December 4, 2020

DM Revised Annual Faculty Reviews for Spring 2021
We have a number of work requests currently pending with Digital Measures for the upcoming Spring term. The previous year has shown us new areas of focus and as a result of that, departments are requesting updates to Annual Faculty Reports to reflect additional commentary, primarily for modality changes as a result of COVID-19. So far, we are creating two departmental reports, one for the department of English and one for the department of Kinesiology and Sport Management. We are also updating college-level reports for the College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources and the College of Media & Communication.

Additional requests currently pending include an exclusionary question for Spring 2020 course evaluations, which will provide an avenue for administrators to allow faculty the option to exclude these evaluations.

We have other work requests which have been or will be completed soon. These include the above projects, an undergraduate activity report, and tweaks to current DM screens. The accordion on the Activities screen has also been removed to immediately emphasize asterisks and show a guide for updating scholarly activity. We would like to use this potentially for announcements where necessary, but for the time being, we have some additional clarity with this notification. We hope that all requests will be completed by mid-December.

NSSE Pulse Report
The NSSE Pulse Survey administration has officially closed and the Office of Planning and Assessment is anxiously awaiting the final report, hopefully before the Christmas holiday. We hope to be able to share results in upcoming weekly reports.
NSSE/FSSE Planning
As the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) are planned to be administered in Spring 2021, many preparations and meetings are taking place to ensure success.

Ashley Loveless and Libby Spradlin have been working diligently serving on the marketing subcommittee for NSSE/FSSE. In the numerous meetings held over the span of the last two months, much progress has been made. This committee, in collaboration with Chris Cook and his team, have been brainstorming and creating marketing materials for disbursement across campus and on various TTU social media platforms.

Additionally, there has been a new NSSE website created as a ‘landing page’ for students to plug in and get to know more about NSSE behind-the-scenes (see screenshot below for example)!

Many survey incentives have been finalized, while others are in development. We anticipate offering incentives to both students and faculty. These incentives range from lottery drawings of Double T Under Armour backpacks, autographed athletic merchandise, and athletic tickets!

The full NSSE/FSSE Planning Committee has been meeting once a month and plans to continue to do so leading into the launch of the surveys. With these more formal meetings involving more individuals, it is easier to problem solve and brainstorm for possible issues and new ideas to help ensure a successful administration.
IE Award Reminders

A second reminder regarding the IE Award was distributed to associate deans and department chairs on Thursday, December 3. A third reminder will be sent upon returning from the Holiday Break.
Dear Department Chairs and Associate Deans:

I’m kindly sending another reminder regarding the 2021 IE Award application, which provides the winning department with a $5,000 cash prize. The submission deadline is February 19 at midnight.

Your college dean will review applications and select one to nominate on behalf of the college. We expect and hope to receive one departmental submission from each college. Please click on the image below to go straight to the application. If you have any questions about this award, please email me (jennifer.s.hughes@ttu.edu) or Provost James (darryl.james@ttu.edu).

Thank you, and we look forward to receiving your application!

Warmly,
Jennifer

November 2020 Blog Post
A November blog post was posted to the OPA website, entitled “Common Areas of Non-Compliance with SACSCOC.”

November 2020 OPA Blog

Common Areas of Non-Compliance with SACSCOC

As Texas Tech prepares its Fifth Year Report to SACSCOC, I wanted to share some common areas of non-compliance with all of you. I’ve included a chart below that was provided by SACSCOC, and I think you’ll find it to be informative and instructive. This chart reveals which standards are most commonly cited as non-compliant at each of the three review stages for SACSCOC.

In case you don’t know, SACSCOC is a peer-led institution, which means that we are guided and regulated by our peers. SACSCOC organizes peer teams to review each institution’s documentation around nearly 100 standards. A different team of reviewers examines our evidence in three stages: 1) an off-site committee review; 2) an on-site committee review; and 3) SACSCOC Board of Trustees. These three separate groups of peers determine our compliance status with SACSCOC.

As the chart demonstrates below, almost 92% of all institutions were found to be non-compliant with faculty qualifications (6.2.a) at the first stage of review (i.e., off-site committee review). However, by the time this standard was reviewed by the Board of Trustees as the third review stage, only 5% of institutions were found non-compliant. Similarly, 63% of institutions were found non-compliant with assessing student learning outcomes (6.2.a) in the first stage or review, and by the Board of Trustees review, this number dropped to 3%. These changes in compliance status tell us that documentation matters! The clearer our documentation at the off-site committee, the better! All of our November Improv reports are submitted for compliance with 6.2.a, so please know that all of your effort is indeed reviewed by Texas Tech and by SACSCOC.
**Completed OPA SSL Report**

This week, OPA completed its 19-20 assessment report in Nuventive Improve. This report provides an update on OPA’s operational objectives during the 2019-2020 academic year. Below is a screenshot of our results.

**Update on Senior Administrator Hiring**

OPA completed second interviews for the Senior Administrator position on Tuesday, November 24th. After careful consideration of the two finalists for the position, Spradlin offered the position to Kara Page and she accepted on December 3rd. Callison is working with TTU HR to begin the hiring process which will begin with a formal offer letter. Page has been given a start date of January 1, 2021 and Callison and Spradlin are working with IT to ensure she is set up with a computer and laptop. OPA is excited for Kara to join our office in this vital role!