UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2018

Assessment Workshops Held in January

Assessment Workshops were held January 8, 2018, and provided information regarding the revised SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation that were adopted in December. A total of 84 people attended the morning workshop and 118 people attended the afternoon workshop. THANK YOU!

The morning workshop focused on developing rubrics. Participants in the morning workshop were asked to develop their own rubric to be used to provide feedback on their annual assessment reports. Their suggested rubrics were shared during a gallery walk activity, and participant feedback was provided. The Assessment Office collected the rubrics developed and will use these rubrics as a basis for a new university-wide rubric to provide feedback.

The afternoon workshop focused on the disconnect between student performance and faculty expectations. This disconnect was discovered while reviewing academic units' program student learning outcomes and general education reports. Faculty had already identified a number of approaches designed to improve student performance; when combined, these approaches form the basis of a technique for communicating faculty expectations called "transparency." Participants in the afternoon workshop were asked to redesign two student assignments to incorporate the transparency technique this semester and to share their results.

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 and handouts from these workshop are dated 2018 in the titles.

Don't forget to enter your training to receive credit!

You will need your NetID and Password. Log in at: http://www.utm.edu/departments/training/credit.php:
- For Printable Instructions
- To log into K@TE

The training information you need to enter was provided to participants in an email on January 11 and again on January 18. If you need help entering your training, please contact Debbie Mount (dmount@utm.edu).

Interested in Attending SACSCOC Meetings in 2018?

The 2018 SACSCOC Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation will be held July 22-25, 2018, in Atlanta, GA. This conference focuses primarily on institutional quality and assessment across all units (both academic and nonacademic), but there will be sessions on various aspects of accreditation as well.

If you are interested in attending this summer institute, please send to Stephanie (styler@utm.edu) and Patty

(pflowers@utm.edu) the following information:

- Your position and unit/department
- 3-5 sentences describing why you would like to attend this institute.

The deadline for submitting this information is February 19, 2018. We will work with campus leadership to choose 2 people to attend this institute.

If you can't make this summer's meeting, the 2018 SACSCOC Annual Meeting is December 8-11, 2018, in New Orleans, LA. This meeting focuses on various aspects of accreditation as addressed in fifth-year and decennial reporting. We will be issuing a call for participation in early Fall, so mark your calendars to look for that announcement.

UT Martin Assigned New SACSCOC Vice President

In January, SACSCOC reassigned some of its member institutions to different vice presidents to balance workloads. UT Martin has been reassigned to Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover as our Vice President and primary contact at SACSCOC. Dr. Thomas-Glover previously served as the President of Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa, VA, and has served as a member of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees. We would like to thank Dr. John Hardt, our previous SACSCOC Vice President, for his help and guidance as we navigated our year on probation. We are looking forward to working with Dr. Thomas-Glover as we continue to improve our institution.

From Data to Decisions

Information Technology Services (ITS) led an examination of UT Martin's learning management system which included input from various stakeholders. ITS considered various data during the decision-making process, including the number of users, the average usage per user per day, and the average number of logins per day using the previous system; the needs of faculty, staff, and students; and the cost of maintaining the system. In 2017, UT Martin transitioned to using the Canvas learning management system. Early data shows increased usage from faculty and staff. Several processes related to managing and maintaining the system have been automated with the integration of the student information system. In addition, ITS estimates that the use of Canvas will result in a cost savings of $99,000 over the previous system.

The **Office of Educational Outreach** (OEO) is reporting positive results from the implementation of Canvas as well. OEO used Canvas Analytics to analyze student and faculty usage at the various Centers and online. OEO reported that page views by students increased from 22,291 in Spring to 103,114 in Fall, 2017—approximately 4.6 times the number of views in the Spring. In comparison, OEO student enrollment in Canvas courses only increased approximately 2.3 times (from 766 in the Fall to 1,766 in the Spring).

OEO also worked with the Mark McAlpin in ITS to review the distance learning (DL) infrastructure. OEO and Mr. McAlpin analyzed 2016 incident reports and identified inconsistencies in the DL configurations and configurations recommended by the various manufacturers. Upgrades were purchased for various portions of the infrastructure. Furthermore, additional training was mandated for all DL technicians. As a result, while the number of DL sessions increased from 1,326 in Fall 2016 to 1,422 in Fall 2017, the percentage of DL incidents decreased from 15.00% to 12.73% over the same time period.