
Issue Brief – UCAT Student Information System

NUMBER UCAT-06

SUMMARY

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends funding of \$688,000 for support costs for the new Student Information System which will be implemented on 1 July 2006. Of the total recommendation, \$516,000 is ongoing funding and \$172,000 is one-time.

OBJECTIVE

Ongoing support funding is needed to provide the necessary data input and output in the newly designed Student Information System for the nine UCAT campuses.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Support for the existing information systems used on the UCAT campuses is scheduled to end on 30 June 2006. In anticipation of this deadline, UCAT developed an in-house, customized system that will capture the student information that is required for state and national reporting, while conforming to the uniqueness of the open-entry, open exit environment of UCAT. The new system is being introduced at each of the nine campuses and the Central Administration office ahead of the time when the old system is phased out.

While the development of the new system was accomplished without state funding, funding for its implementation and ongoing support is needed. The recommended ongoing funding of \$516,000 will provide a support team of 3.5 FTEs that will provide training and handle questions and problems from the nine campuses. Ongoing costs also cover licensing, data storage costs, and connection costs.

The one-time funding recommendation is to provide hardware that will be required at the nine campuses and the Central Administration for the final implementation of the project.