

Three Questions for: Nathan Brostrom and Peter Taylor, UCPath Executive Sponsors

Nathan Brostrom is Executive Vice President of Business Operations and Peter Taylor is Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the University of California system. Mr. Brostrom and Mr. Taylor are the Executive Sponsors of the UCPath Project. We recently caught up with each of them for their perspective on UCPath and the project's importance to the University.

Q: Why is the University undergoing the switch to UCPath?

Taylor: "Despite technical challenges and old systems, people at our various campuses and medical centers have figured out how to make payroll and personnel work. So, it's a natural question, if something isn't broke, why fix it? But, the Payroll Personnel system currently in place is antiquated, difficult to support, often breaks down and is expensive to maintain; one way or the other, it would have needed to be replaced. As long as we needed to replace PPS anyway, it made sense to evaluate our technology and our processes and move to the best system possible.

Q: What are the benefits of moving to UCPath?

Taylor: "There are three key benefits to UCPath. First, service delivery will dramatically improve and employees throughout the system will enjoy improved, reliable, expanded support. Second, the potential for long-term savings will enable the University to decrease administrative expenses and redirect savings to teaching, research, and public service. Third, and I am excited about this, UCPath will give us the data and reporting we need to make better informed decisions."

Brostrom: "Employees will have ready access to job and employment information, and managers will have better tools, data, reporting and decision-making capabilities. The direction we are taking with UCPath - standard technology, consistent processes, and a shared services center - will create a foundation upon which new capabilities and improvements will continue to be developed for many years."

Q: How will UCPath help the University make better informed decisions?

Brostrom: "Standard technology and processes, combined with centralization of data, will enable the University to capture information and see it in a way that is just not possible today. We can get the information today, but it resides on different campuses or in different systems so it takes lots of mining to get to it. Requests for information that today might take a month will be possible to get overnight. And, with better information and reporting, new opportunities for efficiency will begin to emerge."