The Office of Planning and Assessment reports weekly activities and contributions toward Texas Tech University’s institutional effectiveness efforts. Over the past week, OPA has accomplished the following tasks.

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

- SACSCOC requires that, "Any institution seeking or holding accreditation from more than one U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting body must describe itself in identical terms to each recognized accrediting body with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituencies, and must keep each institutional accrediting body apprised of any change in its status with one or another accrediting body." (CS 3.13.1- Accreditations Decisions of Other Agencies) OPA has historically gathered and reported this information, even though the AVP of Institutional Compliance, Dr. Catherine Parsoneault, officially oversaw it. Since Dr. Parsoneault has left the university, OPA is now officially responsible for this oversight. OPA has identified upcoming accreditation reviews based on the updated information listed on the OPA website, (https://www.depts.ttu.edu/opa/campus_accredidation/campusaccrediation_2015.php). A face-to-face meeting with Dr. Parkinson was held on Friday, September 11 to inquire about the department’s status with the Council of Interior Design.

- Every September, OPA updates and verifies the current list of TTU degree program coordinators. This was begun in 2013 as part of compliance with CS 3.4.11. Since this standard will be reviewed during the 5th Year Interim Report, we will continue to gather this information. Once the program coordinator list has been verified, the information will be uploaded into DigitalMeasures and entered into TracDat. Currently about 80% have been verified, over 271 degree programs. The new Chairs identified are in Physics (Nural Akchurin), School of Law (Alison Myhra, Associate Dean), Psychology (Robert Morgan, Interim), and Biology (Ron Chesser).

- HB 240S Compliance emails were sent on September 10 and September 11. Emails were delayed due to IT difficulties in the upload process. Next week, a final HB 2504 Compliance report will be reported.

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(>Number of Logins)

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

- OPA has completed four informational podcasts related to institutional effectiveness, faculty credentialing, academic assessment, and non-academic assessment. These videos have been sent to Kathy Austin to provide additional resources for the Institutional Effectiveness/Progress Portal website.
- OPA staff helped Mr. Gary Smith, QEP Chair, revise the QEP’s long-term budget. The budget was modified to reflect the President’s Office new annual contributions ($525,000 annually).

OUTCOME 3: Texas Tech University faculty and staff will be well-prepared to meet OPA’s faculty credentialing, assessment, and strategic plan expectations

- Distance Education is a growing component of SACSCOC reaffirmation. In preparation for the 2015 Reaffirmation, TTU developed a team to address seven standards directly associated with distance education (CS 3.4.6, CS 3.4.7, CS 3.4.8, CS 3.4.12, CS 3.13.2, CS 3.13.4.a, and FR 4.8). In fact, “Distance” is mentioned 203 times in the most recent SACSCOC Resource Manual with most instances suggesting that responses reference the SACSCOC Distance and Correspondence Education Documentation. As TTU Worldwide eLearning continues to develop, OPA wants to work as collaboratively as possible with them to assist in assessment procedures and documentation. This includes regular meetings with eLearning staff to discuss assessment activities and to offer OPA resources when applicable. Currently, OPA is working with eLearning on upcoming strategic planning procedures and the CLA+ administration happening this fall. Recruitment emails have been drafted and we are working with the Council for Aid to Education to set up remote proctoring for our sample. Initial emails will be sent out to regional site and online advisors seeking assistance with recruitment once emails are approved.
- OPA is working on an Outreach and Engagement Summary Report that will include information from the most recent Raiders Engaged survey. This three-year summary report will serve as a baseline for future administrations and report on the development of outreach and engagement assessment. Raiders Engaged is on track to be administered mid-October. A collaboration between The Office of Outreach and Engagement, Application and Development, the Provost Office (including OPA), and the President’s Office will ensure an improved strategic approach. Most recently, the collaborative discussed final details about the instrumentation and promotion details.
- OPA is also preparing for a spring administration of the CAAP, an essential part of institutional assessment. OPA must first meet with Genevieve Durham-Decesaro to discuss which Core-related courses would be utilized for first-year student recruitment. However, an early administration plan is being developed.
- Finally, there was one DigitalMeasures training session on Friday, September 5th.

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

- Katie Randolph began her maternity leave on September 8th.
- Betty Ann Thomas became the Administrator for General Education Assessment on September 8th as well. Currently she is educating herself on iPortfolios, interoffice procedures and expectations, and the Core Curriculum.