

From Data to Decisions

Scaling Analytical Capabilities to Drive Change

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Foundational to Success Efforts



Targeting Data Where and When IT Can Make a Difference





Right Intervention

- Advising conversations
- Academic support
- Behavior 'nudges'



Right Student

- High attrition risk
- Off-path choices or behaviors
- Struggling with major process



Right Time

- Head off poor decision
- Mitigate problems
- Plan effectively



Right Data

- Retention risk models
- Process completion
- Service utilization



Right Partner

- Advising staff
- Academic faculty
- Admissions/Fin. Aid
- Campus services



Right Time

- JIT capacity adjustments
- Regular analysis
- Emergency outreach



Provides Value

and Support

Where IT

- 1 Current State of Decision Support in Higher Education
- 2 Three Tactics to Empower Your Analytics Staff
- 3 Promote Data-Informed Decisions With SSC Campus



Current State of Decision Support in Higher Education

PART

Decision Support the Goal, Not Data Support



Fundamentals of Analytics Only Get Us so Far

"A Common Currency" Was an Important Step in the Right Direction...



Sustainable Data Governance

- Institutional ownership of data
- Common data definitions



Improved Data Quality

- Poor quality data identification
- Standardized entry processes



Role-Based Data Access Models

- Scalable methods for permissions
- Less subjective criteria for access

...But Better Data Doesn't Mean Better Decisions



Perfect Data Warehouse

- · All-encompassing
- Perfectly clean data



Better Decisions

- More-informed
- Made faster
- With better outcomes



"When it comes to setting the course for the university, it is critical that decisions be made using the most current and relevant data possible."

Sam Houston State University Office of the President Performance Report

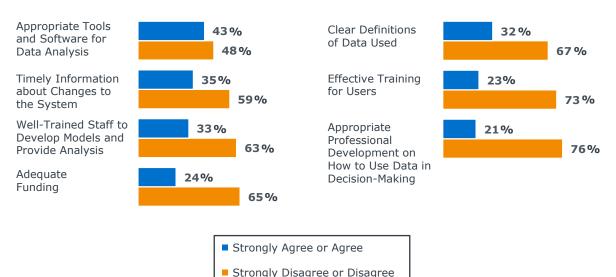
Performance Gap Remains Low Across the Board

Tools, Communications, Resources—All Unsatisfactory

Decision Support Missing the Mark with Academic Leaders¹

Deans and Department Chairs' Agreement Level with Provision of Analytical Support, 2014

n = 209 +



¹⁾ Numbers fail to add up to 100% because "Don't Know" was excluded. ©2017 EAB • All Rights Reserved • eab.com

Use of Data Anticipated to Increase

Expectations for CIOs to Deliver on Decision Support Growing in Parallel

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Feeling the Pressure

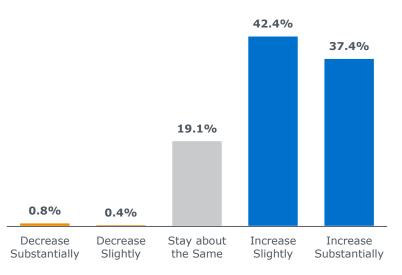
"Attention on analytics is everywhere; it's pervasive. The CIO's role is not perfectly clear, but it is clear that analytics is a critical issue for many senior leaders at the institution."

Dana Roode Chief Information Officer University of California, Irvine

Demand for Data Expected to Grow

Deans and Department Chairs' Anticipation for Change in Usage of Analytics in Next Year, 2014

n=262



Data at the Expense of Insights?



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Efforts Well-Intended, but Not Best Serving Institutional Needs

More Data Not Leading to Insights











More Reports

More Ad Hoc Requests

Fewer Insights

What Is Strategic Business Intelligence?











Proactive Education Rather than Reactive Reporting

More Insights

A Lesson from Attention Economics

"A wealth of information creates a poverty of attention and a need to allocate that attention efficiently among the overabundance of information sources that might consume it."

Herbert A. Simon Economist

Performance Indicators

More Kev

Fewer Reports,

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Source: EAB interviews and analysis.

BI Inundated with Requests...



...At Expense of Predictive, Prescriptive Analyses



Struggling to Be Strategic

"We continue to need to be reactive, to jump in and help to fix problems, which really is sucking away bandwidth to focus on strategic areas and otherwise contribute our expertise to campus."

