

# Institutional Research & Quality Improvement

IR&QI advances the University's mission through the collection and analysis of data to inform decision-making, planning, and policy. In addition, the office provides planning and assessment consultation to facilitate and support continuous improvement.

## Strengths

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- The IR&QI strategic plan was fully vetted and is currently being implemented. A primary focus is “how can we do things better even though we anticipate declining resources?”
- We are well-integrated with our campus colleagues and work effectively with external constituencies.
- We have made data more accessible across campus so actions and improvements can be addressed at the local level (e.g., Academic Analytics access, faculty salary equity charts, School/College indicators, etc.).
- We have taken a leadership role when addressing critical campus issues (e.g., AAU Sexual Assault Survey, COACHE, Faculty Salary Equity study, Campus Climate survey, etc.) that require coordination, analysis, and recommendations.
- Our involvement in program assessment allows us to assist programs beyond that process (e.g., assessment of student learning, department improvement functions, etc.).
- We understand and integrate data from multiple systems (e.g., student, HR, etc.).
- QI team continues to lead important campus and UM System process improvement initiatives (e.g., international admissions, EPM SIS solution, extended transcript, etc.).
- Ability to integrate data from multiple systems (e.g., student, HR, finance, research, etc.).

## Weaknesses

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- More urgent, immediate demands placed on the office coupled with a less than optimal data system (although improving)

make it challenging to take on more significant, strategic projects that could serve the campus as a whole.

- We've lost a position, have one person transferring to a new department, and another assisting the Provost's office (will discuss further in opportunities).
- We have made positive strides, however, there are process improvement efforts specific to IR&QI that are not complete (e.g., enhanced census tables, revised website, improved data visualization, etc.).

## Opportunities

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- The loss of the position and movement of staff gives us the opportunity to rethink those positions and responsibilities. How can we meet the needs of the campus?
- Can we identify offices (e.g., Enrollment Mgmt, EDW&R, Graduate Studies, etc.) with which we can collaborate (e.g., improve efficiencies, reduce duplication, etc.)?
- The growing interest in making data-informed decisions provides the opportunity to explore and propose potential campus-wide solutions.

## Threats

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- Data tools and availability enables skilled as well as less skilled individuals to serve in an analytical capacity.
- Recent UM & MU administrative instability has contributed to less specific campus priorities.
- Uncertainty per the new administration's impact on higher education, data, etc.