Impact of Student Data Mart on data requests and reporting

Over the past 18 months, the UNC System has been developing a centralized Student Data Mart (SDM) which will house all institutions’ official data. The WCU Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness (OIPE) has been intensely involved in the implementation and validation of the SDM, with the help of Information Technology, Registrars’ Office, UG/GR Admissions, and Financial Aid.

With this fall’s census, WCU and three other pilot campuses will ‘go-live’ with the new Student Data Mart and will no longer be reporting off of our traditional official files. OIPE must rework its entire reporting processes, including all internal and external reporting (all automated reporting, ad-hoc requests, annual reports, Fact Book, official data in CATalytics, etc.), to use these new file structures. Multi-year trend reporting will be especially challenging during the transition, due to the changing structure of the official data source, as well as some fundamental changes to the ways in which data elements are collected and coded.

DATA REQUESTORS ARE ASKED TO SUBMIT REQUESTS WELL IN ADVANCE OF KNOWN DEADLINES AND TO EXPECT LONGER THAN USUAL DELAYS IN FULFILLMENT OF REQUESTS.

Because of these drastic changes, OIPE will be prioritizing reporting and information requests for this fall term. Mission-critical reports, start-of-term census data, SACSCOC requirements, Chancellor and Provost data requests, and program/college accreditation needs will receive top priority. Other data needs for decision making may be initially directed to existing data sources such as Common Data Set, IPEDS, etc.; however, OIPE will assist with these requests as time permits. The university Fact Book website has also been taken offline until upgrades to these reports can be completed.

The UNC Student Data Mart is a positive step for the compilation and reporting of official institutional data. New data items are being added to the official files, giving us the ability to provide reports which provide a broader range of information to you, the consumer. System-wide, the data mart provides more consistent data-reporting, and more timely data access, across all institutions.

OIPE thanks you for your patience as we work through this major transition. Please contact our office at 227-7239 or oipe@wcu.edu if you have any questions regarding this transition or if you have any data needs.