Talking Points

Why are we doing this?

- SkyVU’s short mission statement:
  - Support Vanderbilt University’s academic mission by modernizing its financial, administrative and research support systems.
- In November 2015, the Board of Trust approved the initiation of a project to replace the university’s financial, administrative and research support systems.
- Tremendous growth coupled with increasingly complex business processes presents significant challenges as we continue to operate on systems that are decades old.
- This project will transform Vanderbilt’s administrative processes and the underlying technology across financial, administrative and research support organizations by making them more efficient, while consolidating system applications and mitigating risk.
- With the separation of the Medical Center from the university, Vanderbilt has an unprecedented opportunity to invest in university-specific systems and processes that promote institutional goals outlined in the Academic Strategic Plan.

What current systems are being replaced by SkyVU?

- All eBiz web apps and many other administrative apps will be replaced with the modernized Oracle Cloud allowing our university to operate more efficiently.
- The Oracle Cloud product will replace a number of applications, including, for example: the General Ledger, eProcurement, DMS, eDog and C2HR.
- The SkyVU project team is working closely with Oracle and Huron consultants on the product implementation to meet Vanderbilt’s needs.
- Student systems are not being replaced.

How is this technology different?

- Since we have been operating in old technology, we are leapfrogging to the Cloud in order to stay current with today’s technologies.
- These modern applications will be integrated and provide a more user-friendly interface to users.

What is the project timeline?

- The project timeline officially began in February 2016 with a January 1, 2018 Go-Live date for the majority of the work streams, but some work will continue after that date.
- We will be sensitive to the academic calendar to ensure the least amount of disruption.

How are people going to hear about the upcoming changes?

- By engaging the broader community through several avenues, we are working together to educate the campus community about the changes. Some of these avenues include:
Change Network: Research has identified that employees are more likely to embrace change if the supervisor or manager of the employees are engaged in delivering the message.
- Change Champions: wide influence, enable change, actively engaged
- Change Agents: local influence, advocate change, direct feedback

Business Partners: Individuals identified across each division of the university who participate in Business Process Analysis

Communications:
- SkyVU Website ([https://www.vanderbilt.edu/skyvu/](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/skyvu/)) has been built to supply up-to-date information about SkyVU as well as provide a link to specific project documentation and updates.
- SkyVU Blog provides a deeper dive into specific areas of the project. The blog is available on the SkyVU website with new blog posts every other Monday. A link to the blog is available through MyVU on the day it is posted.

Training: As the project unfolds, training will be provided to meet everyone’s needs.

How does SkyVU support the academic mission?
- Provide new opportunities for our staff to contribute to the university’s success
- Modernize processes and systems to allow our faculty and staff to focus more of their time and energy on the core mission
- Mitigate risks from the separation of the Medical Center and avoid new risks to the university

If you have any questions, please email [skyvu@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:skyvu@vanderbilt.edu).