be employed by the operational office rather than central data processing office. The Financial Aid Office has an Assistant Director, Systems, who supervises a staff consisting of two full-time programmers, one full-time data production coordinator, and two to four part-time student programmers who continually operate and refine the system. Decisions related to system development and operation are made by the "Management Team" of the Financial Aid Office.

The hardware, a PRIME 500 computer (manufactured in Massachusetts), has 2.0 megabyte main memory and 1,200 megabyte disc storage. Undergraduate Admissions, Registrar, and Financial Aid each own 30 percent of the computer, Graduate Admissions and Academic Information Systems own 5 percent each. The hardware resides in the Registrar's Office, located one floor above the Financial Aid Office and Graduate Admissions and next to Undergraduate Admissions. The initial cost of the PRIME was \$225,000, with Financial Aid assuming \$67,500 of the expense. Since the original purchase, additional costs have been incurred as a result of upgrading the system from its original 756K main memory and 600 megabyte disc storage. Additional costs pertaining to the PRIME are prorated based on percentage of ownership in SIS. All peripheral equipment (terminals, additional printers, etc.) is purchased by the individual offices.

Software for INFAMOUS has been totally developed by the Financial Aid Office. Essentially, all development is done within the Financial Aid Office with the exception of programs purchased for specific functions. (e.g., The College Board programs: the "Institutional Need Analysis System" (INAS) for need analysis and the "Packaging Aid Resources System" (PARS) for packaging). All costs of these outside programs are funded by the Financial Aid Office budget.

INFAMOUS is, as the acronym denotes, totally on-line. The office currently has 24 terminals. As the Financial Aid Office is allocated only 18 lines, all terminals cannot be operational simultaneously. All data are keyed into the system directly with the exception of information received from CSS via tape. Because INFAMOUS is integrated with Registrar, Undergraduate Admissions, and Graduate Admissions, it

is not necessary for the Financial Aid Office to enter data for which those offices have responsibility. For example, student name or address changes input by the

Registrar's Office are automatically updated in INFAMOUS.

From a user's perspective, INFAMOUS has been designed for easy input and operation. Screen designs for the terminals are updated annually based on information provided by the staff most directly involved with a particular screen format. The staff can select from a variety of screen formats depending on the desired information. After the user enters the system, a choice of display documents will appear. A staff member can either input the required data for the student or update

The screen format that has had the greatest positive impact on the Financial Aid staff members who work directly with students is the "Financial Aid Application Status" screen (Appendix A). This screen summarizes those questions most often asked by students and staff. For instance, if a student asks, "Has the Financial Aid Office received my Financial Aid Transcript from Loyola Marymount?", the staff member requests screen 9 and is able to give the student an immediate, correct, and current answer simply by reading what is contained on the screen. If a required document or item is missing (e.g., parents' 1040), the word "needed" flashes on the screen next to the appropriate item (as indicated next to the P-1040 item on Appendix A). INFAMOUS produces a print-out detailing most of the information contained on the Application Status screen. INFAMOUS also produces, on a monthly basis, a letter to the student indicating the information and/or documents needed to complete the student's file (Appendix B).

A subsystem of the Application Status System is "Undergraduate Scholarship Tracking." In addition to the documents needed for financial aid, other academic data such as grade-point average, SAT scores, etc., are needed to evaluate scholarship applicants. These data are communicated to INFAMOUS by the other offices on the System. The Registrar's system, Academic Record Information and Edit Systems (ARIES), is accessed for information pertaining to continuing students whereas the Undergraduate Admissions system, Evaluation Admissions System for Information and Entry Retrieval (EASIER), is accessed for information pertaining to entering students (Appendix C). Once all the documents and other relevant data have been collected, INFAMOUS rank orders all applicants according to the results of evaluations performed by the faculty. Scholarships are then awarded based on these rankings.

When all necessary documents are received by the Financial Aid Office and the student's file is considered complete, that student's name will appear on a Complete File Listing, generated by INFAMOUS. The completed files are then pulled for evaluation. The advising staff verify the information on the "Financial Resource Verification" screen (Appendix D), and make any necessary changes. If changes are made to the information contained on the screen, the Advisor may then direct IN-FAMOUS to recalculate the parental and/or student contribution. INFAMOUS uses the College Board's Institutional Need Analysis System (INAS) to recompute the contributions. It normally takes less than five seconds for a recalculation. After the contributions have been recomputed and the student's aid has been packaged, INFAMOUS generates a Financial Aid Award Letter (Appendix E) or a letter informing the student of other aid available (Appendix F).

UCI has purchased from the College Board an automated packaging system referred to as the Packaging Aid Resources System (PARS). The Financial Aid Office's system's staff is presently in the process of converting PARS to operate on PRIME. It is anticipated that PARS will be operational by February 1983.

INFAMOUS produces many printed listings used in the day-to-day operation of the Financial Aid Office. For example, less than full-time students are identified

from information in the Registrar's system. A listing of these students is generated with their respective financial aid awards. These students can be notified to contact our office for an adjustment to their awards.

The Fund Status Report, is another listing generated by INFAMOUS. Expenditures from each fund source and other useful information pertaining to each fund are printed in detail on this report. A subsection of this report contains a list of students receiving monies from each account.

Finally, the future of INFAMOUS holds some exciting prospects for research in financial aid. Some projects currently under consideration are:

- 1. How many students have their parental contributions recalculated as a result of collecting 1040s and what is the dollar difference in financial aid awarded when 1040s are collected as opposed to not collecting them? (UCI currently collects 1040s from all applicants.)
 - 2. Does work-study have an impact upon:
 - a. Retention?
 - b. Grades?

