

Data Process Sub-Group

The sub-group met on December 1, 2008 to discuss its goals. The following members were present: Bette Erickson, Sandy Hicks, Deborah Rosen, Gary Bowden, Mark Higgins. The following members were unable to attend Faye Boudreaux-Bartels, Jim Kowalski and John Stevenson. Those present agreed on the following goals and recommendations.

Goal One: Establish a place to house all data and/or files related to learning outcomes assessment.

Recommendation: The data be housed within Institutional Research.

Goal Two: That the committee request assessment related data (i.e., course assessment, exit surveys, placement etc.)

Recommendation: A letter be sent annually from the committee in late Spring requesting the data from the Colleges. The initial letter should ask for data from the previous three years.

Goal Three: That the data be classified into four groups Group 1 would include: NESE, Wabash, FESE and General Education Learning Outcomes. Group 2 would include University College Orientation, URI 101, Quality of Life and University College Exit Surveys. Group 3 would include Career Services data and the Branding Perception Survey. Group 4 would include the data acquired from the Colleges.

Recommendation: The data in each group would be analyzed and discussed as a group. It is envisioned that the Committee would "sponsor" a meeting during the year to discuss the data. The data would be distributed prior to the meeting and the goal of the meeting would be for the meeting participants to identify and discuss the 3 "best" areas and three areas that most need improvement. Action plans would be developed to learn from and improve the three best areas and to improve the three areas identified as needing attention. It is envisioned that the committee could hold one meeting each semester. For example in Fall 2009 focus on the data from Group 1 and in the Spring Group 2. The following year the focus could be on Group 3 and 4. It is hoped that the data in Group 4 could be used to develop best practice within the university and to help consolidate the number of surveys conducted at the university.

The sub-group also felt that it was important to offer the following recommendations:

- While the university is facing resource constraints, it is critical that Institutional Research be given additional resources to undertake these new responsibilities. The availability of accurate and reliable data is critical to the university's ability to make informed decisions.

- It is important that the Instructional Development Program (IDP) and the office of Assessment of Learning be separate entities. IDP should be used to provide the programs, where possible, based on the feedback from the URI community and this committee's recommendations of the analyzed data.
- Implicit in the recommendation for Goal 3 is that the data collected is available on the university website, preferable not publicly accessible (i.e., not available to those outside the university community) and that the data is shared on regular basis with the campus community.