



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Office of Planning & Assessment™

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Faculty Success and Reviews, Promotions and Tenure (RPT)

Over the past year, the **Office of Planning and Assessment (OPA)** has communicated with academic departments about **Faculty Success** and the acquisition of the new Reviews, Promotion and Tenure (RPT) software module. This new module allows for the creation of workflow procedures that can draw data between the Faculty Success (FS) activities database, where scholarly activity, teaching and other academic productivity is stored.

This module comes as a solution for digitizing the Tenure & Promotion (T&P) procedures at Texas Tech, which are governed by **OP 32.01**. OPA developed a step-by-step process for the development of the Tenure Dossier before routing to department chairs, deans and upper administration as required by the typical T&P routing methods. The following are some of the advantages to this system:

- Customizable notifications for specific individuals.
- Easy linking and ordering of steps with automatic process-ending where applicable.
- Customization of assigned tasks for users.
- Dossier creation through existing FS information or through document uploads.
- Options for additional context for items like service and administration.
- Automated reports and data consolidation.
- Saving and re-using previously completed workflows as standalone documents.

Annual Review

In thinking about future functionality, OPA also would like to add an Annual Review process to the system. Because so many departments strictly use FS for reporting, OPA could easily create a workflow that fits each department's procedures. Then it would be archived and timestamped as Annual Faculty Reports which are always visible to the faculty member. All reports can then be brought into a T&P process rather than tracking down seven years of evaluation documents.

Ultimately, OPA has a great tool to explore and plans to make the most of it. So far, our focus is on the T&P process, but OPA also is looking at 3rd-year workflows and some departments have kindly offered to try out an Annual Faculty Review Workflow as well. OPA is aiming to roll out the first digitized T&P process this year with a pilot group and expand the use of the system as results are gathered from those tests.

Questions regarding the new procedures or the software, contact kenny.shatley@ttu.edu. For all other assistance, please email opa.support@ttu.edu.

New Look, New Newsletter

OPA recently began collaborating with Texas Tech's Office of Communications & Marketing to produce our semesterly newsletter and annual report.

With everything from Faculty Success updates to Nuventive assessment reporting updates to upcoming dates, deadlines, professional development offerings and more, this newsletter is vital in helping OPA reach the campus community.

It might look a little different than faculty and staff are used to, but it still has the same quality content from OPA about all kinds of work our office is doing for the university. If you missed our most recent newsletter or would like to check out our archive collection, please visit our [Newsletters](#) page.

Reminders and Deadlines

As we continue to work with Communications & Marketing, we hope to use other communication options, one of which is specifically targeted reminders and deadlines. We aim to provide faculty and staff with more immediate updates on what is happening in OPA.

These alerts might include upcoming deadlines, assessments and surveys, or professional development offerings. Keep an eye out for important reminders coming from the OPA office in the future.

Annual Report

OPA also has been collaborating with Communications & Marketing on other materials including this 2023-2024 annual report. Again, this will contain the same valuable information as before but with a new and fresh look. If you would like to view our previous annual reports, please visit our [Annual Reports](#) page.

We are excited about the new collaborative effort and hope you also enjoy the fresh look for our communication materials.

Staff Changes

OPA is pleased to announce that we are now fully staffed with full-time team members. Bryson Carroll was promoted from senior administrator to associate director in May 2023. Senior Administrator Emily Knox joined us in August and Senior Administrator Sandra Castillo joined us in October.

As of spring 2024, we have added two additional student assistants to our office. Rigdon Yates will be shadowing our current student assistant Avery Beimer before taking over in May. Medhawi Niroula will be assisting with digital documentation of evidence in our SACSCOC Compliance Certification Report due this September.

Our office worked on internal space reallocation last summer with a few notable changes. Our internal conference room has been relocated to the space outside our kitchenette area. The archival records there have been relocated to another area within our space. We appreciate the efforts of operations moving and surplus as they supported us in rearranging and removing furniture as needed.

OPA enjoyed employing four additional student assistants in the summer of 2023 when we were given SB8 funding. This was especially useful when filling the two senior administrator vacancies. We are happy to have Chloe Vainrib continue her employment with us.

