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LEARNING LOG

Data Integration into the Decision Making Process

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DETAILS

MAKING IT WORK, UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, AND SHARING WHAT WORKS

TITLE

Data Integration into the Decision Making Process


SOLUTION

Developmental Education Reform and Supports for Learning

CAPACITIES

Institutional Research

Owner

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Record Type

Monthly-Current 2017



INSTITUTION

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

REFLECTION

SITE INITIATIVE

Our primary initiative is to supply information to decision makers in a format that is readily understandable and easy to use. Our task is beyond just providing data, we want to ensure that it becomes useful information. We want it to be distributed to the decision makers in each of the departments to help them strengthen their support of students.

PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS

Gathering the data elements required for the Frontier Set project has enabled us to spend the time necessary to make sure all the data elements are collected, and to question how the data is being extracted from the original source.

Additional staff have learned SQL and SAS to combine the data and have become more familiar with the programs necessary to pull the data.

The initial dashboards with some descriptive data have been developed and will soon be deployed so departments can pull that data and free staff to do more in-depth analysis.

IMPACT

We have received positive feedback on the dashboards from the test group at this time and from a preliminary dashboard that was made public earlier.

We are in the early stages of working with IT and Tableau to begin the implementation process for using Tableau with credentials that will allow individuals to drill down into a deeper level of information. At this point the data that is on the dashboards must meet FERPA requirements so it is not as useful for the individual departments.

We are also interested to learn how the "gateway" courses affect students.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES

To pull all the information for this project we have relied on the internal expertise of other departments with more experience in the use of WebFocus to pull the older data from Banner. The information was in multiple different files that are reported to the State, so staff (who are in the process of converting to different software) had to join multiple files to put the data into the file type being requested which took more time than originally thought.

In addition, we are working with IT and Tableau to determine the best method of providing the data to advisors, faculty, chairs, Deans, Provost, and President. The

data should include a high level that can be drilled into it for the detail.

NEXT CRITICAL STEPS❶

Getting the DSA signed took much longer than expected and pushed the data submission process into the graduation timeframe. We have submitted the 2011-12 data, but are still missing a few of the data elements that come from other departments. Since we are pulling everything into a single source, once we have collected all the data the other years of data should be ready within a week.

The next critical step will be the implementation of Tableau and the training for departments and decision makers on what information will be available and how to access the data.

This step will also include Tableau training for staff for the development of the dashboards, working in cooperation with other departments.

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES❶

There will be a learning curve associated with the Tableau implementation, the information is being compiled. We need to release it in an easily understandable method so that they are likely to use the information. Since we are still working with the UTRGV IT department and Tableau to get the software installed there might be a delay in getting the full “drill down” capabilities available. In the mean time we will continue to put as much data as possible out publicly.

After the dashboards are created there will need to be training for other staff in the use of the data.

Since we have not yet hired another programmer one challenge has been to keep up with the day to day requests coming in while preparing the data for Frontier.

We will be using this as an opportunity to review our data processes.

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS❶

What type of training have you done for faculty and management in data use?

STATUS

Final

Completion Date❶

5/31/2017

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