

Large Project Oversight Report

May 15, 2019

To: State Board of Higher Education
ND Legislative Information Technology Committee

Re: Concerns regarding the Novelution (Electronic Grants Administration) project

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the assigned Large Project Oversight (LPO) Analyst, it is my responsibility to inform you of any significant concerns regarding projects that are classified as major technology projects as defined by N.D.C.C §54-35-15.2.

This project entered Execution in the first quarter of 2017, with the first phase of the project projected to complete in approximately 1 year. In April of 2018, the project had not completed that phase and issued a Rebaseline Request that I granted. The revised start date was late October 2018. As of this point, this module has still not been deployed and I anticipate another Rebaseline Request. While I have concerns over the project controls that have been in place, the project has made some changes that I believe should help get it back in control. Some of them include assigning a new campus Project Manager, a detailed planning session regarding the remaining work to be done with all parties agreeing to it and I have requested that the Executive Steering Committee move from a quarterly to a monthly meeting. I have also requested that the overall project manager produce biweekly reports detailing any tasks that were scheduled to complete during that time and haven't been completed, along with specific plans on how the project will recover the lost time.

While I believe these changes will improve the likelihood the project will meet a new deadline, it is my role to inform you of items that are significant related to projects under LPO. Contractually, we have protected the institutions financially by tying payments on deliverables, so the vendor has not been paid for over a year. The extreme delays could put them at risk. The real impact is on the staff who continue to have to do their daily jobs, plus all the project work, There are still several more modules to be delivered after this one and we have seen the impact on staff when we have long-term projects like ConnectND.

I will monitor this project closely and will keep you informed if the project continues to struggle.

Sincerely,



Dirk Huggett

Large Project Oversight Analyst
Director, P³/M, Core Technology Services