Ilios, continued...

Curricular Affairs

Weekly Update-June 10, 2013

Progress with Ilios continues... We have completed our test data load in the "development" version of Ilios. We are now bringing up the "live" version.

You may remember in the blast of May 6 we requested some clarification of syllabi linkages between Course objectives and Terminal Outcomes. Thank you for your response. We are only waiting on a few more, but are feeling pretty confident that the aspect of our Curricular Map that connects our course objectives with our own self-determined Ability Statements and Terminal Outcomes will be accurate and reflect course team intent.

The other piece of our curricular map involves how our course CONTENT maps to ACPE's required list of topics (referred to as "Appendix B"). Historically, Appendix B has been maintained as one big unruly spreadsheet. What's going to be really nice about Ilios is that we can maintain mapping data about course objectives to terminal outcomes AND course content to Appendix B topics in one THREADED database. We've never been able to do that before. The query / report and data analysis capabilities will be far more robust than in the past.

In the Ilios test environment, we used our existing Appendix B document as our reference and dumped that data into Ilios for each course we loaded. From a data entry / report analysis standpoint it worked great! Here's the problem though: We noticed areas where there seemed to be holes or mismatches in what was reported in Appendix B and what courses were actually delivering. We suspect this is an artifact of how we were asked to build Appendix B back in 2011. Course teams were asked to treat each topic in terms of TIME – how many hours of instruction were devoted to a certain topic, and to make the number of hours equivalent to the total instructional hours associated with a course, teams were forced to split hairs on what got recorded.

We need clean, accurate data for the Live version of Ilios, but I do NOT want to start from scratch with Appendix B. So here's the plan: Using the lecture topics and session objectives provided in each course syllabus and Lecture Objectives document, the Curricular Affairs office will take a pass over each course's Appendix B data. Our office will make edits to the Appendix B documents where/if necessary and then forward these to the team. We do not need course teams to redo their Appendix B data, only review and either approve or veto our assessment.

It will take several weeks to complete the Appendix B analysis and roll these documents out to each team, but please be on the lookout for these. You do not need to hold up your course planning for next year based on these. We also do not need teams to redo their lecture-level learning objectives, HOWEVER, because this data is a fundamental part of the judgments we make about what Assessment B topics we can document as being delivered, we do need to know if teams have made changes to their learning objectives that alter these linkages. This part of Ilios data entry is a painstaking and tedious slog – we only want to do it once and want to do it right! Thanks for your help!

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