Faculty-Researcher Interaction: Balancing the Multitude of Demands

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Role of the Researcher

- Reporting
  - Federal – IPEDS, Gainful Employment
  - State – apportionment, MIS, Student Success Scorecard, Student Equity, Student Success & Support Program, Basic Skills Initiative
  - Accreditation – Comprehensive, Annual, special reports
- District/College
  - Enrollment management
  - Planning & Review
  - Assessment validation studies
  - Course requisite studies
  - Community, student and staff surveys
  - Environmental scans for strategic planning
  - Administrative and Board requests
  - Predictive analytics (for early alert, target interventions, etc.)
- Project/program evaluation
- Grant proposal development and reporting
- Ad hoc requests
Faculty Perspective on Research

- What do faculty need data for?
  - Curriculum development
  - Program modification or creation
  - SLO assessment
  - Grant applications
  - Other
- How do faculty see the researcher’s role?
Making Data Relevant to the Classroom

- What can researchers do to help make data useful for faculty?
  - Consider access and ease of use; avoid cognitive strain
  - Good visualizations
  - Provide both leading and lagging indicators

- How can researchers help faculty make sense of data?
  - Humanize the data, co-translate findings as answers to faculty questions
Respecting Each Other’s Roles

- Faculty should welcome researchers’ help, not be territorial
- Researchers should respect faculty purview, especially in terms of curriculum
- Quantitative data usually only speaks to the what but not the why. Faculty can often provide essential contextual information.
Developing a Research Agenda

- What is a research agenda?
- No one way to do it, but need a good process.
- What needs to be considered?
- Who needs to be involved and how?
- Be focused, practical, and realistic
Start by asking meaningful questions about our students and programs
Make data analysis a regular aspect of discussions
Consider quantitative and qualitative data
Ask how we will know if we are achieving what we intend
Need for Resources

- For research to be effective, the institution must provide adequate support.
  - People
  - Tools
  - Time
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