

Office of Institutional Research & Evaluation

Annual Report 2013-2014

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In 2013-14, the Office of Institutional Research and Evaluation (OIR&E) team maintained its tradition of working diligently to meet ever-increasing demands. During the course of the academic year, OIR&E team members completed a variety of projects that ranged in complexity from simple data requests to a major evaluation of the Tufts Magazine. Of particular note is the work that the office did to support the execution of several T10 strategic planning initiatives (including *Tufts in International Context* and the *TALES proposal*), as well as the IPEDS/iSIS Report project. For this latter work, members of the OIR&E staff spent a significant amount of time becoming familiar with the new student information system (iSIS), educating consultants and others on the iSIS project about IPEDS requirements, developing detailed specs for the IPEDS reports, testing the reports, verifying the output, and working with the registrars to correct data entry errors. In addition, OIR&E staff worked with the Data Warehouse Team to replicate the IPEDS reports in order to ensure that the Data Warehouse was accurately loading and reporting its nightly feed from iSIS. In order to facilitate ongoing communication between OIR&E, the Data Warehouse Team and the iSIS Tech Team, a new business analyst position was created in OIR&E. Having an individual to serve as a liaison between OIR&E and TTS has proven very successful, and we look forward to more collaborative work with TTS in the future.

I am pleased that in the past year OIR&E was once again able to serve every school (Arts & Sciences, Cummings, Dental, Engineering, Fletcher, Friedman, Medical, Sackler, and Tisch College) and division (including Advancement, External Relations, Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Public Safety and TTS) within the university. Time and attention was devoted to supporting several major initiatives and committees:

- 1) *Creation of and coordination of the Tableau Users' Group*
- 2) *Oversight & coordination to assure that the university is in compliance with the myriad of new reporting and disclosure requirements in the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)*
- 3) *Coordination of all schools to insure that university is meeting the requirements outlined in the New England of Schools and Colleges Accreditation Standard 4*
- 4) *Support for the T10 Strategic Planning Initiatives*
- 5) *Oversight of Tufts Innovates! Grant*
- 6) *Service on:*
 - a. *Academic Council*
 - b. *Administrative Council*
 - c. *Provost Council*
 - d. *The Monitoring and Evaluation team for the USAID RESPOND grant*
 - e. *Learning Outcomes and Assessment Committee - Arts and Sciences*
 - f. *The Engineering Educational Objectives and Outcomes Assessment Committee*
 - g. *The Cummings Outcomes Assessment Committee*
 - h. *The Dental School Outcomes Assessment Committee*
 - i. *The iSIS Steering Committee*
 - j. *The TTS Analytics Group*
 - k. *Social, Behavioral & Educational Research Institutional Review Board*
 - l. *The International Safety Committee*
 - m. *The Alcohol Steering Committee*
 - n. *The University Compliance Committee*
 - o. *Associate Provost/Chief Diversity Officer Search Committee*
 - p. *Climate Survey (Title IX) Committee*
 - q. *University Committee on Teaching and Faculty Development*
 - r. *AS&E Admissions & Financial Aid Committee*
 - s. *Faculty Information System Committee*
 - t. *Information Stewardship Committee*
- 7) *Coordination and use of Academic Analytics as a management information tool.*
- 8) *Coordination of student-related issues for the Provost's Office, including oversight of IGL, Graduate Diversity Programs, and CELT.*

During the course of the year, members of the staff were involved with over 450 projects. These included a variety of outcomes assessment projects, consultation on research design, survey development and administration, preparation of decision-support materials, and program evaluations. Members of the staff also provided evaluation guidance and support to faculty and administrators as they prepared several major grant proposals. In addition, OIR&E processed an ever-increasing number of independent data requests. Following is a sample of the many ongoing activities and new initiatives that were undertaken during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Research Activities

Numerous projects were undertaken to assess various aspects of the undergraduate program, as well as to provide support to the graduate and professional schools. Following is a partial list of projects.

