

**CDR Liaisons/Institutional Researchers Videoconference**  
**March 26, 2009**  
**9.00 am – 11.00 pm**

**Summary**

**Accountability**

*UW System and Institutional Accountability.*

The System and institutional accountability reports have been revised over the last year to align with the UW System Strategic Framework to Advantage Wisconsin. Although OPAR is still working with the graphic artist, the indicators and text are almost finalized. The accountability report will be discussed by the Chancellors on Friday, March 27, and is scheduled to go to the Board of Regents in June.

Features of the new report include:

- Improved readability and navigation of the report.
- Each page has a new sidebar titled “More to Explore”.
- References to other reports and publications are no longer restricted to a single compendium but instead are referenced throughout the report. The web version of the final report will have hotlinks to other reports and publications.

The new accountability report will retain the student focus of *Achieving Excellence* but will expand the information presented to show UW contributions to the state, in line with *Advantage Wisconsin*. The current accountability report is a transitional report with more changes coming next year. The institutional accountability reports will also be revised.

VSA.

OPAR considers VSA as one of three components of the accountability process, the other two being the System report and the institutional reports. A VSA teleconference is being organized for April 2009. Since Todd Bailey will not be available until September 2009, other OPAR staff will coordinate VSA discussions for the next few months.

*Accountability Surveys.*

A proposed timeline for future surveys was discussed.

- *NSSE*. NSSE will be on a three-year cycle. The next NSSE survey will be administered in 2011-12. The next accountability report will use data from the most recent NSSE survey.
- *Learning outcomes for VSA*. Many institutions are still exploring learning outcomes survey options. Since the VSA target date for UW institutions to implement this piece of the VSA is February 15, 2012, the learning outcomes surveys would need to be administered during the 2010-11 academic year.
- The 2012-13 year is available for the administration of another survey yet to be determined.

*Discussion on Surveys:*

- Several institutions would like survey efforts to be coordinated to minimize survey fatigue and staff work. OPAR asked campuses to provide a list of “System-sponsored” surveys that can be used to bring this issue to the attention of System staff.
- Some alternative surveys were suggested, including the FSSE, the College Senior Survey, and the Freshman Survey.

### **Spring CDR Update**

Two data element changes were proposed:

- Data Element 2065-First Generation Student Indicator. This element was implemented on MAAD this year.
- Data Element 2060-Veteran Status. The new values on this field would indicate if the student was a child or spouse of a veteran.

The Spring CDR Update will be released in April. The liaisons should check the schedule and CAC/UDDS tables.

#### *Discussion:*

- There will be an upcoming teleconference about the veteran status field, including technical aspects such as storage and transfer from EPCS to PeopleSoft.
- The implementation of the veteran status changes could be postponed until the 2010-11 academic year.
- There is a concern from MILER that the "both" response in the veteran status field may cause a loss of information.
- A suggestion was made to collect this information in two elements on the CDR.
- The first generation element will be collected only for new freshman and transfer students. A separate value will apply for students for whom it is not known whether or not they are first generation college students.

### **Retention and Graduation Informational Memorandum and Reports**

A draft of the new Retention/Graduation Informational Memorandum was discussed. Much of the report presents data that already exists in other publications. Two new sets of retention data tables are included in the new informational memorandum:

- Comparison of UW System and National retention and graduation rates (the latter by race/ethnicity and gender).
- Retention and graduation rates for Pell recipients by UW institution.

#### *Discussion:*

- There is a need to clarify that the Pell recipients table includes all freshmen who received a Pell award sometime in their freshman year (not just in fall term). There was also a question as to the difference between the number of students receiving a Pell and the number of students who are Pell eligible. Record analysis shows that very few Pell-eligible students do not receive a Pell award.
- There was a question about whether the report could include transfer retention and graduation data by level on enrollment at a UW institution.
- Some tables in the appendix have data going back as far as 1976. It was asked whether it would be possible to save space by presenting a much more limited number of years. One campus suggested that 10 years would be enough. Another suggestion was to make the data available in the Student Statistics section of the OPAR website.
- There were requests for more detailed breakouts, especially for students entering as new transfers. These breakouts would have a problem with small cell sizes.

*Retention and Graduation Reports.* The comprehensive set of campus-specific retention and graduation PDF reports are available. No institution reported a problem accessing this resource. Two changes have been made in the reports.

- The fall 2008 cohort uses the new race/ethnicity categories.
- The number of reports has been reduced.

Several campuses expressed interest in receiving the reports in Excel spreadsheet format.

### **Race/Ethnicity Update**

The work of the Race/Ethnicity Implementation Working Group was discussed. The efforts of the Working Group have focused on the two-question format for race/ethnicity, as described in the handout that was distributed. The handout also had the electronic application reminder text, processing rules, and a list of working group members. The new two-question format will be used on the application starting in fall 2009 for fall 2010 admission.

Future teleconferences will address the resurveying issue. Resurveying is recommended by the Department of Education. To coordinate with the application change, it would be best if the resurveying was done in the next academic year.

The Working Group will try to keep abreast of upcoming changes to Oracle/PeopleSoft Student Information System relating to the new race/ethnicity reporting format.

The issue of overwriting previously recorded race/ethnicity data was discussed. The UW System Office of General Counsel says that an audit trail is necessary when race/ethnic data is being overwritten. This is an option in PeopleSoft, but it's a customization, which requires campus resources to install and maintain. The Working Group is also looking into some Oracle/PeopleSoft changes that may provide audit trail capability.

### **Campus Round Robin**

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