IRC Minutes

Friday, March 27, 2015

1. Announcements

- Joint retreat. There are four official proposals and some additional presenters expressed interest. Some ideas for other items: Cheryl Littman – New MSCHE Standards; Panel Discussion; 5 minutes of Fame. A subset of the group will meet after the Council today. (Betsy Hansel, BMCC)
- Hostos was recognized among the top 10 for the Aspen Prize. (Derek Norville, Hostos)
- An assistant HEO position is open at CUNY Staten Island. (Sam Michalowski, CSI)
- PSC will be surveying faculty about their views and use of the student course evaluations (Chris Efthimiou, Bronx)

2. Communication with IR Directors (Zun Tang, OIRA)

OIRA is concerned about communication gaps between its office, IR Council and IR Directors, especially those who do not attend IR Council Meetings. OIRA asked for suggestions about how to strengthen communication with campus IR offices. The group discussed possibilities, including shorter emails, an OIRA-produced to-do list/calendar with dates for the semester/academic ear, more informative email subject lines (including deadlines), and presenters submitting a summary of their points to the IR Council chair/minute-taker. The group recognized that the purpose of IR Council is more than information dissemination; it promotes cross-campus relationships and help. Skyping or recording meetings would minimize the interpersonal benefit.

3. National Student Clearinghouse Update (Zun Tang, OIRA)

Zun reported CUNY Central has started to submit data on majors to the NSC, but additional data need to be submitted before we can get data on majors from NSC.

Campuses discussed variation in completeness of matches from NSC. One comment was that the date of the search affects the match rate.

3. Veteran Reporting Requirements and Challenges (Jan Gua, LaGuardia)

LaGuardia is concerned about the increased demand for student veteran data at the federal and state levels. IPEDS requires reporting on student veteran data and additional reporting requirements may arrive from internal sources (e.g. veterans office, student affairs), accreditors, and external entities. To manage these requests, LaGuardia was interested to know how campuses collect, maintain, and update veteran data; how campuses distinguish between veteran status and benefit recipients; how campuses define veterans and dependents; who maintains the veteran records.

It seems that across the campuses different offices manage veteran data. In some cases, the records are stored locally (e.g., office Excel file); and, in other cases, records are centrally maintained in CUNYFirst. There may also be inconsistencies between CUNY's veteran figures and the Veteran's Administration data.

There are multiple ways, but no complete and comprehensive way, to identify veterans. In CUNY First, student group is one way to identify veterans, but dependents may be included. The criteria for reporting veterans may vary for the veterans' office, the financial aid office, or the bursar's office.

IPEDS started to request data on veteran benefits this year. OIRA collected the requested data from campus business offices. The Council hopes that with OIRA's involvement for IPEDS data collection, there can be greater consistency with veteran data collection moving forward.

4. Other Business
COACH Survey Response Rate. According to Zun the expected response rate is a best guess as compared to the national average response rate. Another point to consider in terms of a reliable response rate is that this is the first time COACHE has administered the survey to community colleges.

David Crook, Colin Chellman, Nancy Ritze, and Michael Ayers presented to the Academic Council (Provosts) to discuss the results of the National Association of System Heads Report: "Meeting Demand for Improvements in Public System Institutional Research," including improving access to data for IR and the potential need for more staff.

<u>**Next Meeting**</u>
No IR Council meeting in April.
April 24 is the IR/Assessment joint retreat.
May 22 is our last IR meeting for the academic year.