

Session 3 | Friday, October 1

Did you miss Session 2 of the APS Virtual Summit Series last week? Here's a summary to catch you up on the *Presentation with Middle Tennessee State University: Hardwiring Data into Academic Resource Decision-Making and Generating Buy-In to Support Institutional Goals*.

- **Lack of data-informed understanding of program health drove annual health check-up process**
Lack of data standardization and reporting prompted MTSU to develop an annual health check-up process. Through the development of a templated report, inclusion of data from APS and other sources, and clear expectations, MTSU now has a better way of assessing program health.
- **Senior leadership support aided the initiative's roll out**
This initiative was centrally led by the Provost's Office, including Provost Mark Byrnes, Rebecca Cole (Associate Provost for Academic Administration and Resources), and Dr. Brian Hinote (Professor and Associate Vice Provost for Data Analytics & Student Success), with support from Dr. Rick Sluder (Vice Provost for Student Success).
- **Broad feedback and input with relevant stakeholders improved support for the health check-ups**
Planning included choosing APS metrics for their template, communicating expectations to deans and department chairs, collecting feedback from various bodies (e.g., Faculty Senate, Deans Council, Chairs Council), and iterating on their template and process.
- **Centrally prepared reports accelerated conversations about specific action items**
MTSU chose to complete the template for each department, rather than have department leaders fill it out on their own. They sent the completed report and raw data to each dean and chair in preparation for each department's meeting with the Provost. In the meetings, the Provost tasked each dean and chair with action items to guide their decision-making throughout the academic year.
- **Key lessons learned from the first iteration of this process included:**
 - Prepare your talking points! Be ready to respond to comments like, "The data aren't correct," and more.
 - Keep medium- and long-term objectives in mind, because change doesn't happen overnight.
 - Iterate! Formalize time to gather feedback and make changes to best fit your institution.
- **Connecting the process to faculty line requests reinforced its value to chairs and program leaders**
MTSU applied lessons learned from annual health checks to their new faculty line request process that occurred in Spring 2021. Different from the annual health check-ups, users were expected to provide their own completed reports. To support, Brian/Becky provided users with a series of trainings, office hour sessions and resources (e.g., how-to guide, videos).

Session 2 recording, slides, and worksheet will be available online.

In this session, you'll have an opportunity to engage with other attendees in large topic-based discussion groups. Use the rest of this worksheet to record notes and ideas to chat about with your colleagues or Strategic Leader.

1 What is your discussion topic? Check the applicable box.

Launching annual unit health check-ups (facilitated by Rilie Sibold, Academic Planning and Budget Officer at Washburn University)

Creating a support infrastructure (facilitated by Josephine Rodriguez, Director of Assessment at Western New England University)

Building trust in the data (facilitated by Dr. Louis Slimak, Assistant Provost for Curriculum and Assessment at West Virginia University)

- 2 Start by jotting down a few questions that you have for other attendees in your group. Then, use the rest of this space for open notes from the conversation:

- 3 Are there any partners you would like to connect with in follow up? If so, we encourage you to exchange contact information by private messaging the contact in the Chat. You can also reach out to your Strategic Leader to facilitate the connection.

- 4 What were your biggest takeaways from the discussion? What insights or ideas will you apply to your institution's annual health check-up process, support infrastructure, or data trust building efforts?