Assignment #4

From your research so far, you have determined that the current process is disjointed and unorganized and relies primarily on manual processing by a few key individuals (if not just one person). Based on the results of your conversations with Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Scattone you have gained a basic understanding of how the process works. From what was explained to you the evaluation forms are filled out by students and passed on to Donna by the faculty. Each form is verified for completeness and Donna creates a header sheet for each course. The forms are then sent to the IT department by Donna and are returned to her with a summary sheet. Donna then organizes these sheets and passes them to the department chair. The chair analyzes the data and uses it as the basis of evaluations and discussions with the Dean.

Based on the discussion we have had so far it is apparent that this process is more tedious and time consuming than it needs to be. As a matter of fact, Professor Allen’s suggestion of cutting out the faculty all together is right on track. What this process needs is an easy to use on-line system where the students enter their evaluations and they are collected in a database. This will effectively eliminate much of the manual processing Donna currently does and will make the data available to the chair in a much timelier manner.

In order to create an easy to use system that will simplify the process of collecting and reporting the results of faculty evaluations will require more detailed analysis on your part. You have begun to model the processes required through your activity diagram and you will need to continue your analysis by creating data flow diagrams (DFD's) to model the information flow within the system. Your goal is to develop a system with well-documented procedures, a centralized database, a standard user interface, and system generated reports. Such a system would certainly improve the timeliness and efficiency of the current system by making things more process oriented rather than people dependent.

PROBLEM

1. Prepare a Context Diagram for the information system that will support the Computer Studies department at CCRI.

2. Prepare a Diagram 0 DFD for this system; include subsystems to account for the major areas of processing. Data collection and reporting will certainly be two of the subsystems, include the other major areas of concern or opportunity as expressed by Professor Allen and Mrs. Scattone.

3. Working from Diagram 0, prepare the necessary lower-level data flow diagrams to describe the processing required to support the focus you have defined in your statement of scope. In other words you are going to focus on the functional decomposition of the processing areas you have chosen.