

TAIR Roundtables
Thursday, February 17, 2011
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Roundtables are scheduled as three successively repeated half hour sessions of the same presentations, with participants travelling from table to table between sessions. In terms of providing variety and volume, the Roundtable presentation period provides the conference's biggest "bang for the buck" with a minimal investment of time and effort for participants!

(R1) WEAVEonline Users Group

*Presenter: Laura Wichman, McLennan Community College
Tom Proctor, McLennan Community College*

Tracks: Assessment

WEAVEonline is an online program assessment software that many SACS schools use for Program Review and/or Unit Level Planning. I think having a roundtable to discuss how others are using the system and for networking would be great.

(R2) Data-mining and Reporting

*Presenter: Wayne Atchley, Tarleton State University
Noel Saucedo, Tarleton State University*

Tracks: Data Warehousing

The ability of the Institutional Research office to extract data directly from the student information system has become increasingly important. Over the past several years, the need for advanced SQL skills has become a requirement in many Institutional Research offices. This roundtable will discuss the data-mining and SQL skills necessary to meet the increased demand on Institutional Research Staff.

(R3) Factbooks

*Presenter: Oscar Farias, University Mary Hardin Baylor
Tom Corll, Midland College*

Tracks: Best Practices

The Factbook is often the primary source of information for post-secondary campuses. During this roundtable discussion we will talk about the content of the Factbook and how knowledge and information can be used to inform those on campus of the college's status and progress. Examples of different formats, color schemes, etc., will be shared. Participants attending this roundtable are encouraged to bring examples or pages from their own college's Factbook to share and discuss.

- (R4) **Tips and Tricks for Formatting SPSS Output**
Presenter: Joseph Meyer, Texas State University-San Marcos
Tracks: IT/ Technology; Best Practices; Reporting
This session will provide examples of how macros, table looks, and export functions can be used in SPSS to format data and output in ways that make reporting easier and more efficient.
- (R5) **SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation**
Presenter: Eugenia Jane Haas, Del Mar College
Tracks: Assessment; SACS
2010-2011 is the SACS reaffirmation of accreditation year for Del Mar College. Our SACS on-site team visit was in October 2010. We will share our experiences and answer questions regarding our reaffirmation process.
- (R6) **Challenging Negative Perceptions: An Honest Look at Goldwater Institute Administrative Bloat Study**
Presenter: Brian Shelledy, Sam Houston State University
Tracks: Reporting
The Goldwater Institute's recent Administrative Bloat study was a widely negative article related to the tremendous growth in Administrative employment and Expenses related to the growth in enrollment and tuition. This study will be a springboard for discussion on how Institutions respond to articles that result in a negative perception of their school and the industry in general. Depending on the reach and strength of the article in question, there could be an impact on enrollment or funding contributions without a targeted and adequate response.
- (R7) **Best Practices Discussion: Tracking Data Warehouse Metadata**
Presenter: Karen Weisbrodt, The University of Texas at Austin
Tracks: IT/ Technology; Best Practices; Data Warehousing
As a data warehouse grows in depth and breadth, it can be difficult to quickly assess the impact of a change to a data definition or business rule with regard to existing reports and cubes. At the University of Texas at Austin we are investigating different ways to track the metadata of our data and reports to enable quicker analysis. We will share what we have learned and encourage others to bring their questions and experiences to the table for discussion as well.

(R8) **Risky Business: Maximizing “At-Risk” Success**

Presenter: Rebecca Bowyer, Sam Houston State University

Tracks: Legislative Mandates; Research

The THECB provides incentive funding based, in part, on the year-to-year increase of “at-risk” students who are graduated from a university. This will be a discussion on the overlap between the at-risk population defined by the state (using the THECB Commissioner’s Proposed Formula Funding Recommendations for 2012-13 “at-risk” student), and groups traditionally considered to be “at-risk” by university definitions. The objective is to learn if all members of the state-defined “at-risk” population within our university are receiving support for their success. This information will inform the development of initiatives to target state-defined “at-risk” students currently not served in the university.

