

Collaborative Opportunities for Assessment in the CAA

Michael F. Middaugh
University of Delaware

Vice Chair
Middle States Commission on Higher Education

National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education - 1998

- “...because academic institutions do not account differently for time spent directly in the classroom and time spent on other teaching and research activities, it is almost impossible to explain to the public how individuals employed in higher education use their time. Consequently, the public and public officials find it hard to be confident that academic leaders allocate resources effectively and well. Questions about costs and their allocation to research, service, and teaching are hard to discuss in simple, straightforward ways and the connection between these activities and student learning is difficult to draw. **In responding to this growing concern, academic leaders have been hampered by poor information and sometimes inclined to take issue with those who asked for better data. Academic institutions need much better definitions and measures of how faculty members, administrators, and students use their time.”**

(National Commission on Cost of Higher Education, p. 20)

Spellings Commission on the Future of Higher Education 2006

“We believe that improved accountability is vital to ensuring the success of all of the other reforms we propose. **Colleges and universities must become more transparent about cost, price, and student success outcomes, and must willingly share this information with students and families.** Student achievement, which is inextricably connected to institutional success, must be measured by institutions on a “value-added” basis that takes into account students’ academic baseline when assessing their results. This information should be available to students, and reported publicly in aggregate form to provide consumers and policymakers an accessible, understandable way to measure the relative effectiveness of different colleges and universities.”

(Spellings Commission, p.4)

Collaborative Opportunity #1: Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)

- College Portrait Template includes:

Descriptive institutional information (Enrollment, price, financial aid, retention/graduation rates, etc. - Common Data Set type information

Student experiences and perceptions – selected items from the National Survey of Student Engagement

Student learning outcomes – results from one of the following:
Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP), Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP)

Collaborative Opportunity #2: Coordinated Student Surveys

Coordinate administration of selected student surveys with the objective of shared data analyses:

National Survey of Student Engagement

ACT Survey of Student Opinions

Noel-Levitz Inventory of Student Satisfaction

Collaborative Opportunity #3: Coordinated Sharing of IPEDS Data

Coordinate shared data analyses from selected IPEDS surveys:

Survey of Institutional Finance

- Revenue Contribution Ratios
- Expenditure Demand Ratios

Graduation Rate Survey

- Overall Graduation Rate and Rates by Ethnicity

Collaborative Opportunity #4: Delaware Study of Instructional Costs and Productivity

Coordinate shared data analyses from the Delaware Study:

Detailed teaching load data, by academic discipline, for:

- Tenured/tenure-eligible faculty
- Full time, non-tenurable faculty

Data on direct instructional costs and externally funded scholarship, by academic discipline:

- Direct expense per student credit hour taught
- Sponsored research expenditures per FTE tenured/tenure-eligible faculty

Other Opportunities?

The Floor is Open for Discussion