

# UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2016

### *UT Martin Assessment Committees Meet*

UT Martin has five standing university-wide assessment committees to address the five SACS COC institutional effectiveness standards. These committees met during the weeks of April 18 and April 25 to review our assessment reports and progress and to make recommendations for our next steps.

Overall, the committees were pleased with the progress the campus has made in addressing these standards. Common strengths of the reports included:

- the submitted reports were comprehensive and included many excellent examples of data-informed decisions;
- a wide variety of noteworthy activities are occurring at UT Martin, and a wide variety of assessment approaches are being used to document how well we are achieving our goals, objectives, and outcomes; and
- it is clear that we have made a substantial amount of progress in a short amount of time, and there has been a clear shift in the culture and mindset of our faculty and staff that emphasizes the importance of assessment.

The committees also noted some challenges still facing us. Common themes include:

- reporting formats were inconsistent;
- some reports were incomplete or lacked enough detail to give a complete picture of the process;
- lower than usual staffing levels in some areas were impeding the full integration and benefits of the assessment process; and
- assessment, data collection, analysis, and using data to inform our decisions must become routine.

The committees also spent time addressing some identified challenges and making suggestions for next steps to address other challenges. Committees approved revised reporting templates to help with the consistency

of the reporting formats and suggested that detailed instructions be written to accompany the new templates. The committees also recommended that when reports are submitted, comprehensive feedback be provided on the reports to ensure that progress continues to be made. The committees also agreed that it is vital that additional training be made available for faculty and staff in order to continue the progress we are making.

Each committee has elected one of its members to serve on the UT Martin Assessment Oversight Committee, which will meet in late May or early June to review these committee reports and make final recommendations to the Chancellor regarding our priorities in continuing our progress. For more information on the assessment committees, see our assessment website <http://www.utm.edu/assessment/>. Committee charges are currently posted, and the committee reports will be posted here by May 6. The newly revised reporting templates and instructions are posted on our assessment website on the “Forms” page.

### ***REMINDER! Assessment Workshop May 10-11***

Have you signed up yet? Dr. Tami Eggleston will be back on the UT Martin campus in May to conduct additional assessment workshops. Tami will be working with the faculty on May 10, and with the staff on May 11. To register, please email Alisha Melton at [amelton6@utm.edu](mailto:amelton6@utm.edu).

### ***From Data to Decisions***

Units continue to use data to inform decisions and improve services to faculty, staff, and students. Recent examples include:

**Campus Recreation** used data collected at intramural games to change the way they track statistics. Two iPads were purchased to use at

volleyball games to track and share real-time statistics, resulting in saving personnel an average of 4 to 6 hours per week in entering game data. Based on the success of this initiative, the use of iPads will be expanded to other intramural sports.

**Residence Life** used student GPA data and resident surveys to offer Residence Hall Tutoring in a partnership with the **Student Success Center**. Currently, they are tracking student usage data, GPA data, and other demographic data to use in adjusting the program. This program is also being used to inform decisions regarding our new Living Learning Communities.

**Student Health and Counseling** is using a wide variety of data to identify at-risk students, help students connect with appropriate resources, maximize human resources, and adjust walk-in times in order to serve our students more effectively.

### ***Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?***

This month has focused on finishing the feedback process on our fall reports, convening our assessment committees to review our progress, and working with our consultants to

make arrangements for our workshop. We have also begun organizing the massive amounts of information we have collected (and continue to collect) for our Monitoring Report.

**Don't Forget Upcoming Reports:** All units (both academic and non-academic) will submit updated reports in May (all due May 31). These reports need to include data from Spring 2016 and incorporate any suggested changes from the feedback reports. *PLEASE USE THE NEW TEMPLATES (see our Forms page)!* You can copy and paste the information from your last reports onto the new templates and then update the information. The May reports will be used in the Monitoring Report as evidence to SACS COC.

**Progress Chart:** Our progress chart this month includes all of the areas that submitted reports in the first half of spring. We will be posting information on our upcoming reports in future newsletters.

All fall reports and feedback reports are posted on our assessment webpages, and spring reports will be posted in June ([www.utm.edu/assessment](http://www.utm.edu/assessment)). You can see not only what your department is doing, but also how other departments are reporting their data.

