

# Decision Support News

Summer Quarter 2007

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## DSS RELOCATING

DSS will be packing up and saying goodbye to Juniper Modular, our home since 1998. Our new offices will be in Building 60, next to the Memorial Church on the Inner Quad.

Primarily we are moving to escape the eventual demolition of Juniper, but the move will bring us closer to many of our users and to our sister organization, the University Budget Office.

We will move after year-end to minimize disruption during that busy time. Our phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same, so the move should be transparent to our users.

## DSS: Getting Access, and Getting Help

We are often asked, “How can I get access to DSS?” It’s a simple process. The new user’s manager should send an email to [Kathy.Mahler@stanford.edu](mailto:Kathy.Mahler@stanford.edu) to request access to DSS. The email should include the user’s name and SUNet id. The new user should already have authority in place in Authority Manager, which is where DSS gets its authority data from. Once Kathy gets the manager’s approval, she will add the new user and create a password. The new user can change the password if he or she wants.

*“It is always helpful to attach the Business Objects Report you are having problems with.”*

If you ever need help, it’s also a simple process. Just send an email to [Anita.Craig@stanford.edu](mailto:Anita.Craig@stanford.edu) or

[Kathy.Mahler@stanford.edu](mailto:Kathy.Mahler@stanford.edu). It is most helpful to attach the Business Objects Report (i.e., the \*.rep file) you are having problems with. Be sure to state exactly what is listed in your conditions and what is in your results sections. Alternately, you can take a picture of the Business Objects Query Panel by pressing the print screen button on your keyboard then opening up Microsoft Word. Click Edit, Paste. Save the Word document and send it with your email.

If there is an error message take a picture of it (use the method just described above). If the error has a Details button, click the button and tell DSS what is in the details.

If you are trying to reconcile to a Report-

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## Department Profiles for FY06 Distributed

The Department Profiles for fiscal year 2006 have been distributed to the Provost, Vice-Provost for Budget, Vice-Provost for Graduate Education, and the School Deans for the Schools of Earth Sciences, Education, Engineering, Humanities & Sciences, Law, and the Graduate School of Business. The purpose of the Department Profiles is to provide information regarding the performance of the academic departments of the University in the schools mentioned above. The original impetus for the Profiles (first created in fiscal year 1998) was the desire to base at least some portion of the schools’ general funds allocations on performance measures. Although the data was never used for budgeting

purposes, we found that it provides a numerical foundation for assessing the effectiveness of a particular school or department over time or as compared to similar units.

The Department Profiles contain some new data this year—faculty counts by gender, senior survey satisfaction measures, advising counts, and enrollment data for courses taught in the department. This new data makes the department profiles more useful by providing a more complete picture of departmental activities.

A picture of the new Department Profiles

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# US News Rankings Coming in August

On August 17, the US News & World Report “Best Colleges” rankings will be released. An annual headache for most colleges and universities, the popularity of the rankings remains high, and Stanford must acknowledge and deal with the hype that surrounds the rankings.

Behind the rankings is a 300-plus question survey completed each year through the cooperation of the Communications department, Registrar, Admissions and Financial Aid department, and DSS.

Also, a reputational survey is sent to Presidents, Provosts and Deans of Admissions of every college and university.

You may have heard recently of a boycott of the reputational survey by the Annapolis Group of colleges, who feel that the methodological problems of a reputational

survey make it unsuitable for such a large role in a prominent college guide. Our own former President, Gerhard Casper, felt the same way and refused to fill out the reputational survey. In a letter to then-editor James

Fallows, President Casper called the ranking mechanism a bunch of “specious formulas and spurious precision” and the results “utterly misleading”.

USNews responded to some of President Casper’s criticisms, resulting in a ranking formula that has been quite stable for the last 5 years or so. The rankings are composed of seven major areas:

Academic Reputation (25%), Faculty Resources (20%), Retention (20%), Student Selectivity (15%), Financial

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*“Stanford has been ranked 4th, 5th, or 6th every year since 1992.”*

## Institutional Research Tools Spotlight: AAUDE data

Stanford University belongs to two major data-sharing consortia, COFHE and AAUDE. In this issue, I’ll describe AAUDE and talk about what AAUDE has to offer. COFHE will be covered in a later issue of the newsletter.

