**Wednesday, May 8, 2013**

Parameters and business rules

1. Used to provide configuration values, define valid/invalid values for validation
2. Data validation mechanisms in Rice/KFS:
   1. Data dictionary - validates business objects/docs before saving
   2. Business rules - Java classes/code - are not easily seen. Use parameters to perform some validations.
   3. Parameters - lists of allowed values, straightforward matching. Functionals can change the list of values without revising code.
      1. Compound parameters - one allows, one denies (and/or rules)
      2. Indicator parameters - yes/no (“ind” at the end of the parameter name)
3. Parameters are document driven, not permission or role driven. Error messages seen on documents are created from business rules controlled by parameters
4. Find parameters on the Admin tabs in OLE. KFS parameter descriptions usually explain what the rule does. Parameters are divided by components:
   1. All - encompasses the whole module.
   2. Document - are applied to the documents themselves
   3. Specific documents may be listed if an institution wants to apply a rule only to that document.
   4. GL module has ‘batch’ components
   5. Structured hierarchically
5. OLE/KFS/Kuali are all trying to avoid hard coded business rules but sometimes they are necessary.
6. If OLE or a specific institution inactivates values on the item type table, the parameter associated with the value ignores them.
7. You cannot just erase all parameters, or erase their values. Some parameters need some value listed or the system breaks - even if that value is “na”