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08-091

GRANT AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT WITH  
DEGREEWORKS/SUNGUARD HIGHER EDUCATION  
INC., TO PROVIDE AN AUTOMATED DEGREE AUDIT  
SYSTEM

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FINANCIAL  
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APPROVED BY: Randy McEwen, District Vice President  
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REPORT: The Enrollment Services Department has a need to contract with a professional consultant to provide an automated degree audit system. This system will provide enhanced information needed by students when making decisions on course enrollment. Currently, students must see an advisor to determine how close they are to graduation. Automated course information will make it easier for students to interpret which degree requirements have been met and which requirements are unmet. In addition, providing an automated degree audit system means students will have access to three-tiered functions: 1) an audit process will be performed by the College for all students prior to registration so that students know which courses they need to take; 2) students will be able to utilize the tool at any time to get updated degree information as in the first scenario; 3) the system will allow students to run "what if" scenarios such as "what if I change my major?" or "what would the impact be for taking a particular course?". This three-tiered functionality will help the College meet Title III grant requirements. The system will be available to academic advisors and faculty to assist students in planning their future. The estimated cost of the project will exceed the \$100,000 threshold thus requiring formal solicitation process.

After much discussion with SunGard Higher Education Inc., the College's contractor for maintaining and providing the Banner System, it has been recommended that the Department work directly with DegreeWorks, recently acquired by SunGard. This will assure full integration with the College's enterprise software (Banner) and will ensure that services provided conform to the College's requirements and other projects; that the best possible service is provided; and that warranties are preserved. Because of these requirements, this contract is exempt from competitive process (CCR.250). However, a contract that exceeds the \$100,000 requires approval from the Board of Directors.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board of Directors grant authority to negotiate the contract with DegreeWorks to provide an automated Degree Audit System. The contract will be valid through May 31, 2014, for a total of \$175,000. Funding will be from the General Fund.