UAB Faculty Activities Committee
Tuesday, April 29, 2014
12:00 – 1:00 pm
Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Room 241C

Members present:  Phillip Borden, David Chaplin, Bob Garrie, Mia Geisinger, Lauretta Gerrity, Jeffrey Graveline, Ashley Hodges Gregg Janowski, Gerald McGwin, Ronan O'Beirne, Midge Ray, Doug Rigney; Larry Tyson

1. Welcome and Project Update – Midge Ray welcomed the committee members and introductions were made.  A show of hands was done to indicate who would be at UAB over the summer. Since the majority will be on campus we will continue with monthly meetings.  Committee members who are on 9 month appointments will not be expected to attend; however we will continue to update everyone on the implementation via the meeting notes.

   A list of committee members was circulated for members to verify that their name and title appears correct. This list will be posted on the UAB Faculty Profiles webpage.

   On Monday 19th, Dr. Austin and Midge will be making a presentation to all of the UAB Deans about the Faculty Profiles tool and during the Fall Term a presentation will be made to the UAB Faculty Senate.

   Based on a recommendation from Symplectic we have added two librarians, one from Mervyn Sterne and one from Lister Hill, to participate in the Thursday Workgroup Meetings. They will provide input on the publication piece and as we roll out the tool to other schools additional librarians will be added.

2. Implementation Status – Phillip Borden updated the group on the implementation of the tool. We are in process of meeting with people from Banner and IRAP to discuss the specific data points that will be downloaded into the system. In some cases the data field type will have to be customized but we need to avoid making too many custom fields as it affects the ability to aggregate data and functionality of the tool.

3. Faculty Profile Webpage – Midge showed the group a draft of the Faculty Profiles webpage that is under development.  Once it is ready for distribution she will send a link and assist with the communication plan for sending out to the faculty.

4. Meeting with Symplectic – Ronan O'Beirne gave an overview of the face-to-face meeting with Symplectic held on April 15th.

   • We confirmed that we are a relatively early adopter, so without significant background on how other institutions have customized the various modules of the system, it is important for us to involve faculty from the schools in determining some portion of the types and fields we will need in the system, and it's also important for faculty to understand that they will be working with a product that may not have 100% of content or functions that they might expect to see

- Implementation will require a point person at each school level, and possibly at the department level. These individuals will need to have access to source systems such as banner and Oracle, and be a conduit for questions and issues related to the system.
- Other implementations have involved extensive input from library representatives
  - We intend to work with library representatives for each school to help facilitate implementation of the publications module
  - As noted above we have recruited two librarians to participate in the weekly workgroup meetings
  - Symplectic indicates that library representatives will be particularly helpful to faculty in determining search criteria for identifying and importing new publications.
- We established some of the technical limitations of the system and got some answers to lingering technical questions; for example:
  - Currently, files cannot be uploaded to the system, it is not a file repository
  - The latest iteration includes a tool to create a NIH bio sketch and CV and the NSF functionality will be added later
  - We can edit field names to fit UAB-specific terminology
  - Symplectic representatives are checking on the extent to which we can customize the login page and branding on the home page
- Once we start importing data into the system, we will set up regular meetings with Symplectic representatives to discuss any technical issues.

5. Demonstration of CV and Bio – Julia Hawks, Symplectic representative, conducted a WebEx with the group and demonstrated the new CV and bio sketch function that is in beta stage of development.

6. Points from discussion and questions

- Faculty webpages within each school will not be replaced by Faculty Profiles.
- Data on productivity imported from each school will be discussed with each school. When you allow individual faculty members or schools to import data there becomes a question about the system of truth.
- During Phase II we will look at modifying the system and tweak it for each school.
- Symplectic updates their system every two months but we are not forced to update
- Eventually, but not right now, there may be outside access to Faculty Profiles so that people with similar research interests will be able to connect to one another.

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 20th, 12:00 – 1:00 pm in the Center for Teaching and Learning