IRC Minutes
Friday, November 22nd, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Elisa Hertz will take over as the new Chair of the CUNY IR Council. Michael Ayers will step down from the position.
- Bettina Hansel will continue to serve as Secretary.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Comparative Analysis of College Rankings
   - Simon McDonnell delivered a presentation about how differences in the weighting and metric selection of college rankings can affect the performance of the Colleges differently.
   - There has been a proliferation of College ranking systems from various publications. Indicators and methods vary widely from source to source, producing often disparate rankings.
   - CUNY OIRA is trying to get ahead of the game by anticipating the possible metrics of the College Score Card being proposed by the federal government. The presentation dealt with various models that have been proposed. In Business Insider's simulation, Lehman and Baruch came out at #3 and #11 respectively.
       o Main metrics are in these categories: Accessibility, Affordability, and Outcomes.
   - The President's College Scorecard is already on line, and we looked at the example from Baruch.
   - As many issues have been raised by all of these metrics, CUNY OIRA is trying to come up with our own requirements for the rating and ranking system. They have been charged to come up with a "sensible" system.
   - CUNY requirements:
       o Start out with equal weightings, and demonstrate the impact of the weightings.
       o Distinguish between 2 and 4 year colleges.
       o Use net price rather than sticker price (total cost subtracting aid). Business Insider simulation added the aid, to show the impact on society or the sticker price, depending on the interpretation.
   - Metrics CUNY would emphasize:
       o Costs (net price) from IPEDS
       o Graduation Rate 150% from IPEDS (desire to add transfer rate also)
       o Loan default rate (3-year default rate, USDOE)
       o Median borrowing (for full time first time freshmen from IPEDS)

- o Pell receipt (% of full-time FTF eligible students receiving Pell, from IPEDS)
- Simon's Approach: Colleges ranked equally at first with raw metrics, summed, then re-ranked using z scores to capture relative differences and create percentiles.
- The President's College Scorecard does not yet offer data on alumni employment.
- The example used only public urban colleges: 620 colleges used.
- The goal is to engage policy-makers before the score-card is finalized, and to show that CUNY colleges are educating an unusually high proportion of under-served students.
- They are also comparing the ranking against the most popular college rankings. These metrics will be posted on the wiki.

2. CBIL Access on Campus
   - There are issues at Lehman with giving CBIL access on campus because there are several discrepancies with the data, and the IR office wants to maintain the standard data and run all the reports. People are looking for the answer they like best. There is confusion with the different sources of data.
   - At John Jay finds that the having a clear line with CBIL data for the transactional data, and IR uses regular IRDB data.
   - CAS variables are no longer so accessible, and are not in CBIL. The admissions data are particularly problematic.
   - Various issues were raised about the multiple data sources and methodologies and the different results.
   - Some news on the grad file: In CUNY 1st, if the student is not enrolled in the term they graduated, there is no record. There will be a new grad file, because of these missing students. This slowed the load of data generally, but the focus on completion for IPEDs was a priority.

3. Faculty Workload Training and Processing
   - Joan shared many concerns about the amount of work regarding the problems with the 239 report that isn't accurate. CUNY OIRA is doing development on FWL as the first project for the OBIEE dashboard. They are working with consultants.
   - How are people trained in FWL? There is a plan for a shared wiki for workload and fixes. It's particularly problematic at Hunter with so many people having access to the FWL role. What are the guidelines on who should be getting access to this information.
   - There was a long discussion of the lack of best practices and possible solutions.

4. Data Dictionary and Show/Performance File
   - Are we trying to centralize with CUNY 1st? There are different codes for ethnicity in different tables. There is a mixed dictionary that you have to try to figure out, and the dictionary is not provided.
   - We should perhaps set up a subcommittee to do this. We could work cooperatively to help Ariel. How can we proceed? We need a data quality working group that is proactive.

Next IR Council Meeting: December 20, 2013