



## UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Dear Notre Dame Faculty and Staff:

We wanted to take a moment to update you on a major initiative the University of Notre Dame will be launching this year. This initiative has been given the name Renovare. As many of you know, *Renovare* is Latin for renewal, a name befitting a project designed to renew our strategic administrative information systems while providing a disciplined review of our institutional processes.

Renovare will have an impact on us all over the next four years; therefore, it is only fitting that we provide some background on the project and explain why Renovare has become a University priority.

In October 2001, Hewlett Packard announced it would end support of its HP 3000 platform on December 31, 2006. The HP 3000 is the University's current mainframe computer and supports virtually all of our administrative functions. The number of software applications currently running on the mainframe is significant, and the HP mainframe supports four "core" systems:

- The Student/Faculty Information System (e.g., admissions, records, student registration, grading, class lists, financial aid, student accounts)
- Financial System (e.g., general ledger, accounting services for restricted and unrestricted accounts, accounts payable, budget)
- Human Resources/Payroll System (e.g., faculty and staff appointments, payroll, benefits administration, position control)
- Development Information System (e.g., alumni relations, fundraising, planned giving)

In addition to these core systems which are considered critical to the University's daily operations, there are a number of "ancillary" systems operating on the mainframe, including Student Housing, Laundry, Security Dispatch, and Student Health Services. These, too, will be replaced.

Subsequent to the Hewlett Packard announcement, the University established the Renovare Steering Committee to guide the system replacement effort. The Steering Committee, co-chaired by the two of us, includes representation from senior academic and administrative leadership across campus. Moreover, several subcommittees, reporting to the Steering Committee, have been formed to ensure constituency needs are represented. The subcommittee chairs include Harold Pace representing Student/Faculty, Drew Paluf representing Finance and Payroll, Bob Foldesi representing Human Resources, and Bill Kirk and Dan Skendzel representing the Ancillary areas.

Our Renovare Program Manager is Craig Brummell, a Notre Dame graduate we hired last November. Craig brings with him extensive IT renovation experience. He has managed similar projects as a consultant for Arthur Andersen Business Consulting and a project leader at GE Medical Systems. Craig reports to our CIO, Gordon Wishon, and will be accountable to the Project Renovare Steering Committee and subcommittee chairs for the overall success of this massive program.

Renovare is far more complex than many of the projects the University has undertaken. Over the life of this multimillion-dollar program, the current institutional applications, many of which were developed or modified internally, will be replaced with commercial software and hardware systems used by other world-class universities. The replacement effort will give us the opportunity to evaluate our institutional processes and make changes where needed as the project progresses. In some cases, current institutional practices will need to be modified to accommodate the new systems we purchase and to conform to standard higher education best practice.

The subcommittee chairs and their teams have spent significant time evaluating software and potential vendors over the last six months. They have evaluated over 900 system requirements needed by the various colleges and departments across campus. These evaluations became the substance of our Request for Proposal to replace the HP-based systems.

Three vendors submitted responses to our Request for Proposal. Our Renovare evaluation team reviewed and scored each response based on the vendor's ability to meet our functional, technical, and integration requirements in accordance with our established evaluation methodology. In addition, they closely examined each vendor's business viability, commitment to higher education and, of course, commitment to Notre Dame. They validated the assertions offered in the proposals through site visits, reference calls, and additional research. Over the past several months, members of the team made eight site visits and held ten reference calls with comparable institutions. Currently we are moving forward with the negotiations phase of the evaluation, and hope to have a signed contract with our vendor of choice by the end of the month. We have full confidence in the completeness of the review process and the likely outcome.

During the course of this initiative, you will be asked to play an active role in the Renovare process. As a faculty member, that may simply be learning how to submit and receive data or information which is required in your teaching or research. Administrative users may participate in the design and testing of the new system, attend training, and in many ways change the way you work. We ask that, when contacted, you make this program a top priority and extend the Renovare team your cooperation and support. Look for more Renovare communications on the program and requests for participation in the near future. We will also communicate to you when we have finalized our vendor selection and have a signed contract.

As the name implies, Renovare is far more than computer system renovation. Renovare is an opportunity to improve our institutional processes for serving students, faculty, and staff, and to position ourselves to meet the information challenges and opportunities of the future. We offer our thanks to the people who laid the groundwork for this exciting initiative.

In Notre Dame,



Dr. Nathan O. Hatch  
Provost



Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C.  
Executive Vice President