April 3, 2020

SACSCOC Fifth Year Team Leader Feedback

After an exhaustive review of all Fifth Year first drafts, OPA returned feedback to all team leaders on Tuesday, March 31. All team leaders received specific, customized feedback on their respective standards. OPA requested a second draft on June 1, 2020.

Managing Revised Course Syllabi During Phase IV

OPA has also felt the effects of the university's Phase IV emergency preparedness plans. During this time, we have learned volumes about what processes need contingencies. In times like these, administrative procedures and processes can seem like the least of anyone's worries, but these processes keep TTU accredited and in compliance with state mandates. One of the most important of these procedures for compliance in Digital Measures is House Bill 2504 (HB2504).

Do faculty need to upload a revised syllabus? The answer is yes, if the syllabus is undergoing major changes to account for the new distance modality. The spirit of House Bill 2504 is of transparency and ensuring fair treatment and equal expectations for both students and faculty. House Bill 2504’s requirement currently is to have syllabi uploaded by the 7th class day, of which TTU is fully compliant.

One function of Digital Measures is to export syllabi to the Public Access to Course Information (PACI) website. Revised syllabi will overwrite a previously uploaded one. OPA will keep a record of all syllabi during this time. HB2504 was implemented for transparency, and revising and uploading course syllabi, while keeping an archived
copy of previous syllabi, provides evidence that student expectations remained reasonably similar, fair, and that revisions were communicated to students.

OPA continues to be available by phone during normal business hours, and we have a ticketing software at opa.support@ttu.edu that is monitored daily.

OPA Website Management

The OPA website update is underway! Emily has updated the current website to remove all Coffee Breaks, and she has updated the AIG Award form and announcement in order to keep the information as up-to-date as possible. For the new website redesign, Emily has begun researching other Texas Tech websites with innovative, fresh designs in order to better inform her design ideas for the OPA website. She has also been looking into how best to implement those changes to the current website with as little down-time as possible. Beyond creating a new overall design for the website, she has been cataloguing the current OPA website to determine the location of all relevant information as well as old information which is no longer applicable.