XML PESC

Advantages	Disadvantages
Robust, web-friendly, and widely accepted.	Designed to be self-descriptive, making it verbose. Verbosity leads to large file sizes, resulting in higher storage, transmission and processing costs. Can mitigate with file size limits, individual files zipped, etc.
XML data is stored in plain text format. This provides a software- and hardware-independent way of storing data.	The evolution to XML PESC will have numerous effects over a period of years. Interfaces to and from Student Information Systems and other systems (e.g., document management) will require re-work.
Supports Unicode, allowing almost any information in any written human language to be communicated.	XML files are more complex than flat files (e.g., number of tags).
Platform-independent, thus relatively immune to changes in technology.	Since not all OUAC data fits neatly into the XML PESC schemas, we will need to use NoteMessages and User Defined Extensions.
Most software (e.g., MS Office, SIS, document management systems) can use XML or store files natively in XML format.	Using XML PESC means that the OUAC is more constrained with respect to our distribution specifications.
The OUAC would be using PESC schemas (many of which are the same as, or have evolved from, ANSI X12 EDI) and data validation tools that would lead to higher data quality. Higher data quality would mean fewer issues for IT staff to deal with and ultimately result in better service for admissions, records, applicants and students.	
XML PESC standardized schemas are already defined for many common admissions and records business documents.	
Facilitates set-up and data exchange with any North American organization involved in postsecondary education.	
XML PESC standards allow for attachments and extensions, which can be easily identified for use or ignored, if desired.	
Forward and backward compatibility are relatively easy to maintain despite schema changes.	
Length, types of data, new data elements and structure of data fields will change and become standardized over time.	

AMS