



# MEMORANDUM

College Information Services  
College of Letters and Science  
B320 Murphy Hall  
718501

Monday, April 07, 2008

NDARS Meeting on March 19, 2008

Attendees: Marc A., Donny M., Arun P., Robert K., Eric S., Christian S.

Meeting Requested by: Arun P.

## *Summary*

Two issues were discussed. The first is a current problem in SR1 and a possible strategy to fix the problem in SR2 was suggested by Arun.

The goal was to minimize the likelihood that a satisfied university requirement (such as American History, English Composition, Quantitative Reasoning, etc.) would be mistakenly changed to unsatisfied by SR2 due to a withdrawal from the quarter or retroactive drop from a class which would have satisfied the requirement in the first place. An example of such a mistaken transaction would occur if the Quantitative Reasoning requirement was initially satisfied by an AP test score, then Math 31A completed, then Math 31A retroactively dropped resulting in the resetting of the Quantitative Reasoning requirement to unsatisfied based on the mistaken assumption that it was originally satisfied by a passing grade in Math 31A, rather than by the AP test score.

Arun suggested building a new table in SR2 (referred to as a "Reg Mirror" table) which would be used by all automatic SR2 requirement updating processes in lieu of the actual SR2 data elements. The goal being the separation of changes made by these automatic processes from changes made to the SR2 data element itself.

After some thought the group concluded that such a table would not add value as the basic problem of identifying the reason behind the status of a given requirement would still be unknown and no logic based on the values in both tables could detect the reason.

It was suggested that the least number of errors would result from the simplest solution, that being to stop automatically resetting requirements when a class was retroactively dropped and to adjust the requirement manually, if warranted. While the number of retroactive drops/withdrawals appropriately impacting the university requirements is undetermined at this time, logic dictates that the numbers are likely to be very small since the requisite initial satisfaction by class completion would have necessitated a passing grade and very few classes completed with a passing grade are then retroactively dropped.

In any case the decision was to do nothing now and (for the future) to consider storing each potential exemption source separately (so that each source value can be easily and accurately managed) and then have a clean set of code to analyze all the individual sources and determine the exemption flag based on the individual source values associated with that particular exemption flag. Users and systems could then easily determine the "reason" by looking at the individual source values.

The second issue discussed was the extent to which NDARS would be dependent on the College's Excess Unit rule which is currently not supported in SR1. It was decided that direct SR2 support of the College's version of the Excess Unit rule was not a requirement. It was suggested, however, that since the large majority of students were held to this version of the requirement and because the requirement is not terribly complicated that the SR2 team consider supporting the College's version in the future.