



IRC Minutes

Friday, December 18, 2015

1. Demand for and Availability of Financial Aid Data (Zun Tang, OIRA)

- Title V data will be available January 4. This is a pre-built Query in CUNY First that is run once for each type of aid, each semester. The query is posted on the wiki.
- Common Data Set Financial Aid data, US News, Princeton Review
 - Amount of Debt
 - Percent of Students who applied for aid
 - Unmet need: A calculation from the Feds
- CUNY Central OIRA asks the office of financial aid to get the data, rather than just pulling it from CUNY First.
- At this point, Central financial aid takes a snapshot from the Live CUNY First database. OIRA selects a date close to the reporting deadline, so for those on CUNY First Financial Aid, there is no census. Those still on SIMS get census data. Data are processed by OIRA; two financial aid files on Tumbleweed: One is the FIN Aid data file, the other is the data reported for IPEDS. CTEA data is yet another office, and the data will be preliminary, and more recent. CTEA data for fall is usually posted in February in IRDB. SF 188 is for the prior fiscal year (collected in October) and made available sometime in January.
- Challenge: Every day the financial aid data changes, not only for the current year but for the prior year as well.
- Awards and Disbursements are quite different particularly for Federal work study. Central doesn't have a way to account for the disbursements. Payroll may have a different system for accounting for the disbursements.
- In IRDB, History Financial Aid Award Facts is preliminary data based on CTEA (Perkins) guidelines. It includes Pell Flag, and Low Income flag. History Financial Aid SF 188 Facts includes the specifics.
- Student Experience Data survey provides some figures useful for grant-writing, for example.
- Please provide any queries you've created for FINAID reporting instance to Ariel, so she has a good sense of what type of reporting is needed.

2. OIRA Project Update (Zun Tang, OIRA)

- IPEDS Collection: Currently working on Student financial aid, graduation rates, 200% graduation rates, admissions, and outcome measures.

- Collection opens - 9 Dec
- Collection closes for Key holders - 10 Feb
- Collection closes for coordinators - 24 Feb
- Student Experience Survey. This year the survey will be SNAP, not from a firm. It will be done in-house. Plan to launch in March. They are working with Central marketing via Hobsons. Since this is CUNY doing it in house, it should not need to be white listed. It will look like it comes from your colleges rather than CUNY. Testing in January. They want to close the survey in May. Citi-tech and BMCC may be able to add on questions to this survey since both were planning their own survey. These would be in a section at the end, and those students would be routed to answer those questions then. To be discussed separately with affected colleges.
- Campus Climate survey should be launched in April. Still not final yet.
- Remedial course collection. Biana and Tara OIRA will provide a list of courses for us to review and confirm.

3. US News Web Scraping Presentation (Paul Bachler, Baruch)

- Paul used this to get US News and World Report Ranking Data. He explained the process he used.
- Study the structure of the site by looking at the URL with each click you make.
- Paul will send the “GET URL” function for excel to the group that allows you to see the URLs in your hyperlink.
- He also went through his program to find the specific data he wanted. There are several modules.
- He also needs modules to strip out carriage returns, single quotes, and other data not needed.
- Then SPSS picks up the data and refines it to select just numbers through macros and syntax.

Next Council Meeting

January 29, 2016