

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chancellor's Cabinet
Deans, Directors, and Department Chairs
University Business Managers
Chair, Faculty Council
Chair, Employee Forum

FROM: Nancy D. Suttentfield, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Marian G. Moore, Vice Chancellor for Information Technology

DATE: January 7, 2002

SUBJECT: Departmental Accounting System (DAS)

The University's leadership and its business managers continue to place a high priority on systems enhancements that will streamline administrative processes and deliver greater flexibility to departments to record and report their financial transactions in ways that are meaningful for planning and financial control. Unfortunately, our efforts to provide the functionalities desired by campus users have, in recent years, suffered setbacks due to budget cuts, staffing turnover, and diminishing support from our software vendors. We therefore want to provide a brief status report to you about our efforts to make completion of the DAS project a higher priority.

We are pleased to report that, in 2001, the Budget Committee approved funding for the additional staffing necessary to maintain the DAS system, because our vendor (InDEPTH) had given us notice that it would no longer provide this service. This action underscores the University's commitment to provide departments a resource to manage their departmental financial operations more effectively. In addition to providing on-line documents with a single point of entry, DAS offers the ability to cost code transactions, electronically approve and route documents, and create document templates. Its integration with the central Financial Records System (FRS) allows for easier on-going reconciliation.

In the coming weeks, the two of us will be arranging meetings with each dean and other major "clients" to get an updated assessment of your IT service needs and current priorities. We think it is important to take the pulse of each major user constituency on a regular basis to assure that we are concentrating our limited resources on your highest support priorities.

Attached is a document explaining the history of the DAS project and the updated plan to get the product fully implemented at Carolina.

For additional information, please see the Departmental Accounting System Team website at: www.ais.unc.edu/das. You may also email them at indepth@unc.edu or call them at 962-9233.

