

SUNStudent

SUNStudent Celebrates the Completion of their Final Blueprint Sign-off Phases

SUNStudent is a gift
we accept it,
SUNStudent is an adventure
we dare it,
SUNStudent is a mystery
we are unfolding it,
SUNStudent is a puzzle
we are solving it,
SUNStudent can be a struggle
we are facing it,
SUNStudent is an opportunity
we took it,
SUNStudent is a mission
we will fulfil it.

(Siddarth Badjatiya: COO and Serosoft Project Manager - Indore India)

In a perfect setting, surrounded by invaluable colleagues and leaders who recognised and expressed their appreciation for the immense efforts, active participation, contributions, and hard work to everyone involved in getting the blueprint documents for Phases 2 and 3 signed off, this celebration marked the completion of the Blueprint design stage for the SUNStudent project. Dr. Ronel Retief, Registrar and project sponsor of SUNStudent welcomed Prof. Stan du Plessis, members of the SUNStudent Steering Committee, the SUNStudent Project Management Committee, the core team and all the representatives of the Phase 2 and 3 Blueprint document capabilities in great cheer.

The celebration was for the sign-off of the following capabilities:

Phase 2: Scheduling of class and exams Venues, Societies & Sports Club management, Curriculum Management Forms A & B, Registration, Student Fees & Residence Management.

Phase 3: NSC Upload, Dining Hall Meal bookings, Exam Concessions, Postgraduate Student Management, Exam Management, Mentoring, Tutoring, Student Discipline, Elections, Textbook ordering, Co-curricular, Financial Aid, Student Assessment & Marks Capturing, Summer-/Winter schools, Thesis Management, Degree Audit & Graduations, Programme progression & Re-admissions.

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Sincere acknowledgement and gratitude were expressed by Ronel Retief, Stan du Plessis, Attie Juyn, Freek Truter and Sid Badjatiya to the core team; Gavin Nimmo, Kezia Gordon, Helene Nieuwoudt, Anna-Mari du Toit, Gene Vermeulen, Melville Anderson, Daneel van Wijck and Lulu Labuschagne, led by Jan du Toit, and who as a team, spent an endless amount of time on the design of these Blueprint documents by means of workshops and consultations with the various capability owners and representatives.

Attie Juyn zoomed into the heart of this project when he thanked the core team for the leading role they played during the Blueprint design phase. They literally lived and breathed Blueprint processes for SUNStudent this year. It is no wonder that Attie named Jan du Toit “The Father of SUNStudent”!

Prof. Stan du Plessis highlighted that the SUNStudent project is one of the biggest projects in the history of the University and said that it was truly remarkable that the SUNStudent project was kept on course despite the extreme disruption that the University experienced in its existence of the past 102 years. Prof. Stan furthermore stipulated that the implementation of a Student Administration System is one of the most complex activities that a University can undertake, reason being that a Student Administration System touches the very DNA of what the University is. The deep change associated with this project was also emphasized and Prof. Stan commended the project team on taking a deliberate stance with regards to change management. He mentioned that colleagues across the University expressed their appreciation for the inclusive approach followed by the project thus far. Prof. Stan, in closing referred to earned respect (when you do something beyond the call of duty) which was what the SUNStudent team achieved this year for keeping this project on track under very difficult circumstances.

Freek Truter thanked the total of 98 users for their contributions to the Phase 2 and 3 Blueprint documents. The system is in the process of being configured according these signed-off Blueprint documents whereafter User Acceptance Testing will follow in 2021.

Everyone is super excited and looking forward to the first go-live event of the project which will be the opening of applications on the new system on 6 April 2021.

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Please visit our website in the new year for new project related updates:
<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/SUNStudent/Pages/default.aspx>

Do you have any questions or feedback with regards to the project? Please make use of the project email:
sunstudent@sun.ac.za

We want to make use of this opportunity to wish all our SUNStudent stakeholders a blessed festive season and a prosperous 2021. Stay safe and healthy and enjoy a well-deserved break!