IRC Minutes

Friday, May 22, 2015

1. Announcements
- The joint retreat planning committee and CSI were acknowledged for coordinating and hosting the 2015 IR/assessment retreat in April.
- Council members indicated whether they would be attending the AIR retreat in Denver.
- The Council welcomed new IR staff members: Lauren Levesque (Kingsborough) and Joseph Contreras (Hostos).

2. IR Council Chair (Elisa Hertz, Guttman)
Elisa has served as IR chair for the typical two year term and asked if any members were interested as serving as chair, starting in fall 2015. She will follow-up with an email.

3. IR Director Planning Meeting (Colin Chellman, OIRA)
Colin would like to arrange an IR director planning meeting during the summer, potentially in mid-July. The purpose would be to plan for next year, including updates about the IRDB and a data collection calendar. Pauline will send around a Doodle Poll to select the best date.

4. Wage Data (Colin Chellman, OIRA)
SUNY is going through the MOU process with the NYS Dept. of Labor (NYSDOL). In the process, NYSDOL has become more concerned about the confidentiality of its data, especially the extent to which de-identified data sets could be tracked. As a result, users of de-identified datasets will need to complete the confidentiality training once a year. OIRA received new NYSDOL records, but there are patterns of missing data for which they are trying to determine the causes. The records do not distinguish between full-time and part-time employment.

CUNY is working on an amendment to the MOU that may allow high-level managers to have a list of top 10 employers; they would have to sign confidentiality agreements about the use of information, in particular not to relate employers and median income and to include citations about NYSDOL as the information source. Users are only allowed to report aggregate data for cells with 10 or more records. One potential need for this information is reporting employers to accreditors (e.g. nursing accreditation).

Colin will send information about how to adjust wage rates for inflation and with details about the confidentiality training. Stephen Sheets is compiling the confidentiality training documents for OIRA.

There was interest to have OIRA present an analysis using NYSDOL data, in a future Council meeting.

5. Middle States and US News Reporting (Zun Tang, OIRA)
Middle States Annual Institutional Profile
The Controller's Office is responsible for the Middle States financial data. OIRA is not the data manager of the financial information. Eileen Wei from the Controller's Office coordinates the preparation and dissemination of financial information. The Controller's Office will not share the financial data centrally. One suggestion to minimize the inefficiency of each campus emailing back and forth with Eileen Wei is to obtain its financial information is to create a Tumbleweed folder for each campus and the Controller's Office. The topic will be discussed further in the fall, in advance of Middle States Annual Institutional Profile. Elisa Hertz volunteered to prepare a summary of what financial information is required from the Controller's Office for Middle States.

US News Reporting
There is no centralized support from OIRA for this reporting. The IRDB does not typically have the data needed by the time the report is due. There is uncertainty about what criteria to use to produce US News data. In some cases, the campuses are using their own data and their own methodology, which do not agree with what OIRA reports for other purposes. One suggestion is to rely on Common Data Set criteria when no other directions are provided.

Pell recipients' graduation rate is provided by OIRA, as per federal requirements. Title V grants also require consistency with IPEDS and state reporting.

6. Use of Delaware/Kansas Study Results (Zun Tang, OIRA)
OIRA was interested to know the extent to which campuses use the Delaware/Kansas data; and if not, why not. Hunter found discrepancies with the Delaware data when it tried to reconcile the data with its faculty workload. In addition, the Delaware data cannot be disaggregated by department, which minimizes its usefulness. It can be separated by a 4-digit cip code, which may combine multiple departments in a single category. The next set of Delaware Study reports should be available in July for the 4-year colleges. Kansas Study data should be available in the fall for the community colleges. After receiving the next set of reports, the campuses are requested to examine the data to determine if it is worth OIRA's resources to participate on behalf of all of the campuses.

COACHE data – no target date, but unit-level data should be available soon. You need to request access and sign a confidentiality agreement. The full report will be available in August.

7. VFA Update (Biana Novosyolov, OIRA)
Campus data have been entered. The campuses need to log in and check their data. The data will get locked on June 1st by 5 pm. Any changes need to be reported to Biana by the end of the day May 27th.

CUNY completed the 6-year cohort (fall 2008), not the 2 year cohort (fall 2012). In the VFA system, go to Data Dashboard Downloads to check the data for your school. Only the 6-year cohort is available by developmental subject. CTE and ABE are not used this year. Data obtained via Excel, PDF, or bulk download file.

8. NYS Perkins Grant Data Reporting (Dereck Norville, Hostos)
Hostos is a recipient of NYS Perkins Grant for career and technical education. During the annual meeting in Albany, it was announced that guidelines for Perkins grant reporting would be changing. Colleges affected are community colleges and comprehensive colleges offering career and technical programs or certificates. Reporting responsibilities tend to be split between grant officers and IR. Some reports are no longer required, but others (CTEA report) are given new weight and importance. There is no more institutional profile. CTEA is still requesting "second quarter," post-grad employment status, but additional clarification is needed about what meant by that. More attention is being paid to outcomes. Some questions remain about the timeframes for different reports. OIRA is going to try to negotiate with NYS for more realistic reporting deadlines (e.g., January instead of end of September). Hostos suggested we have an IR-Perkins support group for reporting purposes, especially now that there is a new group working with the grant in the state.

9. Data Elements for Institutional Reporting (Michael Ayers, Brooklyn)
The Higher Ed Opportunity Act requires that campuses make certain information publicly available. What information are we required to have on our website for all students (e.g., price calculator, graduation rate, retention rate, knowledge rate)? Are we compliant? There are many different requirements from different sources. Could the Common Data Set be used as a framework for preparing required information? Compliance and Information are two separate topics. Michael Ayers will share the information that he has compiled, to date.

Next Council Meeting
August 28, 2015