Greetings and welcome to the latest edition of the Data Warehouse Newsletter! We’ve been very busy with new data marts, the faculty access application, and many enhancements so this is our biggest issue to-date. If you make it all the way to the end, you are truly a steely-eyed Data Warehouse power user.
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Reconciling Expenditures in the Finance and Research Data Marts

Training! For those of you who are trying to reconcile expenses between the Finance (OLM and OLT stars) and Research (RFF and RFM stars) data marts, please remember the following guidelines:

In the Finance data mart (OLM and OLT stars)
- The OLM and OLT stars have separate fields for Expenditures and Transfers.
- Cost Share is stored as a negative Transfer (in the Transfer Amount field) and is identified by account numbers.

In the Research data mart (RFF and RFM stars)
- The RFF and RFM stars have separate fields for Expenditures, Transfers, and Cost Share.
- The Transfers field *matches* the Transfers found in the OLM and OLT stars.
- Designed for non-accountants, the Cost Share field *matches* the cost share type of transfers from the OLT and OLM stars *with the reverse sign*.
- The Expenditures field *includes* Transfers without Cost Share from the OLM and OLT stars.

Therefore, the following reconciliation is possible:

- Expenditure Amount + Transfer Amount in the Finance OLM and OLT stars
  EQUALS Expenditure Amt – Revenue Cost Share Amt in the Research RFM and RFF stars.

**NOTE:** The Cost Share field in the RFF and RFM stars is actually called Revenue Cost Share Amt.
**NOTE:** The Transfer field in the RFF and RFM stars should never be used in total calculations.

Please contact us if you have questions about this. In addition, you can attend a Study Hall session where this and any other topic is fair game.

Fringe and Overhead on the Position Control, Finance, and Research Data Marts

The Data Warehouse group has implemented the following enhancements to enable more accurate projections of expected balances:

**Position Control Data Mart**

**New Fields!** We’ve modified the PLT Estimated Future labor Expenditures Fact table to include the following new calculations:

- Estimated Fringe Amount
- Estimated Overhead Amount
- Estimated Future Labor Expenditures Amount with Fringe and Overhead

This data is recalculated daily. Use these estimates to project fund and grant balances!

**Finance Data Mart**

**New Fields!** We’ve modified the OLM Oper Monthly Snapshot Fact table to include the following new calculations:

- Commitment Overhead Amount
- Commitment Amount with Overhead
- Itd Commitment Overhead Amount
- Itd Commitment Amount with Overhead
- Estimated Salary Amount
- Estimated Salary Fringe Amount
- Estimated Salary Overhead Amount
- Estimated Salary Amount with Overhead and Fringe

Salary estimates reflect current estimates only. Estimate history is not preserved.

Commitment Overhead Amount, Itd Commitment Overhead Amount, Commitment Amount with Overhead, and Itd Commitment Amount with Overhead are calculated as the total overhead expected to be paid on the appropriate commitments for the month.

Estimated Salary Amount, Estimated Salary Fringe Amount, Estimated Salary Overhead Amount, and Estimated Salary Amount with Overhead and Fringe are calculated as the total of all salary, fringe, and salary overhead amounts found in the PLT Estimated Future labor Expenditures Fact table for fund, org, activity, program, etc. In addition, these fields are linked to the current fiscal year and fiscal period. At the beginning of each new fiscal period, the previous fiscal period’s salary estimates are always zeroed out.

As with the rest of the fields in the OLM star, the new data elements are refreshed daily.

**Research Data Mart**

**New Fields!** We’ve modified the RFM Fact Research Fin Monthly and RFF Fact Research Fund Monthly tables to include the following calculations:

- Commitment Overhead Amount
- Estimated Salary Fringe Amount
- Estimated Salary Overhead Amount
- Estimated Salary Amount with Overhead and Fringe

As with the rest of the fields in the RFF and RFM stars, the new data elements are refreshed daily. Salary estimates reflect current estimates only. Estimate history is not preserved.
As in the OLM star, the Commitment Overhead Amount is calculated as the total overhead expected to be paid on the appropriate commitments for the month.

Estimated Salary Fringe Amount, Estimated Salary Overhead Amount, and Estimated Salary Amount with Overhead and Fringe are calculated as the total of all salary, fringe, and salary overhead found in the PLT Estimated Future labor Expenditures Fact for the fund, org, activity, program, etc.

Use these new fields to calculate projected balances.

**Password Control**

We have implemented a password control process on the Data Warehouse. Operational users will be required to change their passwords yearly while Executive and Faculty users will need to change them every two years. Users will receive an auto-generated email message reminding them to change their password. Three reminders will be sent before the user is locked out of the Data Warehouse. The first group of passwords will require changing approximately one year from now. New passwords should be six or more alphanumeric characters, and must include at least one number.

