Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) Disclosure Requirements

The HEOA of 2008 includes many reporting and disclosure requirements. A disclosure requirement is information that a college or a university should make available to the students, parents, alumni or the public. A reporting requirement is information submitted to the US Dept of Education or other government agencies. We always pay full and immediate attention to reporting requirements. The disclosure requirements have not received much attention mainly because the DOE and its data wing the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) have been slow in clarifying and publicizing them. The clarification process is now complete and institutions are expected to be fully compliant before long.

The requirements are wide-ranging and involve a broad group of administrative, student and academic support departments.

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Assessment of Administrative and Academic Support Units, 2009-10

A reminder to administrative and academic support units—your assessment reports for 2008-09 and the assessment plans for 2009-10 are due by the end of November 30, 2009. Please note that the Periodic Review Report for Middle States will be submitted in Spring 2011 and your assessment plan for 2009-10 and the follow-up report will become part of the narrative in the Periodic Review Report. If you are a department that needs to comply with the HEO Disclosure Requirements, please make it part your department’s assessment plan for 2009-10.

The ground has shifted quite a bit since the last visit by the Middle States, when assessment of learning outcomes was all the rage. It is still very important but within the overall framework of institutional effectiveness. As you can gather from the Federal Disclosure requirements, consumer accountability now occupies the front and the center.

The assessment report forms are now located in the Content Collection section of the webcampus which you can access using your webmail userid and password. Please contact me at govindan@fdu.edu for instructions to access the forms. If you are new to FDU and unfamiliar with the assessment process, I am available to meet with you.

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1. Assessment of Administrative and Academic Support Units
The requirements are grouped into two broad categories: Non-loan related disclosures and disclosures relating to educational loans. It is no longer enough that we have policies and data--institutions are now required to make them available and easily accessible to consumers in multiple ways. In addition, there are also new policies to implement and new information to gather.

All in all, the offices most directly impacted are Admissions, Financial Aid, Enrollment Services, Student Accounts, all branches of Student Services, Public Safety, Athletics, Institutional Research, Career Services, OIRT, Human Resources and the Campus provosts.

To help you navigate this maze, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment has posted several informative documents on its webpage under HEA Institutional Disclosures Requirements. Read first the Summary of HEA Institutional disclosure requirements and the HEA Disclosure Information. These two documents provide a list of all the requirements and the various formats and ways in which the information are to be disseminated to the consumers. The remaining documents expand on the first two documents with substantial details.

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment will work with the University Provost and the Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer in implementing this very important federal mandate.