The Power of Collaboration – CSU Fullerton case study on development of measures for High Impact Practices

Ed Sullivan, Su Swarat

Track – IR Professional

Area of impact – Power of collaboration to increase reach and scope of IR efforts

Abstract *
Expanded narrative that the Board will use to select presentations

The positive impact of High Impact Practices (HIPs) (Kuh, 2008) highlighted the value of student participation in such practices. The CSUF strategic plan is committed to ensure that 75% of students participate in at least two HIPs by graduation. In initial discussions of HIPs, a campus taskforce identified and attempted to measure courses and activities that broadly met a definition of HIPs. It was quickly noted that the broadly defined “HIPs” lacked measurable outcomes, articulated learning outcomes, and had limited or no data on quality of participation and student impact.

Drawing upon their respective measurement and research expertise, the AVP for Institutional Research and Analytical Studies (IRAS) and Director of Assessment and Educational Effectiveness were tasked to address the challenge of identifying the HIPs on campus, and to measuring their effects to document and validate the “high impact” nature of such practices. Though the two offices are separately housed at CSU Fullerton within the Division of Academic Affairs, which allows each office to focus on areas of strength and campus need related to its respective roles, the offices collaborate frequently on projects and leverage distinct and complementary skill sets. For this HIPs task, the AVP for IRAS and Director of Assessment worked collaboratively to refined a proposed list of potential HIP characteristics suggested by the task force, and refocused the efforts to (1) set standards of identifying HIPs using a campus-wide definition, and (2) determine measurement expectations that are tied to the HIPs’ learning outcomes.

The advantages gained through this collaboration will be the focal points of the discussion. The resulting metrics will also be shared. The session will provide exemplars for how the scope and expertise of the IR and assessment offices can complement each other and synergistically address an important institutional challenge.

Program Summary *
Abbreviated, single paragraph summary of topic that will go in the program.

The positive impact of High Impact Practices (HIPs) (Kuh, 2008) highlighted the value of student participation in such practices. The CSUF strategic plan is committed to ensure that 75% of students participate in at least two HIPs by graduation. One prerequisite to realize this goal is a clear way of identifying the HIPs, and to measuring their impacts to validate the “high impact” nature of such practices. A collaborative effort between the Assessment and Institutional Research offices was thus set forth to address this challenge. The synergy of perspectives was critical in this process. The resulting metrics not only set standards of identifying HIPs, but also tied measurement expectations to the HIPs’ learning outcomes. Both the collaborative process and the resulting metrics will be shared.