

UT MARTIN ASSESSMENT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

Assessment Workshop May 10-11

Make your plans now! 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. The faculty workshop will focus on assessing general education, faculty outreach, and faculty research. The staff workshop will focus on assessments, analyzing data, and closing the loop in academic support units.

Watch your email for additional information!

UT Martin Institutional Assessment Goals and Calendar

UT Martin has developed a set of institutional planning and assessment goals to guide our annual assessment process. Our new goals are:

- ◆ To ensure institutional effectiveness through broad-based, mission-focused planning
- ◆ To integrate UT Martin Annual and Strategic Plans with UT System, THEC, Complete College Tennessee, and Tennessee Drive to 55 plans and initiatives
- ◆ To integrate mission-focused planning and assessment with UT Martin's budgeting process
- ◆ To sustain a campus culture for planning, assessment, and data-informed decision-making among academic and non-academic units at all levels
- ◆ To utilize research-based assessment data to inform and guide planning and to foster improvement (closing the loop)

- ◆ To involve all faculty and staff in planning and assessment processes in an appropriate manner

To accompany these goals, UT Martin has developed an annual calendar that describes, on a monthly basis, planning and assessment actions for academic units, non-academic units, institutional data and reports, budgeting, and upper-level administration. This calendar will be presented to the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees March 30-April 1 as an information item and will be posted on the UT Martin assessment webpages (www.utm.edu/assessment) after the Board meeting.

From Data to Decisions

Faculty and staff continue to assess and find opportunities for improvement. Here are a few examples from recent reports:

The **Department of Visual and Theatre Arts** has been tracking faculty involvement in research/scholarly and outreach activities, but has recognized the need to involve students in these activities as well, especially by giving students opportunities to take on positions of responsibility. Recently, students have been given leadership roles in several areas, including one student serving as an assistant director for the production of "As You Like It" and other students working with students from the **Department of Engineering** to design a Solar Panels Project (currently being constructed near the **Paul Meek Library**).

The **Department of Computer Science** looked at their curriculum and patterns of student enrollment and discovered that students were taking upper division courses who were missing key concepts. They have developed a curriculum map to ensure that these key topics

are being addressed early in the students' curriculum.

As UT Martin has received and reviewed reports on outreach and research/scholarly activity, we have realized that our original reporting templates were inefficient and were not collecting the depth and breadth of information we needed. A few of the reports were exceptionally detailed, and these reports were used to create a model for a new reporting template that allows us to quickly examine faculty outreach and research/scholarly activity and to specifically tie faculty activities to UT Martin's mission. The model was shared with department chairs, deans, and our external consultants for feedback. The template was modified based on this feedback, and it will be uploaded to the assessment website soon.

Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?

We have been looking at reports that have been submitted and providing feedback. Academic departments have received feedback on their program student learning outcomes reports, outreach reports, and research/scholarly activity reports. The Faculty Senate Committee on Instruction provided feedback on all Fall 2015 general education reports that were

submitted. The DQP (Degree Qualifications Profile) Task Force is working with departments to provide additional feedback on the program student learning outcomes reports. We are gearing up to provide feedback on reports from Student Affairs. The UT Martin institution-wide Assessment Committees will be meeting in April and May to review all reports and to provide feedback from an institutional perspective.

Upcoming Reports: All units (both academic and non-academic) will submit updated reports in May (all due May 31). These reports will include data from Spring 2016 and will incorporate any suggested changes from the feedback reports. The May reports will be used in the Monitoring Report as evidence to SACS COC.

Progress Chart: You can see from our progress chart below that we are well on our way to having excellent reports to submit. Student Affairs has submitted reports, but those have not yet been reviewed. Check out the April newsletter to see their progress...

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

