



*Kuali Research Administration:*

*Statement of Philosophical Principles*

10 Jan 07

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The following statements of principle are provided to help guide Kuali Research Administration (KRA) decisions:

1. KRA Phases 1 and 2 will be based on the existing Coeus<sup>1</sup> design, functionality, and business processes.
  - a. Conformance with Coeus provides the fundamental basis for controlling KRA scope, referred to as the “Baseline Scope”.
  - b. The basic presumption of KRA is conformity with Coeus, including preservation of any Coeus configurability beyond the MIT implementation and configuration decisions.
  - c. The KRA project may make use of future Coeus functionality, to the extent that it is compatible with the KRA Philosophical Principles and Reality Triangle of Resources, Time, and Scope.
2. Functional committees or their members may advocate additions or changes to Baseline Scope as “Enhancements”. To gain approval of an Enhancement and its inclusion in the project plan, advocates must demonstrate:
  - a. substantial benefit over cost;
  - b. balance within the “Reality Triangle” for Kuali Projects of Resources, Time, and Scope;
  - c. improving the ease of adoption and diffusion of KRA.
3. Enhancements should be approved by consensus of the KRA Functional Council, with a vote if necessary. Council decisions can be reconsidered by the KRA Board, based on review of the majority and minority positions on the issue.
4. The founding KRA partner institutions agree on the following general strategies, in priority order, for ensuring the core KRA system meets the disparate institutional requirements:
  - a. maximize the commonality of business practices wherever possible, using the Coeus functionality and capability;
  - b. make the KRA software configurable enough to meet essential requirements without the need for local code modifications;

- c. provide an Application Programming Interface (API) to address local requirements that cannot be met by (a) or (b) above. This approach should be avoided when possible, given the risks associated with future version changes.
5. All KRA teams work from the premise that the project is “driven” primarily by schedule (time), and then by functional scope within the schedule. Technical sophistication will be employed only in the service of the project.
6. KRA Phases 1 and 2 will each include the following periods:
  - a. Specification - the Functional Council and its module committees will identify, elucidate, and document the functional specifications for each KRA module and Enhancement;
  - b. Development - the development teams will code, refactor, and test the KRA modules.
  - c. Quality Assurance (QA) - the development and functional teams will complete a full QA period, typically three months, to implement, test, document, and deploy the fully integrated modules for the release.
7. The functional and development teams will work with the goal of using as much existing Kuali functionality and software as possible to avoid duplicated effort. In particular, KRA will take full advantage of the Kuali Rice infrastructure suite of common libraries, notification, workflow, and services bus.
8. Noting that it may not be possible to implement all of the essential and high priority items identified by the Functional Council in Phase 2, the KRA system architecture and code should anticipate and accommodate these remaining items in future releases as easily and expeditiously as possible.
9. There will be a Baseline KRA System available for a public release at the conclusion of Phase 1 by 31 March 2008.

<sup>1</sup> Coeus: Research Administration application managed by MIT Office of Sponsored Research, currently in Release 4.2.1.

KRA Functional Council  
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