Curriculum Management and Academic Ecosystem Case Study

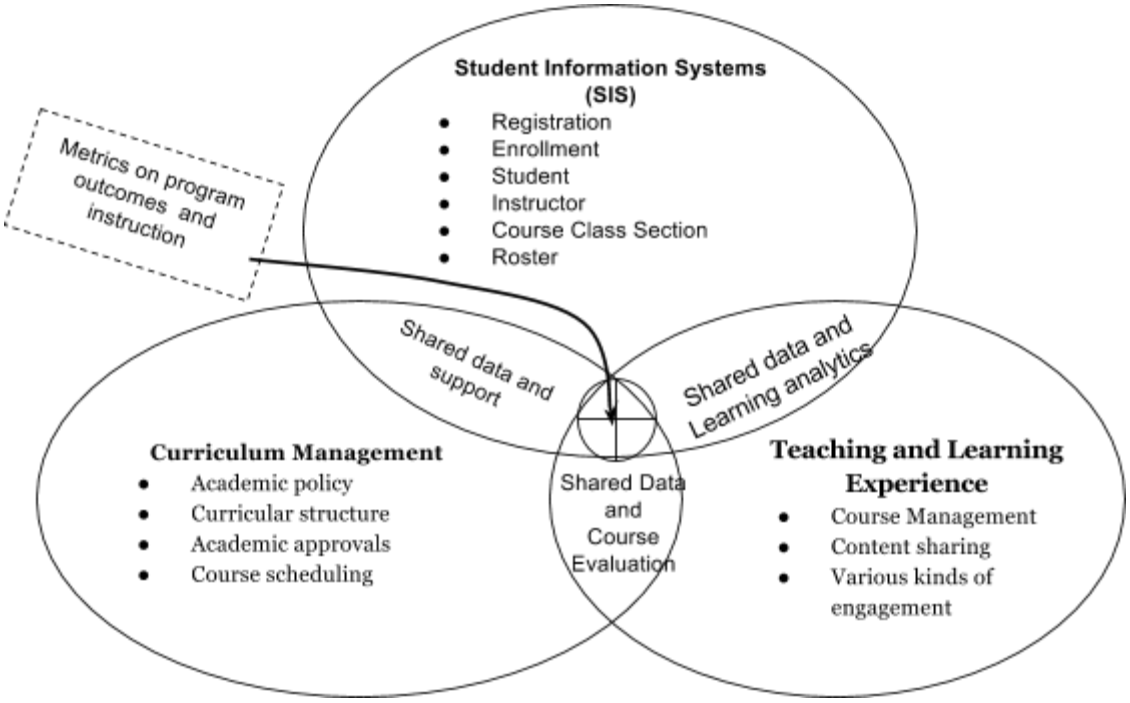
We would like to explore possibly creating “signature-ready artifacts”, which would apply to our **very** real-life scenario.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison desires more systematic support for curriculum planning and management functions. These functions and processes include the creation, maintenance, and review of academic programs, and related policies, and the definition and assessment of intended outcomes. Curriculum planning has always taken place among schools, colleges and departments and has always had active support from offices serving the provost. But we (academic leaders, the registrar, architects, and technologists) are making its presence in the academic ecosystem much more explicit, by implementing an enterprise solution. Introducing in this way a new enterprise system and new capabilities has interesting ramifications across the institution.

We have been accustomed to seeing the academic domain consisting of two major components and a few ancillary ones. There is the teaching and learning experience on the one hand and the set of things recorded in the Student Information System (SIS) on the other. Functions such as analytics and co-curricular activity have mostly been considered as inputs to, or outputs from, those primary ones.

We must now consider three major components. Our binary environment is now a triad of ecosystems (as illustrated in the diagram). Many components need to be put in place, and each component in this greater ecosystem depends on many of the others.

So, for curriculum management, we will acquire a new system of record. But we cannot just forklift in a new ERP and be done with it. We must allow for many supporting functions and integration points. In addition we must be prepared to adapt quickly to rapid evolution in the academic domain. To name just a few examples: the question of how to instrument learning is rapidly evolving; the desire to seamlessly incorporate non-credit is growing; there is a greater interest in outcomes-based-education along with the need to create learning outcome (extended) transcripts. With this much churn, we must be increasingly agile.



The University of Wisconsin - Madison will need various signature-ready artifacts that help identify, coordinate and guide the work to integrate this new set of capabilities and maximize institutional goals:

- From an EA perspective, to lay out the larger picture and the roadmap.
- From a Business Architecture perspective, to identify the needed capabilities,the supporting business services, and with UX in mind, the delivery to student, instructor, and academic administrator.
- From an Information Architecture perspective, to call out the enterprise business objects that will flow among the components.
- From a solutions perspective, to lay out projects under different budgets and organizational stacks that are nonetheless highly interdependent

While it would be too ambitious to cover everything listed here, how can we use the tools we learned in today's Face-to-Face meeting to help us with this real life scenario.