Richard N. Katz, Vice President, EDUCAUSE

The discussion at the Current Issues Session on Administrative Systems Issues revolved around ERP. Approximately 30 colleagues discussed their experiences in the past year related to the implementation of large scale systems, such as student, HR, and financial systems. Most in the group had implemented one or more module and most of them planned subsequent extensions of this activity. Some in the group were openly skeptical of the ERP system investment and initiated dialogue about alternative strategies.

There was less conversation about so-called Web Services, the standards using XML, UDDI, SOAP, and WDSL to "wrap" and "component-ize" administrative applications. Most agreed that this was an important area of emerging technology to watch.

Most of the people in attendance were developing portals and data warehouses and reported that this work was progressing in a promising way.