If so, what is the effect of on-campus versus off-campus work-study?

3. Does the academic success of a student differ significantly if the student is receiving loans as opposed to work aid? How does this compare with students not receiving financial aid?

It is the hope of the authors that this description of the Irvine financial aid system will be helpful to administrators who are contemplating conversion to automated data processing. To the extent their responsibilities permit, they will be glad to furnish detail on INFAMOUS or demonstrate its capabilities.

9. Financial Aid File Status for 82-83 DISPLAY —

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Appendix B

Financial Aid Office Unviersity of California, Irvine 102 Administration Bldg. Irvine, California 92717

02020-000 U UA Samual Smithy 19427 Sunshine Lane Bright, Ca 33322 August 27, 1982 * 3rd notice *

Dear Samual,

We are pleased that you have applied for financial aid at UC Irvine. This letter contains important information pertaining to your financial aid application for the 1982-83 academic year.

Please read items (a) and (b) first:

(a) _____ Check here if you will not be attending UCI during 1982-83.

(b) If you do not wish to continue the processing of your financial aid application, check here _____, sign X _____, and date _____.

If you have checked either item (a) or (b) disregard the remainder of this letter and return it to the Financial Aid Office.

We are unable to continue processing your financial aid application at this time because of the following:

Your financial aid file is incomplete and the form(s) listed below must be received by the Financial Aid Office as soon as possible.

Forms Needed to Complete Your Financial Aid File:

1. Your Student Aid Application for California (SAAC). Please complete the enclosed form and mail it directly to the College Scholarship Service with the appropriate fee. UC Irvine's code number is 4859.

This is the third and final notice you will receive to complete your file. Please submit all documents listed above as soon as possible so that we may begin evaluating your application for financial aid.

If you have submitted all of the requested forms within the last ten days, please disregard this letter.

Please note: all awards are subject to the availability of funds.

We would like to extend our best wishes for your every success at the University. If you have any questions regarding financial aid, please call our office at (714) 833-6261 and speak with the Financial Aid Technician assigned to help you.

Sincerely, Financial Aid Office

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Appendix E

FRED AATEST

This Financial Aid Award Letter is valid for the following quarters:

83 83 32

This financial aid award is NOT VALID until you sign and date section V on the reverse side of this form and return it to the UCI Financial Aid Office, retaining the yellow student copy for your records. This Award Letter must be returned within 10 days of the date of this form or this award may be cancelled.

DETERMINATION OF YOUR FINANCIAL NEED:

\$6,350.00 BUDGET CATEGORY 2

(LIVING IN OFF-CAMPUS APARTMENT)

\$1,602.00 EXPECTED PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$280.00

\$700.00

EXPECTED STUDENT CONTRIBUTION:

\$700.00

\$0.00

\$700.00

\$0.00

All fees are subject to change without notice and the University may impose additional fees.

\$2,302.00 TOTAL FAMILY CONTRIBUTION:

91,048.00 FINANCIAL NEED:

OUTSIDE AID:

PELL(CASIC)CRAIT CALGRANT A

\$1,363.00

5280.00

\$455.

\$2,203.00

TOTAL OUTSIDE AID

CHECKS DISTURSED SEF 20

JAN 3

\$1,845.00 FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

FINANCIAL AID AWARD:

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\$124.50 \$124,50

\$267.00

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\$1,945.00

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE COPY

CHECKS DISGURSED SET 20

JAR 3

"M 23

Appendix F

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

BERKELEY . DAVIS . IRVINE . LOS ANGELES . RIVERSIDE . SAN DIEGO . SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA . SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE of FINANCIAL AID

Kathy Little 9910 Thistle Thistle Valley, Ca 92708 IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92717

OB/22/82 Social Security -Student ID No. - 22222-222 U

Dear Kathy,

The following will assist you in understanding how the Financial Aid Office determined your financial aid eligibility:

- a) 3,850 BUDGET (Living in Parents' home)
 - b) 4,792 EXPECTED PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION (calculated from the information provided on your Student Aid Application for California [SAAC], Federal Income Tax Return, and/or other documents).
 - c) 1.757 EXPECTED STUDENT CONTRIBUTION Includes the following: 1.300 Expected Earnings 595 Assets 0 Spouse's Contribution 0 Other
- d) ZERO FINANCIAL NEED a (b + c) = d
 - e) ZERO TOTAL OUTSIDE AID

f) ZERO UCI FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY d - e

Based on the above analysis, you are ineligible for institutional financial aid for the 1982-83 academic year. However, you may want to consider applying for a California Guaranteed Student Loan. The interest rate is 9% and the Loan is made to you by a bank or other lender. If the combined Adjusted Gross Income of your parents and yourself is \$30,000 or less, eligibility is not based on your family's financial situation. If the combined Adjusted Gross Income is greater than \$30,000 a needs test will be required. If you wish to apply for a California Guaranteed Student Loan you may obtain an application from the Financial Aid Office. Complete part A of the application and return it to the Financial Aid Office for processing.

If you are interested in part-time employment to help cover the cost of your education, contact the UCI Career Planning and Placement Center. The Center, located in Student Services I, maintains a complete listing of part-time and summer jobs, internship opportunities, and other career-related services for students.

If your financial circumstances change during the academic year, please provide us with the new information and documentation and make an appointment to see a Financial Aid Advisor. If you have any questions concerning financial aid, please contact our cafice at (714) 833-6261.

Financial Aid Advisor