Welcome to the Spring 2015 edition of OIPA’s biannual newsletter!

The mission of the Office of Institutional Planning and Assessment (OIPA) is to promote institutional effectiveness through ongoing, systematic planning and assessment efforts in order to support faculty and staff in achieving the institutional mission.

We hope that your semester is off to a good start. Happy planning and assessing in Spring 2015!

Your OIPA Staff

OIPA’s First Annual Weave Peer Review Retreat

On October 30, 2014, OIPA hosted the first annual Weave Peer Review Retreat at the UMC McInturff Conference Center. Over 40 TTUHSC faculty and staff volunteered their time to spend a day reviewing and evaluating Weave plans from across the institution. Though peer reviewers were familiar with Weave or best assessment practices, they were trained specifically in how to use rubrics developed by OIPA personnel that reflect best practices in assessment and align seamlessly with Weave. Teams of faculty reviewed over 30 academic program plans, and teams of staff members reviewed over 70 administrative plans, including administrative/educational support services, research entities, and community/public services units.

Participants benefited from this experience not only by learning how to improve their own Weave plans, but also by seeing ideas and processes being implemented by other departments and programs.

Continued on page 2.
OIPA’s First Annual Weave Peer Review Retreat (Cont.)

It allowed individuals from areas across the institution to come together and learn from each other. Dr. Renee Bogschutz, Director of Interprofessional Education, joined us as a peer reviewer. Speaking of the retreat she said, “It was a fantastic way to learn about TTUHSC’s assessment process and to work with other faculty members. It was a valuable experience, and I am looking forward to implementing many of the strategies I learned from others in my own department.”

Following the retreat, copies of completed rubrics were emailed to the appropriate representatives for each Weave plan. Results were also compiled into an Executive Summary and presented to the President’s Executive Council. OIPA personnel have begun working collaboratively with faculty and staff to improve any Weave plans receiving less than 12 of 21 points.

Overall, the peer review process was a valuable and successful practice that highlights TTUHSC’s dedication to continuous improvement through effective planning and assessment efforts. We are looking forward to another great Weave cycle in 2015!

CONGRATULATIONS to our Weave Gold Star recipients for their valuable contributions to planning and assessment at TTUHSC! These Gold Star plans received a perfect score of 21 or near-perfect score of 20. Keep up the good work!

Academic Programs
- SOAHS: Rehabilitation Counseling, M.R.C.
- SOAHS: Athletic Training, M.A.T.
- SOAHS: Speech Language Pathology, M.S.

Administrative/Academic Support, Research, Community Service Units
- Office of Institutional Advancement
- Physical Plant and Support Services
- Office of Institutional Planning and Assessment
- SOM Faculty Affairs and Development
- SOAHS Center for Speech, Language, and Hearing Research
- SOAHS Speech and Hearing Clinic

SACSCOC Update

Members of the Accreditation Oversight Committee and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Impact Report Committee have been working tirelessly since 2013 to develop responses and collect supporting documentation for the Fifth-Year Interim Report and the Impact Report of the QEP. Both reports are required to maintain continued compliance with our regional accreditor, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The report will be submitted no later than March 16, 2015, and will be available for public review at that time.

Thank you to the following individuals for serving as peer reviewers at our first annual Weave Peer Review Retreat!

Fatih Ari
Christy Bennink
Renee Bogschutz
Annette Boles
Jenny Bonner
Lauren Cobbs
Melinda Corwin
Charla Cothrin
Margret Duran
Vince Fell
Tara Ferguson
VelvetLee Finckbone
Crystal Furgerson
Brandi Hargrave
Penny Harkey
Jeff Hatton
Ericka Hendrix
Christiane Herber-Valdez
Candace Hicks
Lorraine James
Pam Johnson
Gena Jones
Naomi Lacy
Tamara Lane
Pam Lawson
Cathy Lovett
Jannette Marek
Josie Martinez
Kristin Mauldin
Laura Opton
Wendy Pruitt
Lori Rice-Spearman
Christina Robohm-Leavitt
Sherry Sancibrian
Sabrina Satter
Dawndra Sechrist
Sachin Shah
Stephanie Shippey
Grace Sun
Beth Taraban
LesLee Taylor
Melanie Teague
Simon Williams
Richard Wood
Assessing THECB Core Objectives at TTUHSC

In October 2011, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) revised the Texas Core Curriculum rules. Statewide implementation of the core curriculum began in Fall 2014 for incoming freshmen. The new Core Objectives include (1) critical thinking skills, (2) communication skills, (3) empirical/quantitative skills, (4) teamwork, (5) personal responsibility, and (6) social responsibility. As a health-related institution, TTUHSC expects its undergraduate students to enter the university with a foundation in these basic intellectual competencies. Through its undergraduate programs, TTUHSC seeks to build upon its students’ existing knowledge in order to enhance these Core Objectives.

