The Office of Planning and Assessment reports its weekly activities and contributions toward Texas Tech University’s institutional effectiveness efforts and departmental objectives.

OUTCOME 1: Texas Tech will be found in compliance with all external accrediting agencies and State of Texas mandates

- IE Committee & SSL Committee Activity
  - University Level IE Committee
    - This committee met on Tuesday, February 28, 2017. Committee reminders were updated on the University Strategic Plan, subcommittee activities, and other university IE initiatives (i.e., EAB, Academic Analytics). The next meeting of this group will be held in September 2017.
    - OPA staff have conducted meetings with SSL directors to deliver feedback on their reports throughout the month of February and meetings are continuing into March. Feedback has been delivered to 35 of the 43 areas, with most of the feedback being positive. Units seem to be adept at identifying good operational outcomes and tying appropriate assessment methods to measure those outcomes. A common trend among units that seems to need more development is creating meaningful actions for improvement that reflect on what steps need to be taken in the future to improve, versus identifying steps that have already taken place. OPA staff have addressed this challenge in follow-up meetings and will continue to provide education to units to better clarify reporting expectations going forward.

- Distance Education Assessment
  - OPA staff sent a report to Drs. Hart, Louder, and James detailing student learning outcomes for distance education degree programs. This report is the result of a joint culmination of year-long activities between OPA and TTU Worldwide eLearning. The next step for distance degree programs is to report results for the 16-17 academic year on October 1, 2017.

- Faculty Credentialing Activity
  - In order to reduce institutional costs and ensure that efficient administration of DigitalMeasures, OPA will begin disabling unused accounts. Unused accounts are typically assigned to graduate students and faculty that have moved on from Texas Tech University. OPA was waiting to receive permission from the Provost’s Office before beginning this process. Dr. James provided approval on Monday, February 27.
• OPA has outlined a process to prepare an updated CS 3.5.4 report each year. A memo was written to our internal file structure and a copy is included with this weekly report. The process will begin this summer.
• Two new satisfaction surveys have been prepared to assess TTU faculty’s perceptions of OPA’s performance on: 1) staff training for TracDat and Digital Measures and 2) DigitalMeasures work requests. These have been entered into REDCap and will be administered by email following individual meetings.
• DigitalMeasures outstanding work requests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Request #</th>
<th>Date Opened</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>1/13/2017</td>
<td>New Report: &quot;Annual A &amp; S Faculty Report&quot;</td>
<td>2-28-17: Dr. McBee reported that the new report is adequate, but will not be used for the 2017 Annual Faculty Review process. The report will be studied and trial runs will take place over the next several months. We anticipate additional updates will be needed, but Dr. McBee suggested that for now this work request can be closed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>2/10/2017</td>
<td>Revise &quot;Core Faculty Publications&quot; to separate books and book chapters</td>
<td>3-1-17: OPA staff will publicize this report revision after spring break.</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>2/13/2017</td>
<td>Data Import: Course Evals Fall 2016</td>
<td>3-1-17: OPA worked with DM to complete a second import so that distance education data is included in Annual Faculty Reports. This request can be closed. 2-28-17: DM successfully completed the course eval data import.</td>
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<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>2/23/2017</td>
<td>Error Message in &quot;Annual Faculty Report for College of Engineering:</td>
<td>3-1-17: Expected completion of this request is 3-9-17.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>2/28/2017</td>
<td>Report Options for &quot;Annual Faculty Report&quot; and &quot;Annual A &amp; S Faculty Report&quot;</td>
<td>2-28-17: Chair Magda Toda of the Math Department requested that an addition be made to Report Options for the two reports so that a choice of whether to include or not include graduates students can be made. Her department lists nearly 200 instructors but only 49 of them are full-time.</td>
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3/1/2017: Some chairs have requested that "/Staff" be removed from the title of the report to avoid confusion since the report is set up to only list faculty, not administrative assistant staff, etc.

- DigitalMeasures Usage Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Number of Logins)</th>
<th>1 Week</th>
<th>1 Month</th>
<th>6 Months</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activities Database - University (124,877)</td>
<td>1,167</td>
<td>8,144</td>
<td>61,387</td>
<td>74,276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- QEP- Communicating in a Global Society: Bear Our Banners Far and Wide Update:
  - A meeting has been scheduled for March 29 by OPA with QEP leadership to discuss GPI results and existing SLOs within academic programs that may already align with the QEP objectives.

