

UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

Assessment Workshop Held in January

The January Assessment Workshop provided a lot of information about upcoming deadlines and reports, and introduced participants to some new initiatives. We were excited by the turnout: 116 people attended the morning session and 171 people attended the afternoon session. Both sessions required additional tables and chairs be brought in to accommodate the crowd. THANK YOU!



If you missed the workshop, the PowerPoint slides are now available on the assessment website. Go to: <http://www.utm.edu/assessment/assessment.php> and scroll to the bottom of the page. Log in to the SharePoint site using your UTM credentials and look for the library titled “Workshop Materials.” The PowerPoint slides from this workshop are dated 2017 in the titles.

By now, all units have submitted their assessment reports for 2016, and the Assessment Office is working on providing feedback. Our next due date for reports is

October 1, when academic reports are due. Please continue to collect and analyze your data so that you will have everything you need for your next round of reports.

As reported in the last Assessment Newsletter, we have the Fifth-Year Interim Report, the QEP Report, and a follow-up report to the Third Monitoring Report due to SACSCOC in mid-March, 2018. We will be contacting units for additional information on an as-needed basis. However, keep in mind that your annual assessment reports are critical to our success.

New Initiatives

The January Assessment Workshop discussed several new initiatives, including UT Martin’s participation in the Gallup-Purdue Index and the creation of unit-level Assessment Guidebooks.

The Gallup-Purdue Index is designed to identify factors from a higher education setting that contribute to an individual’s “well-being” (for more information, see <http://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/gallup/>). Gallup-Purdue has identified three support experiences and three experiential learning experiences that positively contribute to a college graduates’ well-being. Because these six experiences fit UT Martin so well, we have joined the list of universities participating in Gallup-Purdue. Baseline data was collected from alumni in late 2016, and initial results were presented at the workshop. Interested in seeing how well we did? Check out the workshop PowerPoint slides on the SharePoint site to compare UT

Martin findings to various groups of similar institutions.

The bulk of the January Assessment Workshop centered on the development of unit-level Assessment Guidebooks. These guidebooks are designed to demonstrate the connections between your unit's mission and goals and the university's mission and strategic plan. Guidebooks outline the rationale for choosing your unit's goals and describe assessment tools and benchmarks. As new employees join your unit, these guidebooks will be valuable introductions to your assessment process. Templates for the Assessment Guidebooks are now available on the assessment website. Go to <http://www.utm.edu/assessment/forms.php> and scroll to the bottom of the page.

From Data to Decisions

The **Office of Educational Outreach's off-campus operations** team has used data to identify several improvements and initiatives. In an effort to increase annual enrollment, the office used Center student headcounts to identify the McNairy County region as the location for new scholarship workshops for high school students. They held preview days at the Parsons Center and worked with the Office of Admissions to waive student application fees for these events. Fall enrollment data will be tracked to determine the impact of these initiatives. In addition, the OEO used data from enrollment trends, outreach efforts, and marketing efforts to reallocate \$195,000 in advertising funds in order to participate in a more strategic marketing strategy.

The OEO's **non-degree programs** team noted a decreasing enrollment trend in law enforcement courses. The team decided to eliminate the Law Enforcement Training Specialists position for a savings of \$30,000. Coordination of law enforcement training

efforts has reverted to the Director of Non-Degree Programs, who has expanded upon existing collaborative partnerships with the UT Institution for Public Service to provide law enforcement training using a revenue-sharing process.

The **Office of Institutional Research** examined commonly-requested data from academic units and determined that departmental reports needed to include additional information. First-time transfer enrollment data, first-time college student data, and retention rates and graduation rates by major have been added to departmental reports to allow departments to increase their efforts to support and retain students in their majors.

The **Office of Equity and Diversity** began an initiative in 2015 to ensure that all faculty and staff received training in the University's Sexual Misconduct Policy and Title IX. The office planned the initiative to have 100% of faculty and staff trained by the end of Spring 2018. Due to faculty and staff response, 100% of full-time employees had received training by the end of December 2016, 1.5 years earlier than anticipated. Training in this area will now be online and will be offered to all employees, including temporary employees, during Fall each year, rather than being available all year.

The **Student Success Center (SSC)** is using data from Supplemental Instruction (SI) sessions to determine the impact of SI sessions on student GPA. Semester data indicate that GPAs for students who attend SI sessions are generally about one-third of a point higher than for those who are enrolled in the same sections but do not attend the SI sessions. However, data also indicate that attendance is poor in some SI sessions, suggesting that an SI is not needed for those sections of courses. The SSC is using that data to reallocate resources to support areas of greater need.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Kolitsch, SACS Accreditation Coordinator, at styer@utm.edu, or Patty Flowers, Assessment Coordinator, at pflowers@utm.edu.

Photo 1: Overflow crowd at January Assessment Workshop (Carver).