Anja Canfield-Budde Director of Enterprise Data and Analytics University of Washington



Estimated Time Spent on Ad Hoc Requests

25-100%



Significant Money and Time Expenditures

\$10,000

per ad hoc report request (fully loaded cost) 3-6

week backlog for typical unitlevel requests 3,500

hours spent on ad hoc reporting over 12 months at one research university

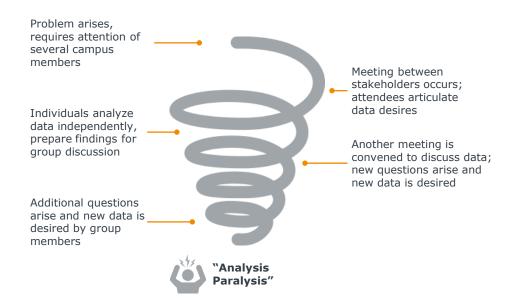


Lack of Reliable Data Causes Fewer Decisions

Decision Making Often Suffers in Highly Analytical Environments

Decision Making Process Iterative by Nature

Each Discovery or Point of Skepticism Leads to an Additional Area of Inquiry





Three Ways to Empower Your Analytics Staff

PART

- · Upskill Distributed Analytics Staff
- · Promote Single Versions of the Truth
- Enhance User-Friendliness of Self-Service Resources

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Expectations Developing Faster than Support

Struggling to Educate for Data-Informed Decision Making

"

We Must Become Data-Informed...

"At [Arizona State University], I could see that we would not be able to innovate fast enough without analytics. Without analytics, we can't understand what's going on, we can't understand the complexity of what we're trying to do, and we can't measure our progress. We needed tools to help us make better decisions—about everything... Every facet of the institution requires robust analytics."

Michael Crow President Arizona State University

...But Are We Ready?

"An increasing number of managers must take action based on analytical results. But unlike the earlier adopters who embraced analytical approaches, these more recent adopters are not as well versed in the concepts, tools, systems and techniques of contemporary analytics. They are not comfortable making decisions based on analytical approaches that they do not fully understand. Yet they must still make these decisions."

Kimberly Holmes Senior Vice President of Strategic Analytics XL Group

"



Data and Analytics Functions across Campus

Everyone Wants in on the Data Action

Q: What Do These Units All Have in Common?

Information Technology



Office of Advancement



Enrollment Management



Provost's Office



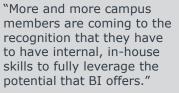
School of Medicine



College of Engineering



Beyond Central Abilities



David Swartz Chief Information Officer American University

A: All of these units have their own decision support functions—individual staff or entire teams—acting independently of each other, and often with legacy skillsets

Leveraging Internal Intelligence



Partnering with the Business School for Analyst-Level Training



Partnership Elevates Capabilities of Distributed Analysts

Information Technology

- Data Science:
 Data management and manipulation
- Analytical Tool Use:
 Data navigation,
 retrieval, filtering, and mining

Technical Insight



Business School

- Visual Communication:
 Creating charts and graphics
 that convey meaning to others
- Change Management:
 Converting knowledge of data analysis to policy and practice changes

Business Problem Insight



Returning the Favor

Business intelligence staff can teach courses or individual lectures on topics such as data visualization or information management.

It Takes a Village



Leveraging Community Expertise to Solve Individuals' Problems

University of Michigan's Analytics and Business Intelligence Community Proving Popular



>400

members in Google+ community

Topic Areas:

- · Announcements
- Tips and Questions
- Career Opportunities
- Emerging Tools
- Training Resources
- News

Large, Active Community Leads to Same-Day Answers with Minimal IT Involvement

Wendy B, Sept. 25:

"Is anyone familiar with Level of Detail expressions? I'm trying to calculate a rate of events in a hierarchy using an overall total as a denominator... but when I attempt to look at one event type in a control chart, the denominator changes to the count of rows with that event, despite the EXCLUDE..."

Rachel R, Sept. 25:

"Here's an article that helped me..."

Wendy B, Sept. 25:

"That was **exactly** the answer I needed! Thank you so much!"



Decision Support from a User's View

Every Hurdle Not Cleared = New Ad Hoc Request for Your Team

Many Hurdles in the Way of Self-Service





Format Frustrations

Content from analytical tools formatted in ways that make sense based on structure of data, but not how people make decisions



Use Uncertainty

Campus member struggles with the question, "What does this data even mean?"











