The Office of Planning and Assessment reports its 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

- Texas Tech Texas Tech University received notification on Tuesday, December 8 that its decennial accreditation was fully reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). SACSCOC accredits institutions of higher education throughout the 11 southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia) and Latin America, that grant associate, baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees. The university’s accreditation will continue through 2025.

- The SACSCOC Reaffirmation Report will be available in the upcoming weeks, according to communication from President Nellis and Vice Provost James. The Report will presumably provide more detailed information about the University’s monitoring period for CS 3.3.1.1 and CS 3.3.2.

- A statement about the University’s reaffirmation status was published in the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal on December 11-20-15. The link to this article appears here: http://lubbockonline.com/filed-online/2015-12-11/texas-techs-accreditation-reaffirmed-through-2025#.Vmr_8E1iUn

- Highlights from the SACSCOC Annual Meeting included several critical policy implications. OPA staff is preparing a short series of policy briefs for Dr. James. These briefs will provide an analysis of how emerging higher education policy may affect Texas Tech. The following policy issues were presented:
  - In January 2016, the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation will be revised and published on the SACSCOC website.
  - The Higher Education Re-Authorization Act is due for re-authorization.
  - Institutions should review their statements on student achievement to make sure that the hyperlinks are working properly. OPA staff reviewed TTU’s institutional statement, and the links are working correctly.
Nuria Cuevas, TTU’s SACSCOC Vice President, stated that “we can’t continue to forgive unreported substantive changes.” Texas Tech has published its own substantive change policy on the OPA website.

- The MSW prospectus was approved by SACSCOC in a letter dated November 25, 2015. The MSW prospectus substantive change fee ($500.00) is currently being processed by OPA staff. Dr. Helen Morrow, MSW Program Coordinator, was notified of the approval.