

May 4, 1992

MEMORANDUM

To: W. David Wimberly
From: Paul W. Bixby
Subject: Status Report

Business and Administrative Strategic Information System II

Refer to BASIS II Status memo to the BASIS Steering Committee, dated May 1, 1992.

Since you're having a *Five Year Plan* meeting with Dr Zimmerman this week, I'll climb back on my soap box and spout once again about the interface issue. Maybe you could mention to him that your team is concerned and would like to know what his philosophy is. I know discussions with him about this topic aren't high on you list of favorite things, but maybe we're wearing him down.

With BASIS II's requirements to interface with some existing systems in other departments so we can have centrally stored, validated, and controlled data, should we:

- Develop interfaces with current systems as an interim solution with the intent of developing (or having the departments develop) integrated, standardized applications to replace the stand-alone system?
- Develop interfaces with current systems as long-term solutions, thereby setting a precedence of allowing stand-alone departmental systems that cannot be corporately controlled (opening the door to duplicate, and potentially corrupted data)?
- Accept the current situation as the *way things will always be* and let the departments duplicate data, effort, and money to fulfill their internal requirements and the University's requirements?

Hey, I know it's old, but maybe with a real development effort to tie the issue to (i.e. it directly impacts our development approach), maybe we can make him consider the real ramifications a non-decision strategy.

Plans For the Future

I re-wrote the headings for the Big Picture more along the lines of what you gave me for your outline. I put the stuff I had in some higher numbered headings under your main headings and it really helped the flow. This way, maybe we can break the general areas out for a high-level presentation. I'm currently concentrating on filling in information in the Requisition and Authorization areas, identifying as many questions as I can for this week's meeting. I hope to fill in a lot more detail over the next couple weeks. I got the thing to pull in your paper on the Vendor File and, at this point, it fits in well with the level of discussion everywhere else in the document.

Barring no unforeseen problems this week, I intend on hosting the David's-an-old-man-and-BASISII-Project-Planning-Session (BIIPPS) at my humble abode on Friday after work. Hey, I think I like that acronym. For now on we can say we're going to a *bips* meeting. It sounds important enough that no will ask questions. When in doubt, sound it out!