New Request

User concludes it may be easier to email someone for the data; new ad hoc request entered into queue



New Request

User concludes it may be easier to submit a ticket to the IT help desk for the data; new ad hoc request entered into queue



New Request

User calls BI team to ask questions about what the data within a report means and how the report could be used

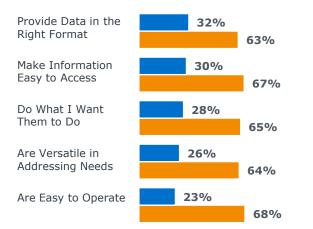
Usability Gets an F

Self-Service Impossible without Tools Easy to Operate and Navigate

Analytics Tool Experience Unsatisfying¹

Deans and Department Chairs' Observations of Data Analytics Tools, 2014

n = 215



Strongly Agree or AgreeStrongly Disagree or Disagree

Analytics a Chore

"Overall, academic leaders do not find the data analytics tools available to them to be particularly usable... In fact, not a single respondent strongly agreed that their institution's data analytics tools were easy to operate."

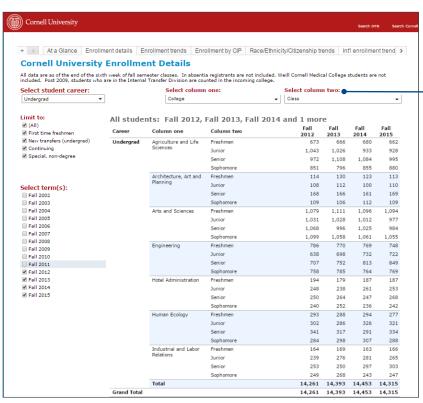
Lisa Helmin Foss AVP and Associate Provost Strategy, Planning, and Effectiveness Saint Cloud State University

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Cornell Moves to Six Interactive Workbooks for Simple Fact Finding





Simple Filters Based on Common Requests to IR

Enrollment quick data finder column options include:

- College
- Sex
- Minority
- Race/Ethnicity
- Degree Objective
- Class
- Sector (Endowed/Contract)
- On/Off Campus
- Home State at Matriculation

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First Stop for Basic Data Needs

IR Staff Push Factbook as the Go-to Resource

IR Responses to Data Requests Teach Users to Fish for Themselves

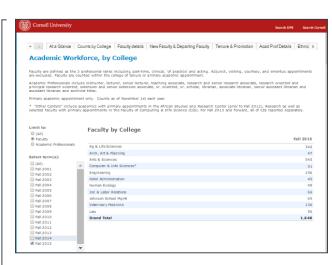


"What percent of faculty at Cornell are in the College of Engineering?"

"Have you checked the Factbook? You can find the answer in the 'Academic Employees' workbook under the 'Counts by College' view. Here's how to get to the data..."





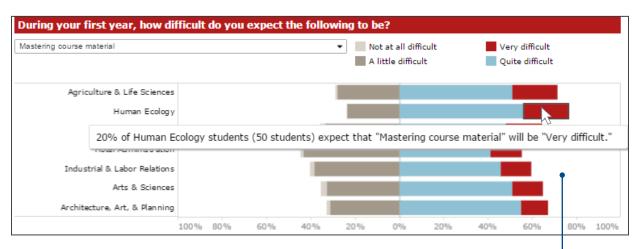


- 1. Access the Factbook through the IR website
- In the "Academic Employees" workbook, go to the "Counts by College" view
- Select 'Faculty' and 'Fall 2015' (the definition of faculty is above the table)
- 4. Use the counts to obtain the percent of faculty in the College of Engineering

Encouraging Data Literacy



Translating Visualizations into Descriptive Text to Avoid Misinterpretations





One Right Way

20% of Human Ecology students expect that "Mastering course material" will be "very difficult."



Easy to Get It Wrong

20% of students who expect that "Mastering course material" will be "very difficult" are Human Ecology students.



IR staff edit the default text provided in Tableau's Tooltips to read more naturally.



Challenge



Inconsistent data quality has trained campus members to be skeptical of data resources



Provide a visual indication of the potential underlying data quality to better inform decision makers about the appropriate level of caution (or lack of need for caution) when viewing the data



Campus leaders lack standardized metrics to compare academic programs across campus



Collaborate with institution leaders on the appropriate metrics to be standardized for routine comparisons and decision making, obtain their mandate to collect metrics from distributed units



Promoting Data-Informed Decisions With SSC Campus



