



IR Council Meeting

December 17, 2008

9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Winter Retreat

Members Present

Kim Olson	Andrea Archer	Cindy Almendarez	Elizabeth Hunt Larson
Ajit Kelkar	Rene Willekens	Georgia Gudykunst	James Waugh
John Catapano	Jan Binder	Laurie Cohen	Sandy Hill
Donna Silber	Mary Day	Tracy Salter	Kerry Mitchell
Christy Hoedel	Sue Kater	Keith Cantor	John Snelling
Laurie Pemberton	Le'Ann Reyes	Dan Huston	Linda Hughes

Meeting Minutes – Plan on approving the 11/08 and 12/08 minutes at 01/09 meeting.

University of Washington Student Learning Study - Mary presented "Inside the Undergraduate Experience: The University of Washington's Study of Undergraduate Learning" - also called UW SOUL. This is a qualitative longitudinal study of how students learn conducted from 1999 to 2003. The central finding of this study is that the academic discipline permeated all areas of a student's experience. How students write, think, and apply quantitative reasoning is defined by their disciplines. An architecture student gains a nuanced understanding of how to organize and use space within a building, while the political scientist gains an understanding of legal principles and reasoning used in Supreme Court decisions. These are not common experiences. The authors state that a common undergraduate experience is a myth. They go further and say analyses of student learning that are not based on majors or academic disciplines are doomed to failure and do not provide useful information to improve learning. This book contains an excellent review of the literature in student learning and in writing across the curriculum. Since it is a qualitative study, it has a very strong student voice. The one-page summary of the study and copies of the instruments used in the study are found on this link: <http://www.washington.edu/oea/soul/index.html>

District-wide Research Agendas – What are the issues that researchers are addressing across the district?– Sue and Jan B.

Sue posed the question, what are the common research agendas that colleges are addressing and how can the colleges work together to answer some of them? Enrollment, student success and resource allocation were all mentioned as areas of shared interest. There is a need for the collective knowledge the researchers across the district have in order to answer some of the questions we have related to enrollment and retention (for instance). Addressing topics during IR meetings and using the shared directory to store common queries and ideas were mentioned as possible ways to work together. Sharing interesting studies and research findings was also discussed as important in support of one another.

CEC Request for trends analysis - Beth

Trends in student success indicators from the NCCBP were discussed. The creation of a comparison chart between colleges was suggested.

Colleges brainstormed the possible reasons for changes in the success indicators over time and differences between various cohorts on these indicators (completions, persistence and retention).

Beth will let the IR Directors know of specific information that will be needed for the CEC related to NCCBP indicators from the colleges.

Announcements:

National AIR Committees Announcement – Mary is on the ‘Structure and Function of IR offices’ committee and Georgia is on the ‘Evaluation of IR offices – self study committee. They are scheduled to report on committee findings in May of ’09.

Mapping Update – Keith provided a handout of ESRI 2007 Data Sets by Zip Code compared to Maponics Zip Codes.

Hyperion Problem Solving Activity – Tracy provided five business questions and had five teams determine how to solve the problems using Hyperion. Tracy provided a copy of the Entity Relationship Diagram (ERD) of the Institutional Research Information System (IRIS) and the IRDW to IRIS Cookbook as a resource. Teams presented their solutions and would like to see the solutions at the future IR Council meetings.

Predictive Modeling Update – Dan provided an update on the project since the presentation at the 10/08 IR Council meeting with a 41 slide handout. The business question the model is addressing is ‘Identifying Students At Risk of Failure in Their First College Level Course After Completing a Development Education Course’. Discussed very preliminary results and addressed the next steps.

Research Institute Update – Sue provided an update on the formation of a Research Institute (RI) at Maricopa. This project has been discussed for several years. The Chancellor and leadership are supportive of the formation of the institute. The Research Institute is currently in the conceptual stages. The Institute will be able to address policy issues as well as MCCC specific research. In the initial phases the institute will involve some outside researchers in validating the project(s). An advisory committee will be formed made up of faculty, staff, and external partners. The first step will be the formation of an RFP committee for a consultant to support the design of the initial research project, to be determined by CEC.

Student Success Updates – Beth asked the members of the Student Success project to meet on 1/28 after to the IR Council meeting to further discuss data reporting and collection. The original proposal which lists the outcomes and the names of the student groups that have been approved were distributed.

College Updates and/or Other Topics –

- For week of 12/22/08 send requests/issues to the dl-ir-team@memo.maricopa.edu address so the individuals handling coverage can respond.
- The IE office is moving during the winter break and computers will be down on 12/23 through about 1/6/09.
- Thanks to Tracy for providing activities and to Donna for hosting the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 4 p.m.

Next IR Council meeting:

- January 28, 9:30 a.m. IR Council Meeting at Rio Salado Conference Center
- The IR Directors will meet on 1/28/09, after the council meeting, to prioritize the budget requests for planning.