Admissions:

- AS&E Undergraduate Accepted Applicant Matriculant Survey & analysis
- AS&E Undergraduate Accepted Applicant Non-Matriculant Survey & analysis
- AS&E Undergraduate Inquiry Survey & analysis
- AS&E matriculation prediction model
- Cummings Vet Non-Enrolling Survey & analysis
- Fletcher Accepted Applicant Matriculant Survey & analysis
- Fletcher Accepted Applicant Non-Matriculant Survey & analysis
- Fletcher Inquire Survey & analysis
- GSAS & GSOE Accepted Applicant Matriculant Survey & analysis
- GSAS & GSOE Accepted Applicant Non-Matriculant Survey & analysis
- Medical Admissions Withdrawal Survey & analysis

Alumni Surveys & Analysis:

- Cummings
- Dental
- Engineering
- Medical – Advancement
- Medical – post grad year 1
- Public Health & Professional Degree programs
- Tisch College Alumni Civic & Political Attitudes Survey

Evaluations:

- Engineering First-Year Courses
- Pine Manor Build Grant
- PREP – Sackler
- Response to Emerging Infectious Diseases (RESPOND, USAID)
- Summer School Online Courses
- Tisch Scholars Program

Student Experience Studies:

- AS&E First Year Orientation Survey & analysis
- AS&E Retention Study
- AS&E Senior Survey & analysis
- A&S First Year Survey & analysis
- A&S Sophomore Experience Survey & analysis
- Cummings Entering Student Survey & analysis
- Cummings Exit Survey & analysis
- Engineering First Year Pre-major Advising Survey & analysis
- Engineering Sophomore Experience Survey & analysis
- Fletcher Continuing Student Survey & analysis

- Fletcher Exiting Student Survey & analysis
- GSAS & SOE Graduate Programs Exit Survey & analysis
- IGL Student/Alumni Experience Survey & analysis

Student Services & Academic Programs:

- AS&E analysis of AMCAS data
- First-Year First-Week Survey & analysis
- Tisch Library User Survey & analysis

Administrative support:

- Accreditation Liaison Officer (NEASC)
- Book Store User Survey & analysis
- Catering Services Satisfaction Survey & analysis
- Dining Services – Student Satisfaction Survey & analysis
- Faculty Salary – comparative analysis
- Open Courseware User Survey & analysis
- Public Safety – multiple surveys & analysis
- iSIS User Experience Survey & analysis
- iSIS User Satisfaction Survey & analysis
- Tufts International in Context
- Understanding the Rankings Report
- University Dashboard
- University Risk Register

University-Wide Coordination Activities and Short-term Projects

Throughout the year, the office has been called upon to provide both the coordination and collection of university-wide level information. Both internal and external constituencies use this information. Activities that fall under this category include:

- Preparation & distribution of the [Fact Book](#) and [Fast Facts](#)
- American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Annual Survey of Faculty Compensation
- College & University Personnel Association (CUPA) Faculty Salary Survey
- National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) retention rates report
- New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) Annual Report
- New England Board of Higher Education Annual Survey
- University & College Accountability Network ([U-CAN](#))
- U.S. Department of Education IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) data collection
- Assorted national and international ranking organizations

A variety of short-term projects were completed for several organizations within the Tufts community. These included providing responses to an ever-increasing number of informational surveys, providing evaluation and survey design consultation, gathering comparative and/or longitudinal

information for a number of individuals or offices including, but not limited to the President, the Provost, the Executive Vice President, various offices within Arts & Sciences, the School of Engineering; Information Technology, University Advancement, Alumni Relations, Public Relations, Operations; the Budget office, and numerous academic departments.

Beyond the university, OIR&E staff members contributed to the institutional research profession in a variety of ways: 1) reviewing conference paper proposals, 2) serving on professional association committees, 3) delivering papers at regional and national conferences, 4) conducting workshops, and 5) contributing to the professional literature.