

January 10, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Directors and Department Heads

FROM: Charles D. Leffler, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Business
Larry A. Nielsen, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

SUBJECT: Campus Calendaring/Email Decision

Over the past several years, the NC State community has dealt with growing inefficiencies caused by having two incompatible appointment calendaring systems serving the university. In August 2007, we created a new email and calendaring team to evaluate and recommend a single calendaring system to be centrally provided for the campus. The team evaluated the major contenders in the email and calendaring market, and in late December they made their recommendations to us. GroupWise, an integrated email/calendaring system already in use by several thousand customers on campus was selected to be NC State's single centrally-supported calendaring system.

Beginning in summer 2008, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) will provide GroupWise services for faculty, staff and students who choose to use a campus calendaring system. While those who decide to utilize the campus calendaring system will need to use the GroupWise client (desktop or web) for calendar access, the option remains to utilize any of the supported IMAP clients for email access. Faculty, staff and students who do not require a campus calendaring system can continue to run existing email clients including the Unity email service.

Over the course of the next six months the implementation team will review policies and develop procedures to ensure a smooth transition to GroupWise. The team will also be working with college/department IT staff to set up training and address customer concerns. Additionally, the implementation team will create a list of Oracle calendar customers who will need to be migrated to GroupWise services since the Oracle calendaring system will be discontinued once the migration is complete. During the summer of 2008, current faculty, staff and student users of Oracle calendar will be contacted through their local IT support staff or the Help Desk to begin the migration process.

The campus will be kept informed of developments through the OIT web site, news bulletins, the University IT Committee and subcommittees, IT support groups and other forums as appropriate.

The choice of GroupWise was based on mobility device support, in-house expertise, the ability to leverage existing Novell licensing, and the ability to utilize the existing campus directory structure. More detailed information about the choice is provided at <http://www.ncsu.edu/oitcal/>.