**Faculty Access Dashboard**

**New Application!** The rollout to the Business/Financial Managers is complete and the next step is the rollout to Faculty. We’re planning to meet with Department Chairs and then move to Department Faculty members. For those of you who have been trained, please contact us with your comments, questions, and suggestions.

**Changes to the Fund Dimension**

**New Fields!** We recently made changes to the Fund dimension throughout the Data Warehouse. The fund dimension appears in several data marts and these changes are reflected in all of them. It now includes the following fields:

- Internal/External Indicator
- Funding Source Category
- Funding Source Subcategory
- Fund Initial Effective Date
- Fund Balance Indicator
- Cash Disbursement Bank Code
- Research Revenue Account
- Research Unbilled Receivable Account
- Capital Equity Account
Estimated Future Labor Expenditures on Expired Funds

Estimated future labor expenses on funds that have expired are now recorded on fund AXXXXX.

Please remember to use this functionality for proactive planning of labor allocation before an award expires!

Student Enrollment Data Mart

New BQY! The BQY called Student Counting will enable you to count students by Major/Minor/Concentration codes (e.g., BMED, ACCT, MUSC, etc.). The BQY prompts you to choose Official Head Counts (which will match the Student Enrollment dashboard), or non-official headcounts (which adds duals and doubles to the counts). This BQY should be used whenever you need to COUNT THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN A DEPARTMENT. In addition to the counts, you’ll be able to see all of the other data in the SES star (for your security profile) including credit hours, tuition and fees, term and overall GPA, etc.

Graduate Admissions Data Mart

New Fields and New Data! We’ve recently added Distance students to this data mart. In addition, we’ve modified the Recruit dimension to include the following new fields:

- Current Street Line 1
- Current Street Line 2
- Current Street Line 3
- Current City
- Current State Code
- Current Zip Code
Moreover, if that weren’t enough, we’ve added the Person Key to the Adm Fact Graduate Snapshot table to enable links to other data marts that contain the Person Key.

**Student Financial Aid Data Mart**

New Star! We have added the Requirement Tracking star schema to the Student Financial Aid data mart. In addition, we have activated a security process on identifiable attributes for several dimensions in the data mart.

**Institute Advancement Data Mart**

New Data Mart! This new data mart is in production and available to core users in Institute Advancement.

**Research Administration Data Mart**

New Field! We have added a field to both the Award and Proposal dimensions called *Major Program Indicator* that allows users to analyze major programs.

**Joining Data from Different Data Marts**

New Functionality! We recently published a BQY that will enable you to link data from two or more data marts. The BQY is called *Multi-Query Blank Slate* and it resides at the top of the Data Warehouse folder on the portal. Each production data mart is represented by a separate query section in the BQY. Note that the star schemas are not pre-built in the query sections, so you’ll have to build the queries from scratch, i.e., drag the fact and dimension tables into the content pane. Joining data marts can be complicated and there are too many nuances to cover here, but here’s a brief example of how to use the BQY. You can attend a Study Hall if you’d like more details.

First, you’ll need to have access to the data marts that you’d like to join. Let’s say, for example, that you want to join data from Finance and Position Control. Use each respective query section to retrieve the data to be joined. Then, insert a new query section. Click Yes at the Auto-Logon prompt. Next, click the word Tables in the catalog pane, and then right-click and select Local Results. Expand the Local Results folder to see a list of all the results sections in the BQY. Click and drag the two results sections that you want to join (in this case it’s Finance and Position Control) into the content pane. Next, join the two results sections by a common key, for example, fund. Select the join properties by double-clicking the line between the two results sections. Finally, add items from each results section to the Request line, process the query, and verify that the joined data is accurate.
**GL Details**

New Star! We’ve added a General Ledger details star schema. We expect that users in Finance will be the heaviest consumers of this star; however, some of our non-Finance users may find it very useful, too. For those non-Finance users who are eager to get their hands on the GL Details star, please be patient a little longer while we develop the star’s security scheme. In the meantime, please continue to ask Finance to send you the appropriate pre-populated BQYs.

**Training**

How are we doing? We’re always hungry for feedback! Please offer any suggestions, comments, etc. regarding how we can serve you better. New sessions will be added shortly. Please visit our training site to see the current schedule.
http://www.rpi.edu/datawarehouse/dw-training-schedule.html

**Help and Support**

As always, you can reach all of us in the Data Warehouse group at iacs-dw-sup-l@lists.rpi.edu.

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That’s all for this edition, and if you made it this far, you are indeed a steely-eyed Data Warehouse power user!