**OUTCOME 2: The Office of Planning and Assessment will contribute to the Office of the Provost’s institutional planning processes**

- Institutional Assessment
- iPortfolio
- Strategic Planning updates

**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**

- THECB
  - A report of 2014-2015 high school graduates' enrollment and academic performance in Texas public higher education in fiscal year 2016 shows student performance in postsecondary institutions during the first year enrolled after high school graduation. Performance is measured by the grade points and college-level semester credit hours earned by a student in fall 2015, spring 2016, and summer 2016 which are added together and averaged to determine the GPA.
  - Lubbock County includes statistics from the following independent school districts: Frenship, Idalou, Lubbock, Lubbock-Cooper, New Deal, Roosevelt, Shallowater, Slaton, and South Plains Academy Charter District.
• The THECB received confirmation from the Governor’s Office that despite the hiring freeze, a waiver request has been approved to allow institutions of higher education to continue hiring students through the state and federal work-study programs.

• A report to the Texas Legislature dated June, 2016 outlines the TEXAS Grant Program including changes over the years and legislative recommendations. The TEXAS Grant Program remains the state’s signature student financial aid program for financially needy, academically prepared Texas students. The intent of the 1999 legislation to ensure that the tuition and fees of these students are covered was realized during the first two years of the program. Thereafter changes in high school graduation requirements and college tuition deregulation increased TEXAS Grant-eligible students dramatically. The table below demonstrates that funding has not kept pace with the increasing number of students who qualify.

• Measures have been taken in recent years to ensure that as many students as possible are served. Institutions now limit amounts awarded to a “target” of $5,000. In addition, students receive priority who meet at least two of the four criteria representing college preparedness. Even though the Texas Legislature has invested over $3.3 billion in the program and has assisted more than 460,000 students, currently only about 58 percent of the statewide average amount of tuition and fees are covered.

• The THECB recommends the following to encourage timely completion of degrees and to provide grant awards to more new students.
  - Limit TEXAS Grant eligibility to 135 semester credit hours
  - Require completion of 30 semester credit hours per academic year
  - Limit TEXAS Grant awards to tuition, fees, and a book stipend, minus the federal Pell Grant
  - Remove Work-Study as a potential matching fund to cover any difference in the amount of a TEXAS Grant and the actual amount of tuition and required fees
The THECB recently asked RAND Education to conduct a study as the strategic plan 60x30TX will likely lead to an increase in graduate degrees. Graduate education expansion needs to be well managed and directed toward the fields that need advanced skills the most; otherwise graduate programs could become misaligned with state needs and resources. Conclusions of the study suggest the following.

- Consider expanding graduate programs in engineering, especially to recruit domestic students
- Support additional public investments in research capacity focused on institutions with demonstrated capability in developing research programs
- Evaluate proposals for new graduate programs to ensure they maximize benefits; be certain expansions are not to advance an institutions’ rankings for their own sake or to develop large-scale online programs

A memo dated February 23, 2017 from Raymund A Paredes reported that Coordinating Board staff have determined that the tuition rate for non-resident students enrolled in public universities and health-related institutions for the academic year 2017-2018 will be set at $465 per semester credit hour plus any designated tuition and, when appropriate, Board-authorized graduate tuition charged by each institution. Methodology used to determine the tuition rate is described in the memo and is available on the THECB’s website.

OUTCOME 4: Texas Tech University faculty and staff will be well-prepared to meet OPA’s faculty credentialing, assessment, and strategic plan expectations
On February 28, OPA offered its first Learning Series of the year. The title of the presentation was “Emerging Trends in Assessment.” In addition to OPA staff, there were eight additional attendees. A number of topics were discussed and the presentation evaluations were very positive.

The Assessment Liaison Committee will convene in summer 2017 for the first meeting. It has been determined that OPA will work with college deans to identify one representative from each college to be on the committee. OPA is currently developing a list of potential members to present to deans as recommendations.

OPA is working with the College of Education on course level mapping in TracDat. To date, OPA has entered Curriculum and Instruction master's degree data into TracDat. Next, OPA will review the mocked up curriculum with the program to determine if it meets their needs.

*In addition to direct contributions toward the departmental goals, OPA continues to focus on continuous improvement measures.*

OPA is working with Wildlife Management to determine how TracDat can assist with disciplinary accreditation. OPA has outlined what TracDat can offer in regards to their specific accreditation process. We will continue to work with the program as requested.

OPA staff completed a re-configuration of the graduate-level Physics TracDat accounts. Dr. Maccarone was sent this re-configuration for his approval. A follow-up meeting with Dr. Maccarone is scheduled for September 2017.

OPA met with Sam Oswald from TTU ISD to assist with their pursuit of accreditation with AdvancED, the schools portion of SACSCOC. OPA entered previous year’s standards into TracDat to give an example of what the software could do for housing documents for the accreditation process. From here, OPA will create new account for updated standards and will train personnel from TTU ISD on how to proceed.

OPA has finished the final details on the WTAC site, and it has gone live. A proposal submission graphic was created, and several updates are being made to the OPA site over the next week.