

CDR Liaison/Institutional Researchers Meeting
October 30, 2008
1820 Van Hise Hall
10.00 am - 2.30 pm

Summary

Accountability

UW System and Institutional.

The group was updated on the planned changes to the UW System and institutional accountability reports, through a review of the October presentation to the Board of Regents on this topic.

The goal is to align the accountability reports with the seven core strategies of the new strategic plan (Advantage Wisconsin). A secondary goal is to make the reports easier to navigate.

The seven core strategies were presented, along with four proposed new indicators: Degrees conferred, degrees in high need fields, increasing student contact through outreach and distance education, and an increase in total revenue. Most of the remaining indicators were in the old report.

Measures in the institutional report will remain the same. Institutions will examine the indicators to see how well they align with the seven core strategies, and will also determine the extent to which the institutional reports should change.

The 2009 report will be a transitional report. It will be presented to the Board of Regents along with recommendations for changes to future reports. Additional recommendations are expected from Regents when it is presented. Changes will be incorporated into the 2010 and later reports.

VSA.

The next VSA teleconference is in mid-November. The College Portrait is live on all institutional websites. The next version of the College Report will have better accessibility and will be implemented in html instead of Flash. The VSA current deadline for posting success and progress rates is February 15. The group discussed some options for incorporating Clearinghouse data into the System and institutional accountability reports.

Surveys.

Survey data will be a smaller component of the new systemwide accountability report. However, UWSA expects to continue regular participation in the NSSE survey, because of its importance to campuses and its use in the VSA. A standard, public 4-year institution race/ethnicity analysis was purchased from NSSE, which will be sent to campus NSSE contacts.

Race and Ethnicity Changes

New freshman and total headcount race/ethnicity data were presented, showing the difference between the current method of reporting race/ethnicity and the new federal method, which gives priority to Hispanic/Latino self-identification.

A new race/ethnicity implementation working group will be formed, which will include campus representation. There will be teleconferences in preparation for implementation of the 2-question race/ethnicity format on the application in fall 2009. Issues discussed may include the format of the questions on the application and race/ethnicity issues related to resurveying, EPCS, the PeopleSoft to CDR interface, the CDR, and federal reporting.

IPEDS Update

Per the Spring 2008 CDR meeting, several new IPEDS data collections were being reviewed by OMB including the new race/ethnicity categories, the elimination of the first-professional degree/enrollment level, changes to the finance survey, and additions to the student financial aid survey. All items were approved by OMB.

- The race/ethnicity changes have been implemented and the new reporting method will be used in the 2008-09 reporting cycle.

- The changes to the first professional degree category have been implemented. First professional enrollments and degrees will be classified as “Doctorate/Professional Practice.” This affects programs at UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-La Crosse, and UW-Stevens Point.
- Changes to the Finance report are significant and will not be implemented until 2010 (per UWSA Office of Financial Administration) when these changes are mandatory.
- The Student Financial Aid report changes will affect the grant and loan categories. The current category of “Grants” will be divided into “Pell Grants” and “Other Grants.” Loans will be reported as “Federal Loans” and “Other Loans.” These changes will be mandatory for the 2008 cycle per the Higher Ed Opportunity Act (HEOA) requirements.

Later in the Summer of 2008, the HEOA was passed and required additional items to be collected by IPEDS immediately in the 2008-09 cycle. The new items include availability of alternative tuition plans, student/faculty ratios, additional information on graduation rates, and students with disabilities. In addition, the HEOA requires institutions to disclose additional items. The new disclosure items include institutions to provide:

- links from their websites to information on student activities, services for students with disabilities, career placement services, and transfer policies,
- information on post graduate plans of degree recipients such as work and graduate school,
- graduation rates for Pell recipients and Federal loans, and
- the “net price” of attendance.

Additional clarification is expected (from the federal government) on other changes including net prices, post-university plans of degree recipients, and graduation rates of Pell Grant recipients. Other consumer information required in the HEOA are already being reported.

CDR Updates

A spreadsheet was distributed showing the number of first-generation college applicants to UW institutions as of October 1, 2008. There were 4,161 new freshman applicants and 239 new transfer applicants who were reported as first generation students as of that date.

The new high school table view was discussed. The new view has two additional fields: high school name and city name. All data come from ACT, NCES, or DPI. The new view is easier to join with other tables, and includes more high schools with a valid DPI identification number. The public/private indicator has also been updated.

