Data and Demographics at College of the Siskiyous

For the Siskiyou Joint Community College District Board of Trustees
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5 February 2019
Study Session Outline

• Brief overview of data management model at COS
• Comparison between external and internal data reports
• Real-time interaction with newly updated Student Success Metrics
Everyone at COS plays a role in data management
Data Management Model at COS

• **Data stewards** are responsible for the content of the data they “own”
  • Our registrar is the data steward of college application data, while our director of financial aid is the data steward of financial aid application data
  • Multiple stewards are possible: registrar steward of all grades, but instructor of record is also steward for their courses’ grades

• **Data custodians** are responsible for the integrity of the database
  • Like most institutions, the IT Department has a near-monopoly on this task

• **Data analysts** are responsible for discerning patterns in the data
  • Understanding these patterns is a much more widely-shared responsibility

• Example: "Sam Student" and his grade in physics
So we have data... now what?

• Two main reasons for data collection at COS
  
  • *External* Mandatory Reporting
  • *Internal* Decision-making
  
  • Other reasons: publicity, memorializing, mandated record-keeping
External Reports: *Multiple Offers We Can't Refuse*

• Accountability through transparency is a central pillar of the public education system, so regulatory compliance is *strongly* enforced
• This ideal is primarily expressed through many public-facing reports on the performance of our students, the structure of our institution, even the salary of our staff
• A *partial* list of 100% free and fully accessible reports on COS: CCCCO MIS Datamart, IPEDS, CCCCO Scorecard, "College Scorecard", Launchboard, Gainful Employment, Student Right to Know, and mandatory outcome reports for *many* grants we receive(d).
• MIS Data Collection occurs every term as well as annual reports typically clustered between September and November
• The term collections are basically miniature databases centered around the instruction and services provided to students in that term
• Banner generates reports from the information our data stewards have received, entered, and verified throughout the term.
• MIS Coordinator responsible for compiling the reports and guiding the stewards through a comprehensive set of data integrity checks
• The reward? The doors stay open, but also so much more
The Importance of MIS: A Rough Flow Chart of External Report Dependencies

- Gainful Employment
- MIS (Datamart)
- National Student Clearinghouse
- IPEDS
- CCCC CO Scorecard
- Student Right to Know
- College Scorecard
- Student Success Metrics
Deliberate Data-Driven Decisions at COS

• Data analysis plays an important part in the decision-making process
• Different types of approaches, all used at COS in different contexts
  • **Forecasting**: will it snow tomorrow?
  • **Trend analysis**: How much snow did we get this week?
  • “**Project post-mortem**”: why did it snow so much yesterday?
• Internal reports don’t need to be “pretty” as long as they’re effective
• Greater flexibility in which data are used and how they’re compared
  • With that said...
External Reports aid Internal Decision-Making

• Small college, small departments: We already put in the work, might as well get something out of it

• Cross-institution comparison: Datamart as “the worst option, except for all the other ones”

• Sometimes it’s mandated: Student Success Metrics Launchboard and our Student Equity and Achievement Program (SEAP)

• Speaking of which...
Quick Robin, to the Launchboard!