Chaired by Dr. Kari Dickson, the TTUHSC GenEd Competencies Committee created a plan to assess the Core Objectives, also known as general education competencies. The proposed plan was approved by the THECB in Fall 2014. TTUHSC will utilize two general strategies for measuring student attainment of each general education competency. They include multiple course-embedded assessments and a commercially available instrument known as the ETS® Proficiency Profile (ETS-PP). The ETS-PP is a multiple-choice exam that serves as a direct measure of critical thinking skills, written communication skills, and empirical/quantitative skills. The abbreviated version, which was selected by TTUHSC faculty, contains 36 items which are administered to students in a single 40-minute online testing session.

Personal responsibility, social responsibility, teamwork, oral communication, and visual communication are not measured by the ETS-PP. Therefore, course-embedded assignments will be used to determine student achievement on these Core Objectives.

Employee Satisfaction at TTUHSC

In Fall 2014, OIPA administered the biennial Employee Satisfaction Survey to all faculty and staff on all campuses. The responses from 264 faculty and 1,220 staff (response rates of 23% and 31%, respectively) indicate that, on average, faculty and staff are satisfied with their experiences at TTUHSC. Most feel that their work contributes to the mission.

Faculty, on average, are very satisfied with their sense of personal safety/security in the work environment, the library resources, and with the general aspects of their positions. Areas of potential improvement vary strongly by school.

As in previous years, many staff members are satisfied with their interactions with immediate coworkers, understanding of job responsibilities, and awareness of performance expectations for their positions. The potential areas of improvement are compensation, the ability to report complaints, awareness of staff needs by institutional leaders, and effectiveness of Staff Senators in representing staff interests.

Detailed reports are available at www.ttuhsce.edu/oipa/surveys.aspx.

Thank you to the following individuals for their continued service on the TTUHSC GenEd Competencies Committee:

- Trey Albus
- Fabian Blanco
- Melinda Corwin
- Kari Dickson (Chair)
- Joe Ferrer
- Curt Finger
- Ann Hagstrom
- Mike Hooten
- Melinda Mitchell Jones
- Michael Keller
- Darlene Lacy
- Irene Lugo
- Yondell Masten
- Laura Opton
- Wade Redman
- Lori Rice-Spearman
- Sabrina Sattler
- Kathy Sridaromont
- Anthony Valenzuela
Assessment Dictionary

**Student Learning Outcome**
\(\text{ˈstuː-dənt \ˈlərn-\(\text{e}n\)-\(ə\)-\(kəm\)}, \text{noun}\)
A statement of what students are expected to know and be able to do by the time they complete the major or degree. It may be stated in terms of expected knowledge, skills or attitudes. These outcomes must be consistent with the mission of the department, college, and university.
*Assessing Academic Programs in Higher Education* by Mary J. Allen

Digital Measures

*Digital Measures* (DM) is an online information management system that has been available to all TTUHSC faculty to store their teaching, research, and service activities since 2010. Sabrina Sattler, the institutional liaison, is continuously working with the school liaisons and TTUHSC Information Technology (IT) personnel to improve usability for our faculty. Recently, the screen *Contracts, Grants and Sponsored Research* was updated. Thanks to IT and the *Office of Sponsored Research*, it is now automatically populated with information about new grants and competitive grant renewals. Faculty can still update information or add other items on their own.

TTUHSC School Liaisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Hal Larsen</td>
<td>SOAHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jolene Turpin</td>
<td>SOM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Camarillo</td>
<td>PLFSOM</td>
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<td>Paula Simpson</td>
<td>SON</td>
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<td>Lorraine James</td>
<td>GGHSON</td>
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<td>Jannette Marek</td>
<td>SOP</td>
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<td>Pam Johnson</td>
<td>GSBS</td>
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Mark Your Calendars!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M Assessment Conference</td>
<td>College Station, TX</td>
<td>Feb. 22-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Annual Advancing Teaching and Learning Conference</td>
<td>Lubbock, TX</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
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<td>Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR)</td>
<td>Addison, TX</td>
<td>March 3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>April 16-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connections 2015</td>
<td>Blacksburg, VA</td>
<td>May 4-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association for Institutional Research (AIR) Annual Conference</td>
<td>Denver, CO</td>
<td>May 25-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) Annual Conference</td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
<td>June 1-3</td>
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<td>National Conference on Student Assessment (NCSA)</td>
<td>San Diego, CA</td>
<td>June 22-24</td>
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<td>SACSCOC Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
<td>July 19-22</td>
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OIPA Staff

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kari Dickson</td>
<td>Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabrina Sattler</td>
<td>IMBA, M.S., Senior Director for Institutional Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Collins</td>
<td>J.D., Senior Director for Institutional Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatih Ari</td>
<td>Ed.D., MSSE, Programmer / Analyst</td>
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