Program Review and Assessment Committee Minutes

August Meeting 2016: Thursday, September 29, 1:15-2:45pm, AD 1006

Attending: K. Alfrey, K. Black, L. Bozeman, J. Conner-Zachocki, W. Crabtree, S. Graunke, T. Hahn, M. Hansen, L. Houser, M. Huffman, S. Hundley, D. Jerolimov, C. Kacius, S. Kahn, J. Lee, X. Liu, S. Lowe, L. Maxwell, A. Mitchell, J. Motter, H. Mzumara, K. Norris, L. Ruch, C. Schuck, S. Scott, C. Toledo, S. Weeden, J. Williams, W. Worley

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1. Welcome and Review/Approval of Minutes-Jennifer Lee, Chair of PRAC
   - Adjustments to the minutes were invited. None were offered. A motion to approve the minutes was offered and it was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously as circulated.

2. IUPUI Student Political Engagement and Voting Participation – Kristin Norris, Center for Service and Learning, and Anne Weiss, Center for Civic Literacy
   - Norris began by reviewing information on IUPUI students and alumni from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), a survey of political engagement and voting participation. Information on how the survey is constructed was offered:
     - After each election, student voting behavior is surveyed (but not by who they voted for). The National Student Clearinghouse (http://www.studentclearinghouse.org/) data are compared with publically available voter information. IUPUI does not have to do anything, as NSLVE does the work. Eventually NSLVE creates a campus report to compare with state and with national information. Volunteering is identified along with information on civic engagement to gain a civics health indication. Nationally, 500 institutions have signed on and 9,000,000 students are in the data base.
   - Results on present student political engagement: Women and African American students are the highest in being involved. At IUPUI, there is a political engagement group (American Democratic Project group). The group has been re-energized through the Office of Civic Engagement. The goals of this office are to think strategically about political engagement on the IUPUI campus, as well as the other IU campuses. Strategizing is the main focus right now.
   - The survey reveals that IUPUI alumni are less politically active.
   - To give context to the data, Norris shared her dissertation research, which looked into roles of mentors in promoting civic engagement. A finding is the more discussions occur, the more civically engaged students become.

- Hash tags were offered for participants to use during the upcoming debates. (iDebate 16). Norris offered to help foster dialogues for those who are interested, and she asked for those have ideas to contact her and her office.
- Questions and Discussion:
    - Question: Are the students identified only nationals? Answer: No, other characteristics are identified as well, including foreign nationals, and these are part of the data as well.

3. Understanding the Office of Institutional Research and Decision Support – Michele Hansen, Anne Mitchell, and Steve Graunke, Office of Institutional Research and Decision Support

- The three presenters opened by offering a broad understanding of what the office of Institutional Research and Decision Support (IRDS) does. They showed their web site and reviewed the options there. They then showed the most recent collected information, seen as interactive reports, and they indicated that IRDS is working on developing a departmental level function for all the reports. The fact that IRDS activities align with the campus's strategic plan was highlighted, and it was stressed that even though the information they were showing is more general, an important function for IRDS is requests for specific information from particular programs. To help connect with PRAC member understanding of the IRDS site and its information, an interactive activity was used with members.
- When the interactive activity was completed, Hansen, Mitchell, and Graunke then described typical functions for IRDS:
    - It provides information about enrollments, graduation rates, etc.
    - It helps to create surveys to gather information
    - It focuses on providing information to faculty, administration, advisors, and so on
    - Key activities:
        - Developing a comprehensive integrated data infrastructure that includes monitoring how information is being used and when it is used
        - Working with enrollment management (which refers to following students from the time they come into the university to the time they graduate, looking for ways to provide support along the way)
        - Assessing student learning
        - Doing survey research
        - Supporting program evaluation and review
        - Providing institutional and strategic planning decision support
        - Optimizing the use of enabled technology
        - Building evaluation and assessment capacity across IUPUI to support evidence-based decision making
        - Supporting assessment and accreditation (such as data support for annual reports, program reviews, and so on)
        - Piloting program for Statements of Aspirational Practice for Institutional Research.

- Next, the three described how IRDS circulates information to programs and units, and they emphasized that the process of gathering and circulating information has helped IRDS to identify important information about the campus and our students, including where they are from, faculty satisfaction, and so on
    - The data can become very specific, but if the information goes down to less than five individuals, the information is blanked out due to protect privacy concerns.
- Questions and Discussion:
    - Question: How is the IUPU Columbus campus involved in information roll out? Answer: The data they work with includes Columbus, but whether this information is included in IUPUI data depends upon the audience for the information. Not all the survey data is included because Columbus has its own information data staff.

4. PRAC Subcommittees – Jennifer Lee
    - Lee asked the chairs of the committees to discuss the committees and then announced that members would be given a chance circulate to learn about each subcommittee
    - Report Review Subcommittee – Karen Alfrey and Susan Kahn
        - All PRAC reports are reviewed and feedback is provided
        - Typically get together twice to divide the work
        - Susan Kahn announced a description of the subcommittee is available upon request.
    - Strategic Use of Data to Support Student Learning Subcommittee – Michele Hansen
        - No set agenda, so broad framework provided:
            - Aligns with the earlier presentation
            - Thinks about how to integrate desperate data from different schools, programs, etc.
            - A way for the IRDS office to understand data interests, and so on.
    - PRAC Grants Subcommittee – Linda Houser
        - This subcommittee reads reports and provides feedback
        - Frequently, those who submit take the feedback and modify their applications, leading to later funding
        - Grant amounts have gone up, which should increase interest in these grants and in this subcommittee
        - Grants deadlines are once a semester, and they are submitted electronically.
    - When the presentations on the subcommittees were completed, Lee added that helping these subcommittees is some of the most important work PRAC does. She then invited the group to learn further about the subcommittees by moving to designated areas in the room to learn more about them and to volunteer.

5. Announcements and Adjournment
    - PRAC reports due Oct. to Stephen Hundley

<u>Future PRAC Meeting Dates:</u> (see below)

Thursday, October 20, 1:15-2:45 in CE 309
Thursday, November 17, 1:15-2:45 in CE 309
Thursday, December 15, 1:15-2:45 in CE 305
Thursday, January 12 from 1:30 to 3:00 in University Hall 1006
Thursday, February 9 from 1:30 to 3:00 in University Hall 1006
Thursday, March 9 from 1:30 to 3:00 in University Hall 1006
Thursday, April 6 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in University Hall 1006
Thursday, May 11 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in University Hall 1006