Our office continues to participate in professional development opportunities via our involvement with the Texas Association for Higher Education Assessment (TxAHEA), which is now officially listed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

OPA has Joined LinkedIn

To better reach faculty and staff, OPA has created a social media account on [LinkedIn](#) on a more professional platform.

If you are used to getting updates from OPA via [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#), never fear! OPA still posts on those platforms as well. While similar content is posted across all platforms, to make the most of what we have to offer and keep up to date on all our professional news, be sure to follow all our accounts.

Nuventive Update

Nuventive Improve is the platform Texas Tech uses to document assessments for academic and administrative/student support services. It helps organize and manage the assessment process, making documentation of these assessments much easier.

Nuventive recently underwent an upgrade and now has a new appearance with functionality updates that will help make the process even smoother. All information previously available on the platform has been transferred to the new platform as archived files.

This upgrade was created to improve the data entry process by reducing the need to switch back and forth between assessment methods and results. One new feature that can be helpful is the split-screen view, which allows work on documentation while simultaneously viewing past reports or assessment resources.

In addition, reports created through Nuventive are now generated in a two-column format, making data more easily accessible. Units can filter reports by assessment years to locate specific data. As part of the upgrade, Nuventive also has updated its link. Visit the [Nuventive page](#) of the OPA website to access the new link and bookmark it for future use.

On the [OPALS page](#) of the OPA website, you can find videos that review the upgrades made to Nuventive. These videos are divided into education programs and administrative/student support services. We are currently working on providing resources for Nuventive features and will update the website with instructional videos/guides as soon as possible. All degree program assessment reports are due on Oct. 1, 2024, and non-academic assessment reports are due on Oct. 15, 2024.

WISHES

Texas Tech began working with New York University (NYU) and other universities in fall 2023. The 50-question survey includes questions for students about overall wellbeing, financial security, psychological distress, mental health and several other topics. The survey is free and can be altered to fit the institution's needs. Texas Tech owns all our data and works with a consortium of universities to identify trends, solve internal problems and work on data-driven policy changes. Jill Stangl, assistant vice provost for Student Wellbeing, and her office worked with procurement on acquiring the survey in August 2023.

There are two main goals in using WISHES: to provide data for initiatives in student wellbeing on campus and to serve as an indirect assessment tool for the 2025 Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which was recently announced by the provost's office. Additionally, Texas Tech will have opportunities to work with universities around the country to address national student wellbeing concerns by collectively sharing valuable insight and successful case studies on policy changes aimed at bettering the student experience.

OPA has provided a critical role in the WISHES administration through survey creation, distribution, scheduling interviews for faculty and staff, and general data analysis. We plan to continue supporting WISHES through the QEP implementation and possibly beyond.

WISHES was administered once in fall 2023 and twice in spring 2024. We are pleased with our total response rates of ~11%, or 3,448 total responses from a population of 32,519 undergraduate students.

Currently, the plan is to continue administering WISHES twice a semester, but with changes to our population definition and sampling techniques. We will continue to work with the WISHES consortium through the summer and begin a new administration in September 2024.

Reaffirmation Update for Annual Report

Our reaffirmation efforts continue to intensify. We are actively working with authors to finalize narrative responses and confirm evidence files. Nearly 100 Texas Tech faculty and staff have worked collaboratively to create narratives focused on gathering examples to support our compliance with SACSCOC's 40 required Differentiated Review Standards and Core Requirements.

So, where do we go from here? During summer 2024, we will build an electronic portfolio that provides evidence of our compliance with these 40 Differentiated Review standards. Responses range from 100 words to 32,655 words, but each response singularly communicates compliance with our accreditor's expectations. Our SACSCOC reaffirmation narratives are all-encompassing; we discuss issues such as student financial aid practices, facility maintenance and faculty qualifications.

As we complete our Compliance Certification Report, we also are supporting the development of Texas Tech's third QEP, TechThrive. Launching in spring 2025, TechThrive is a comprehensive plan to enhance student wellbeing. We are thrilled about the possibilities that TechThrive will offer our students. The QEP proposal will be submitted to SACSCOC in January 2025.

We look forward to our SACSCOC on-site visit, **March 3-6, 2025**.



FROM HERE, IT'S POSSIBLE.™

This email was sent by Texas Tech Office of Communications and Marketing

2625 Memorial Circle Lubbock, TX, 79409

[View this email in your browser](#)