

Faculty Activity Reporting System Steering Committee

December 16, 2010, 4 p.m., Provost's Conference Room (and conference call)

Members and Staff Present:

Steve Warren, Chair; Barbara Romzek, Diane Goddard, Mary Lee Hummert, Ben Eggleston, Joshua Rosenbloom, Deb Teeter, Ryan Cherland, Paul Terranova (by phone), Kevin Boatright

Agenda

1. Academic Analytics
2. FAR System Vendor
3. Next Steps

Academic Analytics Discussion

The meeting began with a review of work under way involving KU and Academic Analytics, a subscription service that enables universities to index and compare the scholarly productivity of faculty. KU is now a subscriber. Preliminary information focuses on 2008 data provided for tenured and tenure-track faculty and associated doctoral programs. The 2009 data from Academic Analytics will include research centers. Since our academic structure has changed since 2008, we are making efforts to align the data with our current structure. The 2009 data feed will build upon the 2008 clean-up and is expected to be available in February or March.

FAR System Vendor Discussion

Milwaukee-based Digital Measures <http://www.digitalmeasures.com/> has provided a quote for a phased implementation of their faculty activity reporting system. This would take place in the spring of 2011 and involve the School of Music. The School of Business will be offered the opportunity to also be an 'early adopter' since it is up for reaccreditation in 2012 and could make use of the resulting reports that are designed explicitly for AACSB requirements.

The plan is to contract the entry of faculty data into the system to make the implementation less onerous for faculty. Music is considered a good test case because much of its scholarly activity involves performance. Business is a more conventional school and a better case for other kinds of scholarly activity.

It was noted that the Faculty Senate Research Committee is interested in learning more about the outcomes of General Research Fund awards. The Digital Measures system permits the tagging and customization of data and reports at multiple levels. The kind of manual coding required today for the annual National Science Foundation survey of federally funded science and engineering research could be included in the faculty activity system. The same may be true for documentation of community-engaged scholarship.

It was noted that the data are ours that are entered into the system so we have maximum flexibility if we find the system not meeting our expectations and decide to try other alternatives.

The phased implementation could extend to the Medical Center, perhaps in the School of Allied Health and one department of the School of Medicine.

It was proposed that we have a second visit from Digital Measures, involving Music, Business and proposed KUMC participants. It would be good to do this in late January or early February, with 90-minute demonstrations for the stakeholder committees at both campuses and a hands-on option involving a login ID so you could access it anywhere. In advance, we could submit a set of actual CVs to see how well Digital Measures enters the information. (Note: In a subsequent conversation with Digital Measures we learned that they do not have a 'test environment' that would provide the opportunity for faculty to log into the system to try it out. However, they can set up a webinar that will permit some interaction with the system. They are exploring the possibility of entering the vita of a KU faculty member to help make the exploration of the system more real.)

We will look at their client list and talk to some of them as references. Ideally, at least Music can be implemented this spring. Both Music and Business will be approached about scheduling faculty meetings to discuss their early participation in the project.

Other Business

It was noted that the November 2 and 9 stakeholder committees at Lawrence and KUMC went well and were heavily attended. A Faculty Activity Reporting System website is online at <http://www.rgs.ku.edu/far/>. It contains video of the November 2 meeting, the PowerPoint presentation that was used, minutes of Steering Committee meetings, FAQs, links to vendors, and a feedback mechanism.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. No date was set for subsequent meetings, but they will likely coincide with the Digital Measures demonstrations.

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