

CHARGE:

Committee on Centralizing Assessment and Institutional Research

---

**Background**

The decentralization of assessment and institutional research resources at The University of Iowa has been a persistent theme in Student Success Team (SST) Retreats and Action Committees, the sub-committees who helped prepare the University's self-study for reaccreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and comments from the HLC re-accreditation site visit team. The SST Executive Committee has decided to undertake a systematic study of this issue in an effort to provide clear data about whether such decentralization creates problems for the University and, if so, what might be done to address those problems.

**Charge**

The committee will:

1. Assess the University's current structures for institutional research and assessment efforts, considering internal needs and models in use at peer institutions and their effectiveness.
2. Investigate, evaluate, and propose options – including advantages and disadvantages -- for centralizing assessment and institutional research resources at the University of Iowa.

The committee may use the Provost's Assessment Council as a resource. The Assessment Council is charged with developing University-level learning and student development outcomes.

In conducting its work, the committee will use the SST's definition of student success at the University of Iowa:

University of Iowa students succeed when they achieve personal and institutional educational goals. Successful students develop skills and knowledge, become more mature in their thinking, assume greater responsibility for their own lives and learning, develop understanding of diversity and multiculturalism, and become effective leaders.

Student success at The University of Iowa is a shared enterprise. Students succeed by active engagement in educationally-purposeful activities. Faculty, staff, and students create formal and informal learning opportunities on campus and off, and policies, programs, and practices that foster student engagement.

The University measures student and institutional success in undergraduate education by examining a variety of indicators, including measures of learning, persistence, graduation, engagement, health and well-being, and opportunities after graduation.

**Sponsor**

The work group is sponsored by the Student Success Team Executive Committee

**Membership**

The work group shall include:

- Elizabeth Whitt, Office of the Provost (Chair)
- Deb Tiemens, Office of the Provost
- Ernest Pascarella, College of Education
- Kathryn Stoltenberg, Registrar's Office
- David Grady, University Life Centers
- Michelle Cohenour, University Housing
- Tom Rice, Political Science
- Joyce Moore, Evaluation and Examination Service
- Malik Henfield, College of Education

**Deliverables**

The work group is responsible for delivering each of the following products:

Phase One:

1. An overview of approaches to centralization of assessment and institutional research resources at peer institutions.
2. An internal scan of the University of Iowa identifying key features worthy of consideration in determining the usefulness or necessity of centralized assessment and institutional research resources.
3. Information on the missed opportunities and costs associated with the current structure.
4. A summary of advantages and disadvantages of the current structure.

Phase Two:

5. Options or models for addressing the disadvantages in the current structure.
6. Recommendations on the feasibility of each of the options, including possible structures, necessary funding, and staffing needs.
7. Guiding principles that should be used in selecting the best option for our campus.
8. Recommendations about how to proceed.

**Schedule**

- Due date for above deliverables:  
Phase One Report is due to the SST Executive Committee by April 1, 2009  
Phase Two Report is due to the SST Executive Committee by October 1, 2009