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ERP in the MIS Curriculum: A Tri-Perspective

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Businesses have recognized that today's world of global competition requires enterprise-wide systems to enable flexible organizations, rapid process redesign, and enterprise-wide resource allocation and planning. To achieve these management capabilities organizations implement Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

Business students need curricula that stress the whole enterprise rather than the individual functions and components. To become effective leaders, business students need to understand how organizations formulate plans and manager their operations using ERP systems. To enhance our undergraduate and graduate programs in Information Systems, an increasing number of universities have entered or are contemplating entering into alliances with leading vendors of ERP software and are planning to redesign their curricula to help students understand the requirements and the design of enterprise-wide systems solutions through use of ERP.

This panel will include three types of contributors:

1. Academic institutions that will address issues of implementation, faculty development, and curriculum design.

2. Major ERP vendors who will contribute presentations about the conceptual foundations of their products and will describe their programs for interaction with academic adopters.

   Participants:
   - Oracle
   - PeopleSoft
   - SAP

3. System integrators who will contribute their perspectives as employers of our graduates.

   Participants:
   - Ernst & Young

This panel will discuss a number of issues related to achieving a successful implementation and functioning of ERP in the MIS curriculum. The panel's overall aim is to share experiences and identify key considerations that have to be addressed from both a resource and a pedagogical viewpoint. Key issues could include:

1. Support issues and resource requirements related to implementing ERP

2. Course design or redesign considerations when integrating ERP into the class

3. Comparative evaluation of alternative ERP vendor products and academic alliance features

4. Maintenance issues related to implementing ERP

5. Economics of implementing ERP

6. Market Value to the student of having ERP in the curriculum

7. Faculty ERP training issues

8. Vendor/industry involvement/support with programs that include ERP in courses