The Association of American Universities Data Exchange – also known as AAUDE (pronounced like Audi, the car) – was organized in January 1974 by the institutional research officers of a handful of public AAU institutions. AAUDE is comprised of AAU institutions that want to participate in the exchange of data and information to support decision-making at their respective institutions. Today, AAUDE encompasses all 61 AAU institutions with the exception of the University of Chicago, but they may join soon.

The primary purpose of AAUDE is the annual exchange of data/information agreed upon by institutional representatives. These representatives, typically Institutional Researchers, work closely together to gather data that is consistent across the many varied universities in the AAU. You’d be surprised how difficult it is to get 60 universities to agree upon what “enrollment” means.

AAUDE has a great website, <http://www.pb.uillinois.edu/aaude>. The public section is available to anyone, and it has a restricted section for members only. The public section includes a range of information including public reports on topics from gender equity to economic impact and compilations

of links to financial reports, fact books, etc. at AAUDE institutions.

A strength of AAUDE is that it maintains a secure data warehouse that is housed at and administered by staff at MIT. The data, which can be accessed by a variety of query tools, includes a wide range of content including salaries, enrollments, faculty counts, research expenditures, university finances, and



teaching activity. The structure of the warehouse allows users to relate data by institution, year, and, in some cases, discipline.

AAUDE has also built a ReportMart1-like interface that allows easier access to the data and the ability to provide access to selected information to a wider range of people.

If you receive the External Statistics Book each year, you will notice that some of the tables are sourced from data collected by AAUDE. DSS also distributes a yearly report entitled

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# New Department Profile Sheet

(Continued from page 1)...Dept Profiles sheet is shown to the right. New data is shown in the purple boxes.

Next year, we hope to be able to add information from the online Course Evaluations, as per a suggestion from H&S. If you have any suggestions for data to add to the Department Profiles, please let Rana or Missy know.

If you have a need for the raw data behind the Profiles, send an email to Missy and she can provide an Excel spreadsheet with the data for your departments.



## Department Profile: 2005-06 Academic/Fiscal Year

School: School of Humanities & Sciences 1993 NRC Ranking  
 H&S-Sub School  
 Department: Sample Dept

Faculty Primary Appointment Headcount Total			37	Total Students	193	
Tenure Line	Female	11	Male	25	Undergraduates	97
Non-Tenure Line	Female		Male	1	Reg Grads-Other	4
Faculty FTE:	37.5				Reg Grads-PHD	59
On-Duty FTE:	36.8				TGR-Other	0
					TGR-PHD	33
Other Non-Tenure Line			Non-Teaching Staff	7	Degrees:	83
Faculty	10		Exempt	3	Bachelor	60
Lecturer/Sr. Lecturer	4		Non-Exempt	4	Masters	9
Other Ranks	6		Bargaining Unit		Doctorate	14

### Teaching Activity

	Classroom Courses	Individualized Instruction
Courses Taught		
Professional Faculty	108.0	231.8
Lecturer/Sr. Lecturer	29.8	8.0
Others	34.7	24.5
Total Courses	172.5	264.3
Units Taught		
Professional Faculty	8,944	1,337
Lecturer/Sr. Lecturer	2,268	28
Others	1,461	98
Total Units	12,672	1,463

Undergrad Honors Advisees	1
Undergrad Major/Minor Advisees	141
Undergrad Unadvised Advisees	16
Masters Program Advisees	2
Doctoral Program Advisees	65
Doctoral Dissertation Advisees	42
Doctoral Dissertation Readers	74

### Sponsored Activity

Total Sponsored Expense	\$24,005
US	\$3,604
Non-US	\$20,398
New Proposals	13
New Awards	10
New Awards Amount	\$2,052,520

	Classroom Courses	Individualized Instruction
Enrollment		
Professional Faculty	1,933	427
Lecturer/Sr. Lecturer	530	8
Others	314	38
Total Enrollment	2,777	473

### Expenses

	All Other Functions	Sponsored Research (Fn 2)
Fac Salaries	\$4,141,000	
R.A. and TA Salaries	797,986	
Other Salaries	596,960	
Benefits	1,502,784	
Grad Aid or Stipends	2,225,506	
UG Aid	8,745	
All Other Expense	754,021	23,171
Indirect Charges		
Total	\$10,027,004	\$23,171

### Sources of Revenues

Designated	1,039,905
Endowed	187,619
Expendable	252,337
Grants and Contracts	24,134
Operating Budget	8,975,894
Other	
Total	10,479,889

### Student Satisfaction

2006 Senior Survey Overall Satisfaction - % Generally or Very Satisfied	92%
2006 Senior Survey Satisfaction with Advising in the Major - % Generally or Very Satisfied	78%

(Continued from page 2)...AAUDE

“Current Developments Summary for AAU Institutions”. This report is composed entirely of AAUDE data, including tuition, fundraising campaigns, enrollment, total compensation, endowments, and computing systems. This report also contains summaries of current events on campuses. Stanford’s Deans and Vice-Presidents receive these reports each year in late spring.

