A Strategic Enabler, Not a Technical Function

Advancing Enterprise Architecture in Higher Education

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1 The Journey

Impromptu Decisions to an Intentional, Systems-Oriented Model

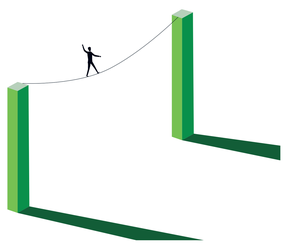


1. **Siloed** [Where We Started]
   Decentralized units, duplicated capabilities, and fragmented data. Decisions made project by project.
2. **Shared Language**
   Capability mapping introduces a common vocabulary across IT and functional teams.
3. **Coordinated**
   Lightweight governance and roadmaps guide decisions – standardization balanced with local flexibility,
4. **Systems-Oriented** [Where We're Headed]
   Investments aligned to mission and student success. Interoperable, transparent, and strategic.

2 The Challenge

Costs of High Decentralization

- Disparate systems and duplicated processes
- Fragmented data that obscures institution-wide views
- Non-strategic project-by-project decisions
- Barriers to efficiency, innovation, and student success



3 The Tools



Capability Models
A shared map of what the institution actually does.

Roadmaps
Sequencing change toward the target state.

Reference Architectures
Reusable patterns that set direction without dictating the details.

4 The Solutions

An Outside-in Perspective: Bring established enterprise architecture practices from other sectors into higher ed.

Speak in Capabilities
A shared vocabulary across IT and functional units makes priorities, gaps, and opportunities visible.

Keep Governance Light
Guide decisions without unnecessary bureaucracy while balancing standardization with the local flexibility campuses need.

Earn Traction, Don't Mandate
Demonstrate value incrementally to build trust rather than imposed top-down authority.

Translate Value
Build trust across a decentralized culture and communicate value to technical and non-technical stakeholders.



5 The Payoff

- Less duplication and redundancy across units
- Greater interoperability between systems
- More transparent, strategic decision-making
- Investments aligned with mission and student success

Architecture Standards

