Bob Reynolds, Curriculum Database

"He's Making a List and Checking it Twice..."

Bob Reynolds, Web Specialist, ETS Computing has spent more than a year listening to the wants and needs expressed by the Curriculum Office, Curriculum Committee, Advisory Committee and other faculty and staff for changes and improvements in the Curriculum Database. From this very long Wish List, Bob identified many doable changes and improvements that resulted in many meetings with Char and emails from Su before significant changes were implemented behind the scenes. Beginning spring semester 2006, you will see the improvements from the Wish List, which includes:

- Spell Checker Information
- New Forms - SLN, Hybrid, IDG (Instructional Development Grant)
- Sample Proposals
- Archives Page
- New Numbering ID System
- Numbered Reason for Proposal to document proposed changes
- Proposals listed by Course or Program Title rather than proposal ID
- Many, many text and field changes
- Updated Icon design and size

A major challenge Bob worked through in managing the Database the past three years was implementation of Percussion PowerFlow software, a workflow tool that tracks proposal status changes. This has been beneficial because it tracks who makes the change, when the changes are made and sends email notifications when important changes are made to a proposal. The feedback received from new and experienced faculty submitting proposals has been very positive. The database also provides a validation check, for proposers to ensure that all required fields are completed. Problems experienced, particularly when changing status, are easy for Bob to track down. Occasionally, simple changes take more time because of the many connections that have to be made.

Bob is responsible for many databases. There are over 50 databases built and maintained within Lotus Notes. The other Databases managed by Bob include:

- Daily Tribune
- Online Catalog
- College Staff Directory
- Class Cancellation System
- Events Calendar
- Department Specific Database (such as Career Center, Human Resources, Public Affairs, etc.)

The Curriculum Office works collaboratively with Bob. We value his timely and creative response to our wants and needs. He is a good listener and problem solver utilizing a variety of tools: Lotus Notes programming, Javascript, HTML, and Graphic Design to make the Database an efficient and effective tool for curriculum development.

In addition to enjoying the challenges of working on a variety of databases, Bob's pride and joy is his son, Christopher. We know he is looking forward to spring semester because his wife, Denice is expecting in June. We anticipate a successful spring semester. Bob will continue developing new databases and adding them to the web. Recently he has been using PHP code to provide Lotus Notes database information to more places on the MCC web site. For example, MCC departments can include information from the College Catalog or Faculty/Staff Directory in their department web site, without having to duplicate the information. This provides more accurate and consistent information throughout the web site. We expect Bob will continue to, "make his list and checking it twice."