**Governance Structure for Student Success Plan (SSP) Software**

**Overview of Governance**: The governance structure for SSP is to be guided by the user community subject to modification identified later in this document. As users identify the need for software enhancements and develop these enhancements at their individual sites, it is expected that users will contribute the code for these enhancements back to the larger adopting community. The governance committee will evaluate proposed submissions and will, by a collaborative process, make recommendations to the Project Director concerning the introduction of enhancements into base code.

The Student Success Plan (SSP) software suite includes Case Management, Early Alerts, Action Plans, Reference Guides for Referrals, Student Self-help Tools, and My Academic Plan (MAP) components. The software is downloaded as a complete package and during the configuration process users activate either a subset of the components or the complete suite. Consequently, a user’s adoption of the software may be either at the component or complete suite level. The governance model allows for active participation and input from all adopters regardless of the level of software implementation.

Through October, 2014, SSP is supported by funding from the EDUCAUSE Next Generation Learning Challenge grant program. Consequently, software development and enhancement efforts of the original development team will be guided by the expected deliverables of this benefactor. Nothing in the above is to be interpreted as limiting an individual adopter from developing their own enhancements and/or contributing those enhancements back to the larger adopting community.

**Who governs SSP**: The following individuals and/or roles will serve on the governance decision committees for SSP through December 2014. This committee configuration will be reassessed once the SSP project is beyond the timeframe of the NGLC grant.

Russ Little, Project Director

Jason Elwood, Project Manager

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Lead Software Architect

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Member, Development Team

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Vendor Support Representative

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Adopting Institution Representative

**How SSP is governed**: Separate committees exist for the governance of organizational and technical decisions. Organizational decisions will involve questions concerning product feature enhancements and setting the general direction for software development. Technical decisions will focus on the expectations/requirements of code submissions such as level of testing, version management, code integration, quality assurance, etc.

For the duration of the NGLC funding period, final decisions on both organizational and technical matters will rest with the Project Director. However, these decisions will be informed by the deliberations and advice of the supporting administrative and technical committees.

**Participation with SSP**: An SSP wiki has been established at <https://wiki.jasig.org/display/SSP/Home>. The wiki is open to registers users and is the site where the SSP community is expected to transact its SSP related communications. There are content and comment elements in the wiki of interest to adopting institutions, developers, code committers, subject matter experts, third-party partners, and commercial companies. Users must be signed in to the site in order to contribute to the wiki. Requests for access to the wiki can be made through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The wiki contains detailed instructions on the process to use for submitting, approving, and committing code enhancements.

**Transparency**: As of the date of this document (May, 2013), using the five point openness scale of Awareness, Repeatable, Defined, Managed and Optimized, SSP is clearly at the Defined stage on the openness continuum. As noted above, there is an SSP wiki that allows open perusal for any interested party. This wiki presents a clear picture of the current state of the software’s development and provides potential users with all of the relevant information they need to successfully install the software on their site. In addition, an information-packed website has been developed at [www.studentsuccessplan.org](http://www.studentsuccessplan.org). This website provides links to third-party vendors who can assist adopting institutions with implementation, configuration, internal process redesign, and ongoing support that may be needed. The website also gives contact names for individuals at adopting institutions and offers valuable insights concerning the organizational factors that should be considered when implementing a holistic student support model.

With over \_\_\_ institutions currently running all or several of the SSP components in their production environments it is evident that the software can be replicated across multiple institutions. Furthermore, the software is supported with user documentation, training guides, blog posts – all of which can be accessed via the wiki.