Institutional Research Council
555 West 57th Street, 1240 Conference Room (12th floor)
10am — 12pm

IRC Minutes

Friday, August 28, 2015

1. Announcements

- Enrollment estimates will be collected next Thursday. This year enrollment managers will be providing the data. They will need the CBIL Flash report based on current enrollment to make their estimates.
- An initiative: Make remedial pathways for flexible and improving pass rates. This issue will be coming our way. ACT is discontinuing Compass as of December 2016. When ACT withdrew its bid, CUNY decided to buy Accuplacer. The OIRA office is going to explore the possibility of including other variables, but the admissions process is changing. The practical strategy is to move from one test to the other. After that's in place, additional variables can be used. Compass had three levels above remediation, and Accuplacer has only 1. Campuses have been depending on Compass to place students in Calculus. There's nothing systematic on making these placements.
- Analytics: EAB software will be purchased for the senior colleges to provide advisors with better information. It looks at a database of courses taken and grades received, and predicts how well a student will do in a particular course, and even in particular majors. Still working through the procurement process for this. It should involve CUNY wide data. May start modeling for it next spring.
- Planning an upgrade to Degree Works that allows planning with the potential demand for courses that students still haven't taken.
- New legislative bill to have college performance rated funding. Specified targets for programmatic goals will affect some amount of funding. It might take the form of an RFP to colleges for funding new initiatives that would include specific metrics for meeting the goals.
- CUNY has engaged "Ideas 42" for a project for FAFSA completion. A "nudge" to complete their FAFSA. This is City money and affects the community colleges. There are also two "mind-set" initiatives with online exercises that are short that would help them change their view of their own abilities. Central is developing a few mindset initiatives, using random assignment and data collection.
- No more news about OBIEE yet. There is no internal staff and no external funding. Central office has a hiring freeze, which has really affected the BI staff. There is a high learning curve for the concepts and process.

2. NYS Experiential Learning Opportunities mandate (Colin Chellman & Zun Tang, OIRA)

There is a new mandate from the NY State legislature regarding experiential learning opportunities. Definitions of experiential learning opportunities were passed around to the group.

The chancellor has created a task force: Headed by president of John Jay and someone from Central, and includes college presidents, representative from faculty senate, and representative from student senate. There are 13 Members of the task force in total. The initial task is to identify what is happening currently on campus and create a plan on how this will be tracked and monitored. A survey instrument will be used to get raw numbers about what is happening on campus in terms each of the categories identified (in the handout). There will also be a qualitative section to allow colleges to provide a narrative on what is happening, and their input on how this might be expanded, issues about making it a graduation requirement, etc. This concerns undergraduates only.

SUNY has already gathered this information for the SUNY schools. CUNY is in contact with SUNY. The plans that are to be submitted must "consider" making experiential learning a graduation requirement. Questions: What about students already working in the field of study? This should be addressed in the feasibility for a graduation requirement. Maybe ask students in the CUNY SES in the spring survey.

What about the classroom based experiential learning activities that don't seem to fit these categories, including labs and independent research projects? This is not the way that CUNY will be defining this for this study right now, but they are open to considering these as they are reported by the colleges.

At CUNY there may be a rule now that students cannot be placed in unpaid internships. This may also be a conflict, in that any unpaid internships would be arranged by the students themselves, and therefore cannot be tracked by CUNY.

Presidents have been asked to appoint someone on each campus to monitor this. It might involve IR on many campuses. Survey to colleges will be in mid-September, due in early November.

The task force understands that this will be a considerable amount of work for the campuses, but would like everyone to do their best to lead to the creation of an appropriate plan.

3. Agenda topics for upcoming meetings (All)
- Proliferation of Major Codes in the IRDB. Should we work with CIP Codes? CUNY Central has an extract of all academic programs offered by institutions in the NYC area.
- COACHE Survey. David Crook explained: This is the first time the survey was used for community colleges. Kay Conway of BMCC was instrumental in helping to revise the survey for community colleges. In September there will be a system wide report created for CUNY. There were questions about how much information to share with faculty governance and UFS. Provosts will be urged to share the results with their own faculty. There will be a presentation to the provosts in October (probably).
- Ethnicity categories: How should we talk about it for different audiences for different purposes? There is a description on the Wiki of how data are imputed. CUNYFirst collects the multiple values as raw data, and the imputed category is probably not in CBIL. Results are comparable across years. The two question version is imputed into the old one-question version.
- Data Cookbook. BMCC IR has recently started working with Data Cookbook as a way to document data definitions for their reports. Betsy Hansel offered to show what they have been doing at a meeting later in the year.

- WD grades – clearer explanation. There is a memo on the registrar's website that will be sent to the listserv.

Next Council Meeting
September 25, 2015