Library Assessment Forum

LibValue Commons Study
Teresa B. Walker
January 24, 2014
Overview: Commons Study

Is there a link between student use of commons spaces and student success?
## Data vs. Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we had...</th>
<th>What we needed...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Automatically collected usage</td>
<td>• Student reported usage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Service point</td>
<td>• Student reported value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Demographic data</td>
<td>• PTD data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• LibQual</td>
<td>• Augmented University data set for tracking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Student exit surveys</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NSSE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New University Data Set

- Admissions and demographic data
- Associated Survey ID
  - Year of birth (YYYY)
  - Sex
  - Ethnicity
  - Year started at UTK
  - ACT and/SAT or equivalent score
  - HS GPA
  - Transfer student? (Y or N)
  - Year and Term of survey (YYTT)
- Progress-towards-degree data
- Associated Survey ID
  - Major
  - Cumulative GPA
  - Cumulative Credit Hours
  - Class Standing
  - Year and Term of posting
  - Progress-towards-degree data (YYTT)
Two Surveys

In Person
• Services used in the Commons on a typical visit
• Distributed in person for one week Summer and Fall 2011
• 957 respondents

In Class
• Use of Commons services and spaces / Feelings about the value of the Commons to experience at UT
• Communication Studies 210/240 students (Gen Ed)
• 20% response rate from total course enrollment/
• 145 respondents (125 linked to student data)
Why ROI?

Changes in the Higher Ed Landscape

• Complete College TN Act 2010 - a new funding formula, which incorporates outcomes in lieu of enrollment

• Top25 initiative – this comes with five strategic priorities, two of which are undergraduate education and infrastructure resources

• Library’s strategic plan directly tied to campus plan

• SACS
The Five Top 25 Strategic Priorities

- Undergraduate Education
- Graduate Education
- Research and Creative Activity
- Faculty and Staff
- Infrastructure and resources
## Findings

### Top 25 Action Plan

**Priority 1 - Recruit, develop, and graduate a diverse body of undergraduate students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>2010 BASELINE</th>
<th>2012 ASSESSMENT</th>
<th>TWO-YEAR PROGRESS</th>
<th>CHANGE IN GAP TO TOP 25 TARGET 2010-2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT Equivalent (75th/25th Percentile)</td>
<td>20/24</td>
<td>29/24</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>UTK Remains at Peer Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention Rate (1st to 2nd Year)</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>+1 pt</td>
<td>No Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-Year Graduation Rate</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>+3 pts</td>
<td>Favorable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Top 25 Progress Report: The Journey So Far November 9, 2012
Define *Student Success*

The retention rate had hovered between 75% and 80% for over a decade...

① UT is too large and impersonal

② I had trouble adjusting personally to UT

③ I did not feel like I was part of the university
Findings

To what Extent does the Commons...

- Help you do better in class
- Make studying more enjoyable
- Make you feel more involved in the university
- Promote learning
- Serve as a place to meet people

- Very Much
- Quite a Bit
- Some
Findings

To what extent does the Library Commons provide spaces for:

![Graph showing the extent of spaces provided for different activities]

- Very Much
- Quite a Bit
- Some
- Very Little

Activities:
- Collaboration
- Conversation
- Group Work
- Individual Study
Findings

Percentage of all respondents vs. top students

Research Assistance  Tutoring  Computer Support

All  GPA > 3.5

GPA > 3.5

Percentage of all respondents vs. top students
Findings

Percentage of all students vs. percentage of at-risk students

- Research Assistance
- Tutoring
- Computer Support

Legend:
- **All**
- **GPA < 3.0**
Findings

- 90% said the Commons provides resources they need for class
- 74% said that using the Commons helps them do better in class
- 85% said the Commons is a place to get help with assignments
- 95% said the Commons spaces facilitate group work and collaboration
Findings

Do your instructors suggest that you use the Commons?

“Everyone talked about it!”

1. Instructors and Professors
2. Orientation
3. Other Campus Units (SSC, CIE, Honors Program, Athletic Center)
Sustainability

• Combine branches of survey to include all informal learning spaces and not just the commons

• If you’re going to build the space, library or otherwise, what do you need to know? What is it about the space that contributes to student success?

• Don’t just survey once and follow the cohort. Continue to survey and follow.