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**IRC Minutes****Friday, December 20, 2013****AGENDA ITEMS:****1. Cupcakes & Cookies**

- Thanks to Michael Ayers for his service as IR Council Chair

**2. The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)/ The Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA)**

- Christine Wade asked for updates about the senior colleges' VSA participation.
- Brooklyn, Hunter, and York are published.
- Brooklyn experienced some tech glitches when trying to publish, but resolved them.
- Lehman College is in the process of publishing. Also experienced technical problems on the part of VSA.
- Baruch has been delayed in publishing because of missing data (Fall 13). Profiles can't be published until all of the data are in.
- Additional comments:
  - For National Student Clearinghouse items related to VSA, you can only request the NSC data set during a limited time frame – from October 1st to December 31st. (This applies to a table that does the report for you. Other NSC requests can be made year round.)
  - NSSE needs to be done within three years of VSA registration. Some discussion about whether CUNY OIRA could coordinate this effort. (From past NSSE efforts, Brooklyn College found that the survey questions were not good predictors of outcomes.)
- OIRA's coordination of VFA for community colleges was delayed. There are plans to continue the work in January, including creating IRDB workbooks to facilitate reporting.

**3. Draft of New Middle States Standards**

- Richard Gampert gave an overview of the proposed new Middle States Standards.
- Through January 31, 2014, there is a comment period for the draft standards. Voting to approve the standards is done by the president on behalf of the colleges. Middle States expects to finalize the new standards by summer 2014.
- Middle States is moving from 14 to 7 standards. This includes restructuring some standards entirely and consolidating others.
- The revised standards include:
  - Standard I: Mission and Goals
  - Standard II: Ethics and Integrity
  - Standard III: Student Learning Opportunities
  - Standard IV: Support of the Student Experience
  - Standard V: Educational Effectiveness Assessment
  - Standard VI: Planning, Resources, and Institutional Improvement
  - Standard VII: Governance, Leadership, and Administration
  - Plus, Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations
- The biggest changes are the emphasis on documenting learning opportunities/student learning and de-emphasis on faculty and their qualifications. There were many comments at the conference that

the faculty don't figure enough into the new standards.

- Colleges and individuals may offer comments directly to Middle States, in addition to any comment that CUNY may centrally submit. It would be useful to publicize the standards and call for comments at each campus.
- CUNY will launch a new Middle States listserv, in the new year, to connect colleagues across campuses and to share useful resources. CUNY Central recently created a document to provide guidance on Middle States for the campuses. The document will be distributed to the listserv and posted on the Office of Academic Affairs web site:  
<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/aa.html>

#### 4. CUNYFirst/Query Documentation

- Existing CUNYFirst resources are available that we can build on.
  - A CUNYFirst crosswalk, schema, and tables are available via <http://owl.cuny.edu:7778/portal/page/portal/oira/OIRA%20File%20Layouts%20Codes%20and%20Schedules> (login required).
  - OIRA wiki is available via [oirap.wikispaces.com](http://oirap.wikispaces.com). (login required)
- We can begin to document information and tips. Then, over time, develop a useful framework to organize the information. For example:
  - Notes about useful queries or query problems  
Title: NAME\_OF\_QUERY  
Description: This query does xyz  
Caveats: Be aware of duplicates and xyz  
Keywords: Enrollment, EMPLID, grades  
Status: Reliable
  - Notes about roles needed to run the query.
- Continue to post messages to the IR listserv, as well as to the wiki.
- Elisa Hertz created a template and will ask for a new navigation link to be added to the wiki.

#### 5. Other Topics

**Princeton Review Survey:** Princeton Review is requesting both the Common Data Set and an 80-item student survey to be administered to all students or to a random sample. The colleges have no control over the survey or ownership of the data collected. Usually the Princeton Review contacts the college PR office. Each college makes its own decision about complying with the Princeton Review request. Participation in the Princeton Review surveys needs to take into consideration other surveys that provide the colleges with more useful information.

**Student Experience Survey:** In spring 2014, most likely after midterms, CUNY will administer the electronic survey to every undergraduate. The survey will be emailed through Hobsons and followed-up with a mailed paper postcard. With decreasing response rates to the paper survey, the change an electronic format in an attempt to attain a larger N. Please make others on campus aware that this will no longer be a tool to measure satisfaction with various functions on campus. Noel-Levitz is being used to measure satisfaction. CUNY OIRA was asked to share the final SES survey items with IR and Assessment Councils.

**Next IR Council Meeting: January 31, 2013**