

## From version 7 to 8 ERP System Upgrade

*“ The UITS team has saved total cost of more than 450,000 AED for building test and production environments ”*

During the summer of 2011, UITS completed the upgrade of Banner ERP system from version 7 to version 8. The upgrade which had been planned since December 2010 provided additional features to the system which can potentially be utilized by our university community. In addition, the upgrade ensured continuous vendor support and alignment to our service agreement with the product vendor.

The latest banner version expands on the previous version by providing better support for international characters and expanded name, address, telephone number, and identifier fields. The new release also includes a new supplemental data engine which can be utilized to provide better system enhancements and cus-

tomization with less development effort. The new version can also provide the ability to provide more “Rich text” content for e-services in the near future.

The Banner upgrade included upgrades of the 3 main modules: Student, Finance, and Human Resources. Some examples of the enhancements include:

- Student: Catalog Extract & load, Course Wait List, and incomplete grades processing.
- Finance: Monetary and Currency Fields Expansion
- Human Resources: compensation, benefits, and deductions.

All the preparation tasks for the upgrade have been completed



internally by UITS team. The UITS team has prepared the servers, installed the required software and migrated the data from the old system to the new system. The UITS team has spent more than 2000 hours in building test and production environments with a total cost saving of more than 450,000 AED.

The Banner upgrade has been completed by a team of more than 80 staff from UITS and functional units. The testing process of the new product was conducted prior to the upgrade and took approximately 3 months to complete. Rigorous testing of all critical university business processes has ensured that the system upgrade was completed successfully.

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