

SPRING
2024

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

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A Newsletter to Keep You in the Know

TRANSITIONING TO A TRIENNIAL REPORTING CYCLE FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAM (SLO) ASSESSMENT

As referenced in our fall newsletter, our assessment team in Institutional Effectiveness has been exploring options for a new reporting cycle. Academic departments currently submit a detailed assessment report for each degree and certificate program annually. While this approach has its benefits, it also poses challenges; namely, it leaves little time for program faculty to meaningfully analyze data and develop strategies to seek improvement in student learning before the next report is due.

After exploring alternative reporting schedules and soliciting feedback from various stakeholders, we are excited to announce a new triennial cycle! In a triennial cycle, a full report is submitted every *three* years (with brief progress reports in between). This new cycle will be implemented in three phases, with the colleges divided into groups. Michael McFall, Director of Academic Assessment and Assistant Director Ashley Charsha are sharing more information in sessions available later this spring semester.

Colleges entering the triennial cycle first will receive an invitation to attend an information session soon, while colleges entering the cycle later will attend information sessions closer to that time (April or early fall). All invitations will be issued via assessment@utk.edu, so, be on the lookout! ✓



NSSE SURVEY ADMINISTRATION - FACTS

This spring semester, UT Knoxville's first-year and senior students are participating in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), a nationally-normed survey administered to college students for two decades.

Results can provide beneficial information about how these students spend their time and what they gain from their experiences at the university. NSSE results also include a comparison of our students' responses with those from students at similar institutions (including our selected peer institutions). Results of the survey will be released this fall. Results on this survey will impact THEC quality assurance funding, which is a component of UT's state funding.

If you are interested in looking at prior NSSE data or have other questions about the survey, please contact Elizabeth Pemberton at IEDept@utk.edu. ✓



HISTORIC RESPONSE RATE FOR TNVOICE

In fall 2023, TNVoice (TN Volunteer Online Instructor and Course Evaluation) was administered through HelioCampus. The overall response rate was 55%, which is an improvement over previous semesters.

Institutional Effectiveness is still determining the best way to link course sections that *should* be combined for reporting purposes (e.g., courses with both undergraduate and graduate sections or online courses with both UTK campus and distance education sections). An update on this reporting issue will be conveyed directly to department heads and faculty via e-mail in early April.

Work also continues on a PowerBI-based reporting solution that will offer one-stop web access to faculty- or department-specific TNVoice data from HelioCampus and Anthology (for evaluations prior to summer 2023). We are excited to be working with a UT System developer to create something customizable and adaptable to the specific needs of faculty and administrators at UT Knoxville.

If you have questions about TNVoice, please contact Elizabeth Pemberton at tnvoice@utk.edu. ✓

POLICY & PROCESS TASKFORCES EXAMINE TNVOICE

The Office of the Provost has organized policy and process groups to examine end-of-course evaluations. The TNVoice **policy group** is led by Diane Kelly, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, and membership includes: Joy Doan (CCI), Yanfei Gao (TCE), Ferlin McGaskey (TLI), Jennifer Morrow (CEHHS), John Stier (HCA), Hannah Thompson (graduate student), and Deborah Welsh (CAS).

The **process group** is led by Ozlem Kilic, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and membership includes: Elisabeth Schussler (LAW), Virginia Stormer (TLI), Courtney Wright (CCI), Laura Trujillo (CAS), Bob DuBois (CAS), and Heather Hartman (IE).

We look forward to the findings and recommendations of both groups. ✓

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS? CONTACT IEDEPT@UTK.EDU

ie.utk.edu

UPDATE ON QEP DEVELOPMENT

The QEP Steering Committee ensured broad-based support of institutional constituencies by conducting surveys and focus group meetings throughout the fall 2023 semester.

Two institution-wide surveys were administered to narrow topic areas. The first survey offered an opportunity to respond to the open-ended question: *What is ONE thing we could change to improve undergraduate student learning and/or success at UTK?* The question generated 1,984 usable responses. Every college (except our newly formed Baker School) was represented. Discussion of these responses led to the identification of six potential topic areas, which were the focus of the second survey. A second survey generated 3,878 usable responses. The Committee also hosted focus groups and attended seven standing staff meetings .

The selected topic area focuses on improving student success through acknowledging and addressing our students' needs relating to **Foundations for Learning, Well-being, and Career**. Strategies are in development to address these needs over a 5-year period. For more information on the QEP topic selection and plan development, contact [Erin Hardin](#). ✓



ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

Program reviews are the primary means by which the university evaluates the effectiveness of its units in teaching, research/creative activity, and service. The campus administration participates in the reviews and treats the process and the outcomes very seriously. Documents from the reviews, including the self-study, reviewers' reports, and follow-up discussions, are archived in the Office of the Provost and referred to frequently. Progress toward goals is evaluated with a Mid-Cycle Review (MCR). Program reviews primarily examine 12 program dimensions.

Six departments will go through the full academic program review process spring semester:

- English (2/25-28/24)
- Mathematics (3/31-4/3/24)
- Animal Science (3/3-6/24)
- Life Sciences (4/7-10/24)
- School of Natural Resources (3/24-27/24)
- Child and Family Studies (4/14-17/24)

Planning ahead, we are scheduling program reviews for the 2024-2025 academic year, the last year of the THEC 5-year cycle. Academic unit heads and their college deans have selected dates for review and attended an orientation session in March to kickoff the review cycle. You may view selected dates on the Institutional Effectiveness website (ie.utk.edu). For questions and concerns, please contact [Heather Hartman](#). ✓

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