Course Management Data Mart – PRF-00025 Addendum 2

Problem 1:

Description: There is currently no standard room number format enforced in all of the campus databases containing data that needs to be merged based on the room number. Consequently, merging the data is next to impossible. The official University Room file on the mainframe currently has a six-character alpha room number field as the unique identifier. However, this length is insufficient to handle all of the room numbers currently used on campus. The Medical Center's space system uses a ten-character alpha room number of the format: room prefix (first three characters), room number (next four characters) and room suffix (last three characters). However, the Medical Center's system also stores the six-character field stored on the mainframe file in order to upload data.

Proposed Solution:
We need to add a ten-character alpha room number to the official Room file on the mainframe, and update this field based on the values in the MC space system. (Any programs using this file would need to be reviewed and changed if necessary.)

Problem 2:

Description: The room numbers displayed above the room doors, and on other signage, do not conform to any standard format used in any of the databases. (For example, room "1" appears on the door, but "001" in the database.) Consequently, printed documents given to students and others may contain room numbers that do not appear on any sign, thus making it difficult to physically locate a room on campus. At this time, it would be cost prohibitive to try to change all of the signs to any standard room number format.

Proposed Solution:
We need to add a fifteen-character alpha room number to the official Room file on the mainframe. This field will be populated with the value of the room number physically displayed above the door and other signage. This will allow users to choose between the standard format for data analysis or the physical room number for publication to students. (Any programs using this file would need to be reviewed and changed if necessary.)

Problem 3:

Description: There has been routine purging of records in the official Building and Room files on the mainframe. Rooms and/or building that no longer exist on campus are systematically written to tape and purged from the files on the mainframe. This has resulted in the inability to merge data from these files with historical data in SIS or other systems. This makes it impossible to do any kind of historical trends analysis of our classroom utilization.

Proposed Solution:
(1) We need to add a one-character alpha field to the official Room and Building files on the mainframe to indicate activity status (i.e. "A" – active, "I" – inactive). All current records in these files and any new records added would default to a value of "A" in this Activity Flag. (2) MC needs to make the same change in their space system. (3) We need to restore the purged records for these mainframe files for at least the last five years (i.e. everything since Fall of 1996) and set their activity status to "I". (4) We need to quit purging this data. If a room or building become inactive through renovation or demolition, then the corresponding activity flags should be set to "I" on those records in the MC space system and uploaded to the mainframe. (Any programs using these files would need to be reviewed and changed if necessary.)