The Research Work Group
Key to Designing Self-Service Research Tools

Kelly Locke, Project Director, Title V Grant
Stanley Crane, Project Director, Title V Grants

Hartnell College
Introduction and Overview

Who are we?

What is the Research Work Group?

Why are we here (and why do you care)?
Catalysts for Development

Grant Objective: increase research capacity
No Director of Research or Research Office
Limited programmer time
Need for self-service tools
So What?

What we developed wasn’t entirely intentional, but...

End result is replicable.

Limitations led to creative solutions.

Process is worth sharing.
Early Successful Strategies

Support
Membership
Goals
Patience
Support

VP level support
  ● but not control
  ● let the group determine direction

Supported by grant
  ● time and attention
  ● grant objective based
  ● funded an “embedded” programmer
Membership

Initially grant related
- Project Director
- Activity Directors
- faculty
- programmer
- research analyst
- widened later
Goals

Grant objectives gave clear initial direction

Student success data in particular courses
  • Tools broad enough for all courses

Grant reporting requirements

Initial goals were clear and limited
Patience

No assumption that answers were known

Administrative support and patience

Patience with process
  • Members learned
  • Deep, rich discussion
    “What is the question?”
So What?

Essential Membership
- Cabinet level support/leadership
  - With
- Faculty—leaders, politically astute, with data needs
- Research knowledge—some members
- Programmer
- Staff—knowledge of data structure and entry (SIS)
Initial Projects

Web-based, self-service tools

Open-source code

Refined based on faculty needs
  Progression by C students
  Define cohort by course(s)
Academic Success Research Tool 2

How well does "X" predict course success?

Brown predictors are the preferred. Green Predictors are the "would be nice".

We need to flag any outcome that is less than 20 students.

Term (Fall, Spring, Summer)

Course

Year

Status

New

Returning

Student
Other Early Work

Training Workshops

Professional Development Days

Assisted Faculty with Program Planning Data

One-on-one Assistance
So What?

Directed by practitioner needs

Responsive

Empowering

Grant funded, broad focus
Transition to Institutionalization

Institutional Reorganization

Expanded

Membership

Direction

Training
Institutional Reorganization

Multiple times since ’07

Challenge, but..

Work of group continued.
Expanded Membership

Invited:

All Deans and VPs
  Student Affairs
  IT
  Research and Institutional Effectiveness

Interested faculty

Staff with related work
Expanded Direction

Business Intelligence Software
  Cognos

Consultant
  Reports created to specifications

Ad Hoc reporting available
  Some users
Expanded Direction

Beyond student success tools
  FTES, etc.
  ODS and finding data anomalies
  Program Planning process

Increasing Research Capacity
  Currently 2 analysts
  Research Work Group
  Complementary work
Expanded Training

Training on software

Training for others
  Business Office Staff
  HR
  Other grants
  Committee chairs

Research webpage
So What?

Patience with new membership

Committed core membership

Perspectives vary

Broad knowledge base
Value of Group

Provides:
- Ability for faculty to investigate
- Assistance to “data novices”
- Diverse set of eyes on the data
Value of Group

Provides:
  Vetting of research reports/tools

  Refinement of research questions

Place to slow down and think deeply
  Meaningful to us
  Impacts
  Long-term research projects
Thank you!

Stan Crane
scrane@hartnell.edu

Kelly Locke
klocke@hartnell.edu