



## **IR Council Meeting**

October 15, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Scottsdale Community College, Student Center – Turquoise Room

### **Members Present**

Ajit Kelkar	Rene Willikens	Cindy Almendarez	Beth Hunt Larson
Keith Cantor	Jan Binder	Donna Silber	James Waugh
Matt Ashcraft	Linda Hawbaker	Laurie Cohen	Laurie Pemberton
Linda Hughes	Mary Day	Tracy Salter	Damita Kaloostian
John Snelling	Adam Lange	Sue Starrfield	Sue Kater
Georgia Gudykunst	Kerry Mitchell	Sandy Hill	Suzanne Martin

**Meeting Minutes** – Meeting minutes from the August and September IR Council meetings were approved without comment.

**2009 IR Council Calendar** – A calendar with proposed dates for IR Council meetings in 2009 was distributed. IR Council meetings are usually on the third Wednesday of the month. The March meeting will move to the 25<sup>th</sup> to accommodate Spring Break. January and August's dates have been tabled while the researchers review semester class start dates.

### **Training** –

**BOEXI Reports (John S.)** The BOEXI reports default file output is Adobe PDF. John demonstrated how to change the settings to get reports in other formats such as Excel. This can be done by choosing schedule>format>Excel Data Only. After this choose your parameters, such as college and term. While the report is being generated, you will have to refresh your browser to screen to see the current status. More details on this procedure will be placed in the Brainkeeper Wiki.

**Predictive Analysis – (Multiple Briefers)** The district IE office has purchased SPSS's Clementine in the past year to begin projects in predictive analysis. Elizabeth Hunt-Larson sat in workshops at the Seattle AIR Conference to see what other colleges were doing with predictive analysis. For the most part it appeared that predictive analysis was still in its infancy with the few colleges using it reporting labor intensive model construction. Dan Huston has attended training given by SPSS on Clementine and is building the district's first model, Students at Risk. This topic was chosen to meet the needs of Student Success at Maricopa. The intent will be to distribute actionable results to each college.

Adam Lange briefed next on Rio Salado College's first attempt at predictive analysis. Rio's model was built to identify students at risk of dropping out at the 2 week mark. Rio continues to refine the process and hopes to have it fully automated upon completion. Tracy Salter introduced the matter of creating a process for determining which projects to work on. Since data mining is too intensive for college IR offices to tackle individually, an agreed upon method

for choosing projects that will benefit the widest possible audience is necessary. One of the prime units of measure will be does the result of the model lead to an actionable item. It was proposed that potential projects be sent to the CEC who would then forward to the VPAAAs. Colleges IR offices should review data mining literature to assist in the development of the variables needed for data mining.

**IRB – (Sue K.)** The discussion continued from earlier IR Council meetings on what items should be submitted to the IRB for approval. There is at issue, among other things, that projects are being submitted directly to the IRB and bypassing the CRFC at the colleges. The bottom line for things being submitted to the IRB is to ensure the survey, study, etc. causes no harm to human subjects. Sue is going to take a suggestion from the council back to the IRB that when the IRB provides approval to proceed, that does not equate to approval for access to data. That approval still must come from the individual colleges. Mary Day strongly suggested that Noel Levitz and CCSSE should be submitted each year to the IRB as a combined package.

**IPEDS Race and Ethnicity – (Donna S.)** The council was presented handouts on the new IPEDS Race/Ethnicity categories and statistical bridging techniques. At issue is the need to disaggregate people choosing “Two or more races” when they report personal demographics in SIS so that the tracking of trends can be maintained. It was proposed that we should see if ASU, NAU, or UofA have decided on a course of action yet and possibly mirror their approach. It was also mentioned that Oracle may be adding a feature in SIS for those selecting “Two or more races” that will prompt them to identify which race they most identify with. The IR Council will eventually make a decision and then forward it to the AR Council for implementation. Further discussion was tabled due to lack of time.

**December IR Council Retreat** – This year’s retreat will be hosted at Donna Silber’s home. Topics for the retreat are being solicited. Mary Day and Sue Kater volunteered to email some topic ideas to the council. The date has not been chosen, but one suggestion was to use the scheduled Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> IR Council meeting date. Discussion was tabled due to lack of time.

**Noel Levitz – (Jan B.)** Based off past experience, it was suggested and adopted, that all college IR offices would send in their unused Noel Levitz forms to the district. Unused forms could then be redistributed to the next college(s) taking the survey, thereby providing a substantial cost savings.

**Nielsen-Claritas iXPRESS software – (Linda H.)** The IR Council is using ~\$5,000 a year from the \$100K Strategic Planning Budget to maintain a license for the ArcView plug-in iXPRESS. For the past two years it has not been used. If the council does not see any need for continuing this subscription it will be cancelled at the next renewal period. John Snelling is going to work in the software to see what value it might have to researchers.

**Oracle-Hyperion-Brio – (Tracy S.)** The district IE Office is not renewing its software maintenance license with Oracle for the Hyperion 8.3 software. Due to a known software bug with outer joins limiting to null values in a second table that creates the SQL incorrectly, we have been unable to upgrade to the current version of Hyperion for the last two years. The maintenance contract which at this point doesn’t provide us any benefit uses over \$7,000 in IE

funds annually. Additional licenses for Hyperion 8.3 can still be purchased through third party vendors.

**College Updates and/or Other Topics –**

**IPEDS Short Report – (Donna S.)** IPEDS has created a new short report that will be required in the spring collection. Colleges will need to capture data on students with disabilities, and we will be doing a 2 and 4 year graduation rate. Report details are unavailable at this time, but will be provided as soon as they are released.

**Fact Book Data – (Linda H.)** Data sources and queries unique to the MCCCCD Fact Book will be posted in the IR Council shared drive later in the month of October for those colleges wishing to piggyback off the district-wide publication.

**Meeting adjourned 11:45 a.m.**

**Remaining IR Council meetings for 2008**

- November 19, 9:00 a.m. at the Rio Salado Conference Center
- December 17, 9:30 a.m. IR Council Retreat