Office of Planning and Assessment

COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC DEANS

JUNE 27, 2016
The Core Functions of OPA

- Institutional research
- Strategic planning
- Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Accreditation
Office of the Vice Provost for Planning and Assessment

Department of Planning and Institutional Research
- Institutional Research
- Strategic Planning

Department of Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Institutional Accreditation
FOSTER
Relationships and collaboration

PROVIDE
Methodology expertise, institutional knowledge, and best practices

ADVOCATE
Data access and integrity

FACILITATE
Strategic planning and implementation of data-informed initiatives

PERFORM
Rigorous data analysis and interpretation
A Sample of PIR Reports

PUBLIC AT WWW.OPA.PSU.EDU

- Faculty tenure rates
- Faculty exit study
- Student credit hours, FTE & headcount
- Veterans at Penn State
- Characteristics of at-risk students
- Retention, attrition, and graduation patterns

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- Salaries of full-time faculty members
- New hire faculty salaries
- Faculty merit increases
- Competition for Penn State faculty
- Associate professor time in rank
- Tenured and tenure-track faculty demographics
- Under-enrolled sections
- Student flow (entry through 6 years)
- Impact of offering similar programs across campuses
Strategic Planning Timeline 2016/2017

**Summer 2016**
- University Implementation Executive Committees assigned and charged
- Units develop implementation plans
- Unit level support and training ongoing

**Fall 2016**
- University Implementation Steering Committees and Forums begin meeting
- Unit implementation plans due
- Unit level support and training ongoing

**Spring 2017**
- University Implementation committees’ annual updates
- Unit level annual reports
Assessment 2.0 at Penn State: Goals

- **Vision 1:** Prove and improve education quality (not accreditation)

- **Goal 1:** Support and strengthen documentation of student learning processes at all levels (grad, undergrad and certificate)

- **Goal 2:** Integrate high quality LOA data with other data sources to ask (and answer) key education quality questions
Philosophy...

- **Whole student**: Acknowledge learning inside/ outside classroom
- **Big questions**: Assessment studies that look broadly across programs, colleges, campuses
- **Innovation and fit**: Identify/ solve learning questions with creative solutions that fit problem
LOA Office at Penn State

• Four-prong LOA assessment process support
  • web-based assessment curriculum: definitions, how to guides, tools, templates
  • web-based data system improves access/ sharing data and report, connect to other data sources
  • assessment staff by discipline to offer training/ consult/ analysis
  • University assessment data studies that look broadly across programs, colleges, campuses

• Revised assessment framework assures focus on key questions
Learning outcomes assessment

Student characteristics and needs

Program and course quality measures

Disciplinary context

Economic, cultural, global context
How are incoming student characteristics, needs or interests affecting achievement of program learning objectives?
How are we capturing and incorporating significant shifts in disciplinary or professional practices into the redefinition of program learning objectives?
We have documented student learning concerns in the college. What instructional design and other resources do we need to innovate? How do we choose a solution that addresses the concern?
1- Improve program LOA processes
2- Improve assessment data system and data integration
3- Use data for college and University studies and action
Next Steps

◦ June-July 2016: Deans team meetings/ Feedback on proposed process
◦ August 2016: Assessment cycle begins
◦ October 2016: First drafts; Check-in (how are we doing?)
◦ December 2016: Final drafts of assessment plans: learning objectives, curriculum mapping, assessment method description sent to OPA
◦ January 2017: Program assessment data collection commences
◦ April 2017: Middle State Monitoring report due
◦ June 2017: Assessment reports due to OPA
◦ July 2017: Review revised process
What can we do to help you move your organization forward?
Need Assistance?

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