IRC Minutes

Friday, January 30, 2015

1. IRDB Testing Data (Zun Tang, OIRA)

Math 1 (prealgebra) test scores are no longer counted for those who pass the Math 2 (algebra) test with a score of 40 or above. This rule was grandfathered-in, so that those who scored 40 or above in Math 2 (algebra) test are considered to have initial proficiency in math. However, the IRDB logic reports a missing Math 1 test score as "unknown" status. (Any missing test is counted as Unknown.) It is important to be aware of these "unknown" records when critical tracking students' proficiency status; these data are used most often by community colleges, as well as for research, by the Justice Academy, and by comprehensive colleges.

Short-term alternatives:
• Campuses handle "unknown" records on their and calculate a workaround: Use the Initial Math 2 score >=40.
• Use History All Skill Test Facts New: Use the initial Math 2 status (which should show that the student passed).
• OIRA create a shared IRDB workbook with calculated fields for the campuses to use.

Long-term solution: OIRA creates a new IRDB table to reflect the new test score rules and to clean up the History SKAT Initial Facts. This will be done probably in the summer.

SKAT Best Facts also are not consistent with the current policy for math, which depend on passing the last-in-sequence math remedial course and the CEAFE (common departmental final exam). These test data are not loaded in IRDB, but the course grades are available and used.

Alternate Approach: Go to course grades in History Perf facts. Basic Skills Area Code & Description, and Basic Skills Last in Sequence Flag.

USIP/Immersion courses: So far there is no flag to show last-in-sequence for the last USIP courses.

Registrar USIP Coding memo on the Wiki. Check this out and review the memo with the registrar.

CUNY Central will create a new Best / Exit table to reflect the new policy to use courses for exit.

2. IRDB FAFSA Data (Zun Tang and Scott Heil, OIRA)
Financial Aid data is being migrated into CUNY First based on FAFSA, the financial aid application. The application includes information that could be useful for research, such as family income, student income, and parental educational levels.

There are issues in translating the CUNY First data to the old data system. Data source and timing of data capture are two reasons that data may not be consistent.

History Financial Aid Data SF188 – used to report for IPEDS, collected annually after the aid year. This is term-based data, for amounts dispersed. There is a one-year lag.

History Financial Aid Award Facts – created for CTEA reporting. Comes from a different source than FAFSA. It is from UAPC and updated faster than SF188. It is part of Ariel's load. Pell Flag, for example, cannot be fully compared to the SF188 variables. There a record for every student.

The IPEDS financial aid survey is being worked on right now. This year IPEDS added Veterans Benefits information. OIRA still awaiting data from several colleges. IPEDS are due in two weeks. After that, Central will produce the report – expect it in Mid-February.

The SF 188 is calculated after the end of the fiscal year, and all modifications to the aid are included. This is not true with the other Financial Aid file.

Review a research brief on the OIRA central website regarding the difference between cohorts in terms of filing FAFSA, and the difference between new freshmen and continuing students.

First generation in college information from FAFSA would be useful.

It is possible to get a data set from our financial aid office from People Soft. CUNY Central will share a PS Query on the FAFSA data.

3. COACHE Survey (Zun Tang, OIRA)
On Tuesday, February 2, 2015 COACHE will be sending a test email to campuses.
The projected roll-out date is anticipated to be February 9.
OIRA is handling IRB, the participation agreement, and billing.
OIRA has been working with campus IT to ensure the emails are whitelisted and not treated as spam.
City College IT office is concerned about white listing, as they believe it leaves the system vulnerable. If any other colleges have a concern about white-listing, please also let Zun know.
Campuses are responsible for promoting the survey. The provost or the president should be working with the COACHE groups. CUNY is the pilot case for working with this survey for community colleges.

4. Noel-Levitz Survey (Zun Tang, OIRA)

Please send in the campus implementation plan to Zun.

Every college except Guttman and Professional Studies needs at least 375 responses as a minimum to have precision and stable estimates.

IRB is not needed for Noel Levitz.

Concerns and questions about having different administration methods across campuses:

How can we effectively compare campus results in the PMP, if campuses are using different approaches (online vs in-class) and different timing?

What is the information that we hope to get from the survey?

How are campuses using these results?

Are we fielding too many surveys?

Future Steps:

After the administration, we can compare notes and look at the results with the PMP in September.

Document the major campus surveys we are doing on the Wiki calendar. For example, John Jay and BMCC are launching a multi-institutional leadership survey soon.

Encourage use of survey results by requiring that each campus report on use of at least one Noel Levitz metric as part of the PMP.

CUNY Central will reimburse 50% of reasonable cost of survey. Basically, the administration cost should be about the same as last time. Write a cost justification for the cost and send that paragraph to Zun.

5. IR/Assessment Joint Retreat (Sam Michalowski, CSI)

Assessment IR Joint Retreat will be held at CSI on April 24th. This will replace the IR Council meeting for that date. There is ample parking, and there is a free ferry and a free shuttle bus from the ferry to the campus. The meeting will be held in the performance center. Sam is handling logistics. A retreat planning committee is needed. The theme is collaboration between Assessment and IR. The retreat will be opened up to faculty. Each break-out block needs one session that is faculty-friendly. We can invite one or two faculty for our campus to join as part of their professional development. Michael Anderson at Staten Island is working with the CUNY Assessment Council.

Retreat Planning Committee Volunteers:

Betsy Hansel

Elisabeth Lackner

Joan Lambe

Diane Phillips

Next meeting is February 27, 2015.