AAUDE data has also been very useful for gender equity studies for faculty, faculty salary studies, and comparisons of graduate student stipends.

One strength of AAUDE is also a weakness—it is self-run. While being self-run means it has very low overhead (it only costs Stanford \$3000 per year to belong), it also means that there is no “watchdog” to prod universities into submitting their data on time. So sometimes we need to wait longer than we would like for a peer school to submit their data. While we are always trying to improve “participation”, the voluntary nature of data submission means working with AAUDE data can require patience!

Keep AAUDE in mind if you need comparative data for research universities.

**DECISION SUPPORT SERVICES**

Decision Support Services  
215D Panama Street  
Juniper Modular, MC 4132  
Stanford, CA 94305



*(Continued from page 1)....Getting Help with DSS*

Mart3 report, please send DSS the number and name of the report and describe the discrepancy. Also please provide how you answered the prompts.

Kathy and Anita will try to respond to your problem quickly. Sometimes they need to consult with the EDW team to track down a problem. In those cases, please be patient, especially while the EDW is short-

*Decision Support Services:*

Rana Glasgal: 5-1327, rana@stanford.edu  
Associate Vice-Provost for Institutional Research  
and Decision Support

Anita Craig: 5-4648 anita.craig@stanford.edu  
Decision Support Analyst

Melissa (Missy) Damon: 3-8445  
mjwolff@stanford.edu  
Institutional Research Analyst

Lisa Kramer: 6-8192 kramerla@stanford.edu  
Survey Research Analyst

Kathy Mahler: 5-7548 kmahler@stanford.edu  
Decision Support Analyst

**DSS Seeks Part-Time Administrative Assistant**

DSS is seeking to hire a part-time (50%) Administrative Assistant for basic office duties such as reimbursements, petty cash, document production, and ordering office supplies. This person may also assist the Budget Office when Betsy Lewis is on vacation. If you know of someone who fits the bill, please have them search for job number 26300 on jobs.stanford.edu. This would be a great position for someone already working 50% time here at Stanford and looking to expand to 100%. It is currently classified at 1A2.



*Who will fill this chair?*

*(Continued from page 2)....US News*

Resources (10%), Alumni Giving (5%), and Graduate Rate Performance (5%).

Stanford has been ranked 4th, 5th, or 6th every year since 1992, so those of us involved with the survey of ten greet the rankings each August with a big ho-hum. We anticipate the same this year. If you have any questions about the USNews rankings, Missy is our resident expert!

**DSS Year-End Close Schedule**

The tentative DSS Close Schedule for FY07 year-end will be as follows:

Soft Close: 9/11 at 6pm until 9/12 mid day  
Hard Close: 9/18 at 6pm until 9/19 mid day  
Final Close: 9/25 at 6pm until 9/26 mid day

The close schedule is always subject to change for Controller's Office processing, delays in Oracle Financials processing, or delays in the push of data to DSS. We will keep you informed as changes occur.

**NRC Survey Update**

The NRC is hard at work, compiling the mountains of data it collected from hundreds of universities. Soon we will receive our data back, after crunching by the NRC. We will be given a chance to correct any errors.

We have heard that late in 2007/early 2008, the NRC will publish its findings. Hopefully, we will find that all of Stanford's wonderful doctoral programs will come out on the top of their fields, but more realistically, we can't expect to be #1 in everything! The Vice-Provost for Graduate Education will be taking the lead in publicizing the findings, and preparing the campus for the inevitable onslaught of questions.

**Recently Distributed Institutional Research Reports**

- Stanford Statistics Book—hardcopies mailed in May; online Stats Book also updated
- Current Developments Summary for AAU Institutions—hardcopies mailed in June
- External Statistics Book—hardcopies will be mailed in late August/early September