A brief discussion highlighted the OPAR data warehouse. Most campus representatives in attendance accessed the warehouse through Hyperion/Brio. Other tools used included Access, SAS, and SQL. The campus representatives were asked to report any access roadblocks or other problems to OPAR.

This section finished with a discussion of some CDR “Current Data Issues.” These issues included:

- Entrance status. Should all students who have a “new” entrance status in summer be reported as “new” in the fall, as is currently done for new freshmen? The consensus of the group seemed to oppose such a change.
- Citizenship status. Should an additional value be added for foreign distant education students and for students without U.S. citizenship?
- The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. Have campuses discussed the provisions of this bill which will provide tuition reimbursement directly to institutions for participating veterans?
- Diversity in academic assessment. A working group is being formed to propose ways to measure the effect of the UW System policy that allows the use of race as a factor in admission decisions.
- Transfer student reporting. Do campuses record all prior transfer work regardless of whether or not transfer credits were granted?

MAAD

The new MAAD view was discussed. The discussion centered on the new race/ethnicity fields that will be used to report unduplicated race/ethnicity headcounts, and which also capture the detail of the new application form which allows for race/ethnicity multiple identifications. Documentation is being finalized and UW-Platteville will shortly be piloting the new MAAD view. A question was raised about whether campuses will be able to access other UW institution’s MAAD and CDR data for comparison purposes. The group generally opposed this, citing FERPA concerns and the necessity for memoranda of understanding.

IAIS

At prior CDR Liaison meetings, a proposed new algorithm to calculate the faculty effort component of the cost distribution methodology was discussed. The proposal went to the campuses for review, along with campus data in June. All institutions that responded were in favor of the proposal. The new algorithm was implemented in IAIS and all data (1994-2007) have been updated.

Curricular Data Reporting

Data tables were presented, reporting data on graduate and undergraduate course sections by curricular area, type of instruction, and day/time offered as well as the number of courses and course sections by term. The tables were for the System as a whole, but institutional tables will be created and circulated to the institutions for review. Suggestions for additional tables included: distance education courses, courses broken down by undergraduate lower level and upper level, and data generated for multiple years.

Time to Degree

As part of the time-to-degree and credits-to-degree discussion, a handout was provided listing the rules for determining the population and for calculating the amount of time elapsed until a degree is received. The time-to-degree project is a step in the project to rewrite the credits-to-degree system.

Collaborative Projects

Several collaborative projects were discussed:

- Transfer equity. OPAR is working with EDI (formally OADD), and staff at the University of Southern California on this project which examines transfer equity and the roadblocks that might exist for particular groups of students seeking to transfer. The project is funded by a Ford Foundation grant.
- Educational Attainment. This project follows work done earlier by the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO). The goal of the project is to increase degree production by increasing degree completion among both traditional and non-traditional aged students. The overall goal is to have 55 percent of the adult population holding at least an associate's degree.
- Making Opportunity Affordable (MOA). This is a Lumina Foundation-funded project whose goal is also to have 55 percent of the working age adult population holding at least a two-year degree. Wisconsin is one of only 11 states participating at this point and is unique in having a multi-sector approach, involving the WTCS, WAICU, and the PK-12 sector. The MOA project is currently in a planning year, with several activities planned, including a statewide meeting, a policy audit of participating institutions, focus groups, and cross-sector meetings. Once the planning period is ended, Wisconsin will apply for a four-year extension to work on the issues identified in the planning stage.
- Climate Study (delayed from the meeting). In Fall 2006, five UW institutions volunteered to participate in the pilot year of the climate study project, including the UW Colleges, UW-Oshkosh, UW-La Crosse, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Stevens Point. Groundwork for the Climate Study was begun in fall 2007, and the Climate Study survey was administered at the five participating institutions in spring 2008. Throughout fall 2008, results have been shared with the participating institutions. An overview of the Climate Study, including results, will be presented to the Board of Regents at their December 2008 meeting.
- Equity Scorecard. The second cohort started at the end of April and includes UW-River Falls, UW-Platteville, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, and UW-Superior. Follow-up meetings and training will take place, followed by an evaluation by the USC team.

Round Robin

The meeting concluded with a brief round robin where each institution discussed recent activities.