

# Institutional Effectiveness Weekly Report



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

## July 29, 2022

### Outcome 1

The Office of Planning and Assessment will contribute to Texas Tech University's ongoing compliance with all external accrediting agencies and State of Texas mandates.

### QEP Survey Progress

OPA has finalized the QEP survey and plans to distribute it starting next week. We removed the ranking feature and included two new sections. The first question asks for members to identify three student wellness needs that *should* be addressed at TTU. This allows us more context for the selected options based on the observation of the committee members and their opinions on what TTU should be doing for student wellness and mental health. The second section requires committee members to provide three recommendations for the QEP. Based on these recommendations, we will work with QEP members to identify the most agreed upon topic so that the committee can begin their work with designing and implementing the QEP. There is an open comment box at the end of the survey asking for general questions, comments, or concerns. Our goal is to distribute the survey next week so that we can perform a content analysis on all responses, making sure the analysis results are ready for our next meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. [You can preview the survey here.](#)

### Outcome 2

Texas Tech University faculty and staff will be well-prepared to meet OPA's faculty credentialing, assessment, and strategic plan expectations.

### Recent Innovations in FS

The FS system imports and exports data regularly to update or create new records, or to populate front-facing websites. One of the websites is the [scholars.ttu.edu](http://scholars.ttu.edu) website, which serves to connect researchers and research interests to collaborators around the world.

OPA and ORI recently worked with the ADS team to add a new level of research confidentiality. We understand that there is sensitive, confidential research occurring across campus, and while TTU data is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, we do have processes to protect this confidentiality where appropriate. This new tier will give faculty more control over which publications or research are exported to the scholars.ttu.edu website. This new change comes in the form of a dropdown menu on research-based screens that dictates whether a citation will be exported to this site. The default will always be set to export, but we are drafting communication to faculty about the use of this question and the implications to their public-facing profile.

### Faculty Success Faculty Committee

The Faculty Success Faculty Committee (FSFC) email request to Deans went out in June to request the names of faculty who may be willing to assist with a committee to meet with faculty periodically through the year to probe how the systems are being used, how they are being perceived, and how we can make faculty reporting less of a chore.

At this point, we have nominees from the College of Business, the School for Veterinary Medicine, the College of Engineering, the Law School, and the College of Media and Communications. Our goal is to have at least one faculty member from each college and at least one member who is a department chair. We expect to hold one meeting per month with a lead-up involving targeted questions to understand how FS may be used at any given point during term, both by faculty and functionally through administrative requirements. We are even curious to know the pressures for or against completing FS during downtimes or times when reporting is still months away.

The FSFC will begin in mid-September, which will give us a great launch point: House Bill 2504 and the syllabus-upload process. It will be a great time to hear feedback regarding ease-of-use, correctness, and the efficiency of communication channels.

### Terminal Degrees

OPA has been working to recreate and update the official TTU list of Terminal Degrees. We have had some difficulty finding a single, concrete definition of a terminal degree, but we have collaborated to define terminal degrees as below:

A terminal degree is the highest degree that can be awarded in a given field (such as a PHD in English, or an MLA in Landscape Architecture) OR the accepted degree awarded to one who has gained mastery of a discipline but does not go on to a doctoral program (such as the MA in Psychology or the Master of Engineering (MEngr).


We believe this definition encompasses the nuance of a non-doctoral terminal degree, as well as the unique disciplines that have a terminal Master's degree and branching doctorates. This definition also

fits the Texas Tech functional need for defining terminal degrees with examples to clarify, and adheres to TTU accrediting body definitions.

Our next step will be to delineate the possible degrees awarded at TTU and develop a Qualtrics survey to send to Chairs. With a moderate response rate, OPA will be able to define a Terminal Degree list that will help in faculty credentialing approvals and compliance.

### Mental Health Resources on QEP Teams Site

OPA continues to update the 2025 QEP site with helpful resources related to mental health. RISE has provided historical data from the National College Health Assessment and NASPA webinars, and a document is being compiled with relevant TTU contacts and departments currently involved in student mental health. OPA will continue to add resources to the Teams site to help drive the committee as we develop the new QEP Topic.

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Outcome 3

The Office of Planning and Assessment will continually monitor the university's compliance with laws, policy statements, and policies deriving from the State of Texas, THECB, and SACSCOC.

### Suggested Social Media Plan for Fall 2022

Great news is that there is an abundance of information OPA wants to share with the campus! Amongst these ideas are statistical summaries of data from NSSEE, celebrating degree programs' realigning their curriculum with Outcomes, the OPA scholarships and grants, Institutional Effectiveness best practices, and TxAHEA. Each staff member of OPA will contribute the content postings.

The goal is to launch the social media page on August 29<sup>th</sup>. To prepare for the launch date, the social pages need to be created and linked to individual staff members and the Meta Business Suite. Designs and templates for posts need to be created and finalized.

### TxAHEA Update

The TxAHEA hotel block is now completely full. The Executive Committee has secured another hotel that is .25 miles from the Drury Plaza, so we are working to update the hotel website with this new information. Additionally, Xitracs was also secured as a conference sponsor this week.