(R9) **A Tale of Two Stat Packages: Transitioning from SPSS to SAS using SAS Enterprise Guide**

Presenter: Tracy Stegmair, Richland College

Tracks: IT/ Technology

At past TAIR conferences one of the topics that regularly came up in conversations was “What stat package does your IR Office use.” The answer usually was “we only use SAS” or “we only use SPSS“. You would seldom find anyone who could or would use both software packages. SAS is an incredibly powerful data analysis tool, but it lacks a user friendly layout. On the other hand, SPSS makes up for what it lacks in data manipulation power by being very user friendly. Moving from SPSS to SAS can be incredibly challenging. This Round Table will offer tips and tricks on how to make that transition less painful by using SAS Enterprise Guide.

(R10) **Faculty Productivity Study**

Presenter: Xiaohong Li, Sam Houston State University

Tracks: Reporting; Revenue and Outcome

Currently, budget cuts have increased focus on revenue and outcomes in the form of semester credit and research dollar productions. In order to provide University administrators with information regarding faculty productivity indicators and department revenue comparison, based on TAMU’s academic & Financial Analysis model, IRA at SHSU did an analysis on Department Revenue based on Faculty productivity. We would like to share the challenge and experiences we had with TAIR.

(R11) **Carbon and Nitrous and Methane, OH MY!: Data Limitations and Assumptions in Completing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory**

Presenter: Mary Jo Dondlinger, Richland College

Bao Huynh, Richland College

Tracks: Reporting

With 27 Texas colleges having become signatories of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, greenhouse gas inventories and carbon calculators have made their way into IR offices around the state. Colleges that have completed an inventory are aware of the array of data limitations inherent in the process. This round table provides a venue for discussing methodology, limitations, and assumptions made in data collection for a ghg inventory with the goal of identifying and sharing common approaches. Both those who have completed an inventory and those embarking on this task are welcome to join the conversation.

(R12) **Race and Ethnicity Changes: Lessons Learned and Questions for the Future**

Presenter: Ashley Adams, The University of Texas at Austin

Ross Hartshorn, University of Texas at Austin

Tracks: Legislative Mandates; Reporting

Changing standards in how students, faculty and staff identify their race/ethnicity presented a challenge to Institutional Research in 2010. There are a number of related and interconnected questions:

- 1) Will the new race/ethnicity data scheme impact the validity of comparisons between (or within) universities?
- 2) How can trend reporting most accurately reflect the different race and ethnicity categories that were available prior to 2010 and after?
- 3) What lessons were learned from this experience that would make it easier to implement a similar sweeping change in the future?

(R13) **Is Your Faculty/Course Evaluation Survey Biased?**

Presenter: John Corkill, Sam Houston State University

Tracks: Assessment; Best Practices; Survey Research

At Sam Houston State we had several motivators for analyzing whether there was evidence of any bias (based on gender, race, nationality, etc.) within our faculty/course evaluation survey. This roundtable will discuss the studies conducted by our university in order to establish whether such biases were present in five years of results from the IDEA course evaluation system. It is our hope that what we learned from our research will encourage others to look deeper into the results generated by their own evaluation surveys.

(R14) **Dealing with HB2504**

Presenter: Delton Moore, Amarillo College

Tracks: Best Practices

Setting up and dealing with issues related to meeting HB2504. Discussion of efforts to satisfy requirements for syllabi, faculty roster vitae, student evaluations, etc, and development of the plan for doing so.

(R15) **IR's Role in Accreditation**

Presenter: Lei Wang, Our Lady of the Lake University

Tracks: Survey Research; Accreditation

American regional accreditation serves two basic purposes: quality assurance and quality improvement. In the preparation for accreditation process, what is the role of Institutional Research? Institutional research (IR) is research activity carried out in colleges and universities to collect and analyze data concerning students, faculty, staff, and other educational facilities. One of the major roles of institutional research is to promote institutional effectiveness. The author will develop a short survey instrument and send it to institutional research office nationwide. The results will help IR professional understand how institutions are currently using IR in its accreditation process.