TracDat at Austin College: Introduction to the roll-out for Student affairs directors

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TracDat – an archive and reporting system

- Is a systematic approach that establishes a common understanding and language regarding institutional goals and success in achieving them;
- It allows us to define and align goals among all levels of the institution and compile information;
- We will document how results are used to improve programs and learning – for ourselves and others;
- You will ultimately be able to develop, review and revise your work in TracDat from any Web browser.
What makes a system like this necessary?

- **Pressures locally:**
  - Board of trustees
  - Institutional advancement
  - Institutional enrollment

- **Pressures nationally and regionally:**
  - Federal requirements regarding consumer information
  - National competition among liberal arts institutions
  - SACS -- we don’t have until 2019 (our next decennial review) but in 2014 will submit a 5th year review
Some elements of the Fifth Year Review

- The institution provides student support programs, services, and activities consistent with its mission. *(Core Requirement 2.10)*
- The institution evaluates success with respect to student achievement including, as appropriate, consideration of course completion, State licensing examination, and job placement rates. *(Federal Requirement 4.1)*
- The institution has adequate procedures for addressing written student complaints and is responsible for demonstrating that it follows those procedures when resolving student complaints. *(Federal Requirement 4.5)*
- Recruitment materials and presentations accurately represent the institution’s practices and policies. *(Federal Requirement 4.6)*
My purpose today

- Show you what TracDat looks like in broad terms as well as in some of your programs;
- Illustrate what has been (or will be) loaded into TracDat for your program;
- Introduce TracDat;
- Answer your questions.
Why can’t you just dive in?

- TracDat is a lot like Datatel -- it has tremendous power but only a few of us will be “superusers”;
- This introduction *simply* asks you to review previously provided information;
- You will see your program mission and intended outcomes submitted as long ago as 2008;
- They may not reflect your current views;
- There is no point in building an assessment plan using old and inappropriate goals.
If I’m lucky, what next?

- When you will open your program in TracDat, you will be pleased with the mission statement and goals provided in the past;
- You will look at the goals and easily envision where and how those goals are assessed or can be;
- Then you will plan to work on how to enter assessment evidence you have collected and plan for the 2011-2012 year.
What if I am not so lucky?

- When you look at the mission statement for the program and/or the goals, you will **not** be pleased;
- You will look at the documents we have placed in your documents file and realize **you have a lot to think about**;
- You will want to print a number of screens and documents and **make plans for the remainder of the spring**.
How can Karen help?

- Work with you during a session later this month;
- Meet with you and/or your department to talk about what needs to be done;
- Suggest ways in which your program goals seem to relate to the mission, general education, HEOA, and strategic planning goals;
- Continue to meet with you as you need help during the spring or summer.
How TracDat changes things -- why it’s worth it

• You used to send things to IR that got loaded onto an IR server and you never saw them again;
• You will never again have to submit an APR or A&E;
• TracDat creates your personal archive of important documents and information;
• It enables Marjorie and senior leadership to extract data across programs without bothering you at all;
• It ensures that you hold the “big picture” in mind at least once a year -- why is what you do critical to our achieving the mission of Austin College?