From the Executive Producer….

The Fall semester is in full swing and the holidays are already approaching! It’s hard to believe it, I know! We in OIRE are busy in a variety of new and continuing endeavors that will, hopefully, prove to be helpful to you, our customers.

In this edition of NOIRE you will learn about new data visualizations that are already available and some that are in the pipeline. You’ll also read about our preparations for the 2020-2021 Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaccreditation process. I know it seems like that’s eons from now, but it will be here before you know it. In addition, you’ll find out how a collaboration between OIRE and the Budget Office resulted in a revamped approach to reporting. Finally, because we have, thankfully, been fully staffed for more than a year, the staff spotlight portion of this newsletter now highlights the OIRE pet menagerie.

Many of you probably participated in the October Undergraduate Experiences Symposium. Becky Bui and I were fortunate enough to attend as well. Jeff Franklin and his staff do such a fabulous job of organizing and hosting this event for the university. I did want to take a moment to let you know that OIRE already provides the information that Dr. Venit described as being needed to advance our efforts to improve student success. Retention and graduation rates for a wide variety of student populations are available via the OIRE Report Library and weekly admission reports are disseminated to university leadership and staff. We’re already collaborating with the Student Success Steering Committee, CAM, Business, and other units to provide detailed reports to support these efforts. If there are reports that you need to help improve your students’ success, please let me know.

I’d like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season! As I take time to appreciate all that I have, I’d like to thank all of you – especially all of the OIRE staff – for all that you do to support the office and our endeavors.

Cut and print…

Christine A. Stroup-Benham, Ph.D.
HLC is Coming To Town

‘Institutional accreditation’... as with degree programs within our university, an educational institution is required to undergo re-accreditation through two types of accreditation agencies, institutional and specialized. These accreditations validate the quality of an institution as a whole and evaluate multiple aspects of that institution ranging from its academic offerings, governance and administration, to mission, finances, and resources.

So, what does all this mean for our consolidated institution as it approaches re-accreditation in 2020-2021? Currently, we are in years 7-9 of a 10 year cycle with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), its regional accreditation agency. During years 7-9, HLC requires institutions to undertake a major Quality Initiative designed to suit its present concerns or aspirations. This initiative is intended to allow institutions to take risks, aim high and, possibly, learn from only partial success or even failure. Associate Vice Chancellor, Dr. Terry Potter, worked with several others within the institution to prepare and submit the Quality Initiative in August of this year. Highlighted within that document were several Denver Campus projects such as EAB, HIPS, and Gateway Courses.

Over the course of the next two years, our institution will continue to prepare and work on re-accreditation efforts by completing and submitting an Assurance Filing with HLC. The Assurance Filing is comprised of two parts, the Assurance Argument and the Evidence File. In the Assurance Argument, an institution demonstrates how it meets the criteria set forth for accreditation and then submits the Evidence File with documentation supporting the argument.

Once the Assurance Filing is complete, a team of peer reviewers will evaluate the filing and conduct an on-site visit, writing a full report after the visit that will include if the team feels that the institution meets HLC’s criteria for accreditation. The exact date of HLC’s on-site visit is still unknown, but it is expected to take place sometime in April 2021. After completion of the site visit and submission of the peer reviewers’ report, a decision-making body will review all documentation and the recommendation from the peer review team. If the body feels that everything is satisfactory, a status of re-accreditation will be granted to an institution for another 10 year cycle.

If you are interested in further information regarding the accreditation process or ongoing preparation efforts, please feel free to contact or office or Dr. Terry Potter!

Fee Calculations

Something one learns quickly by working at a university is that simple questions rarely have simple answers. One area for which this is particularly true is that of tuition and fee assessment.

The question “how much will my degree cost?” can only be answered after a series of additional questions: Undergrad/grad? Resident/non-resident? WUE? Credits taken? Online? The list goes on. That said, this is a question that must be answered time and again, so we at OIRE are working with Jen St. Peter and the Budget Office to standardize not only our responses, but also our processes for calculating our posted rates in the first place.

These adjustments, such as excluding school/college specific fees, have resulted in some variance between our reported rates in years past and our present figures, but we feel that our current process best represents the archetypal student, as much as one can be created. This process also aligns closely with federally mandated reporting standards, such as those for IPEDS.

With all that in mind, if you find yourself needing to report out figures related to tuition and fee rates, please don’t hesitate to reach out to OIRE for assistance!
In the last edition of NOIRE you read all about our goals and efforts to improve your data consumption experience through data visualizations. Staff members are continuing to work towards those goals and making the improved data experience a reality. We are converting our famous static PDF Student Credit Hour and Admissions reports to interactive dashboards. Users will have the ability to filter based on their population of interest and receive less email from Ian and Becky.

The Student Credit Hours Dashboard will allow you to compare current term course-driven credit hours to two prior terms of the same season. Users will be able to see credit hours based on campus, funding type, school and college, residency, etc. all in one location and more importantly users can filter based on levels that are pertinent to their mission.

Staff members are also working on developing the weekly Admissions Dashboard. This dashboard will feature data for applied, admitted, and enrolled students to better track the Lynx population. Users will have access to the same level of detail as presented in the PDFs through the dashboard, but, again, will able to better tailor the view to fit their needs.

OIRE knows there is an abundance of data out there and we want to make it easier for you to peruse and utilize the data we provide!

**OIRE Menagerie**

This new spotlight focus is a lighthearted opportunity to meet the pets that share their lives with OIRE staff. In this edition, you meet Christine’s fur babies: Electra, Hurricane (aka Cane), and Sebastian (aka Bash).

Hi! I’m Electra and am a rescued 12 year-old Chocolate Lab, Border Collie mix. I came to live with Mom and Dad after their fur baby, Mistletoe, passed away during their hurricane Rita evacuation. My brother, Valentine, and I got to fly from Houston to Denver when Mom and Dad relocated to Denver. Valentine is in doggy heaven, but don’t fret, he lived to the ripe old age of 20! In spite of what Mom and Dad thought, I enjoyed being an only child and have been trying to adjust to my new siblings.

My parents love the University of Miami Hurricanes (that’s where Mom got her bachelor’s degree) so they’ve named my sister and brother Cane and Bash. For those of you who don’t know, Sebastian is the name of the ‘Canes’ mascot. Cane is a 21 month-old rescued Mastiff mix and is already 145 pounds. Yikes! I hope she doesn’t get any bigger! While she’s really sweet to humans and really likes giving them sloppy kisses and hugs, she seems to think she’s the boss of me. We had a rough patch after Bash showed up, but things are better now.

Speaking of Bash (wow, there’s an appropriate name for that bundle of energy!), he’s 5 months old and is a Cane Corso. That’s a kind of Mastiff…Mom and Dad must like huge dogs whose lips don’t work. He’s another sloppy kisser and loves to chew on those Kong toys.

I’d like to think that we are all emotional support critters for our parents. Who wouldn’t love to come home to all that unconditional love and affection after a hard day at work?

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Electra  
Bash  
Cane