**Q&A from the SMART Upgrade Kick-Off Meeting 12/18**

Q1: How will our agency SHARP subject matter expert be involved in the FOCUS project?

A1: The SHARP SME may become involved in a few areas where there is integration between SHARP and SMART, such as the Time and Labor-to-Project Costing functionality.

Q2: Are there customizations or special considerations that the Board of Regents agencies (i.e. universities) should be aware of?

A2: There is nothing we are aware of yet that would be specific to Board of Regents agencies.

Q3: How long will the upgrade last until the next upgrade?

A3: This upgrade from PeopleSoft Financials version 9.0 to version 9.2 will be the only traditional “upgrade” that the SMART system will undergo. After going to version 9.2, PeopleSoft provides bi-monthly product updates so customers can stay current along the way rather than upgrading their entire system every few years. This will mean smaller, more frequent changes for users.

Q4: Will you still have development staff and just hardware is being hosted?

A4: Yes, SMART development staff will be retained. The system hosting element of the FOCUS project is simply transitioning the 3 State of Kansas PeopleSoft programs (SMART, SHARP and Data Warehouse) onto Sierra-Cedar hosted hardware.

Q5: Will the SMART functionality stay the same?

A5: For the most part, yes. As with any upgrade, there will be some new functionality as well as enhancements to existing functionality that should improve user experience in the system.

Q6: Will the agencies use the existing “Top Secret” mailboxes to exchange interface files with the new hosted system?

A6: At this point in time, we believe that agencies will continue to use Top Secret/Core FTP to access their MVS mailbox that is located on the OITS mainframe to exchange interface files with SMART and SHARP. If a better solution is found during this project, agencies will be informed well in advance of any changes.

Q7: Will the upgrade provide less time for the system to be closed during fiscal year-end?

A7: We anticipate the number of days we are closed for fiscal year-end processing to remain the same.

Q8: Regarding the Fit-Gap sessions, with tight agency budgets, will these meetings be only in person or can we attend by phone?

A8: We plan to provide the opportunity for non-Topeka agencies to attend via phone.

Q9: Where are the hosted data centers located? Do they back each other up or is there a separate back-up location?

A9: One is in the Atlanta area and the other is in Tennessee. One is the primary and the other is the disaster recovery center.

Q10: Will any hardware, including desktop PCs, need to be upgraded due to the SMART upgrade?

A10: We don’t anticipate any agencies needing to purchase new hardware due to the upgrade. It is a possibility that some agencies may need to update their web browsers, depending on Oracle compatibility.

Q11: With hosting do you anticipate SMART being up 24/7? Will SHARP have extended availability in future?

A11: At this point in the project we are not able to say if the hours of operation will be changing. We anticipate that they will be the same. Although Sierra-Cedar will be hosting the hardware for both SHARP and SMART, the State of Kansas will still be responsible for processing the batch cycles.