Using Evidence to Improve Student Learning and Success Workshop by Linda Suskie University of Toledo April 6, 2016

## Sharing and Using Assessment Results to Improve Student Learning and Success

The University of Maumee (UM) is a fictitious public university with a mission, size, and enrollment remarkably similar to UT's. Linda will assign one of the following scenarios to your table. For your scenario, discuss the following questions:

- A. Is this good news, disappointing news, or both?
- B. Who should hear about this? (Identify up to three individuals or groups who *most* need to hear about this.)
- C. Why should they hear about this? What might they be able to do once they hear about this?
- D. What would be the best way to get this information to them?
- 1. A sizable portion of UM graduating seniors scored poorly on an assessment of their writing skills, particularly in how well they organize their papers and support their arguments.
- 2. The UM Business Administration faculty have found that the writing quality of their seniors is generally inadequate, particularly in their ability to write clearly and succinctly.
- 3. In "blind" reviews by trained writing experts, 85% of UM students' General Education capstone papers were scored "outstanding" in terms of clarity, organization, the comprehensiveness of their review of appropriate resources, and the soundness of their analysis and conclusions. Five percent were scored "very good," 5% "adequate," and 5% "inadequate."
- 4. Faculty in the UM Sociology and Anthropology program are dissatisfied with their students' skills in analyzing and evaluating information.
- 5. UM History faculty are satisfied with the grammar and mechanics of their seniors' research papers, but they are dissatisfied with their use and citations of primary and secondary sources.
- 6. In their clinical experiences, virtually all UM dental students are rated "Excellent" by their clinical supervisors on almost all observed skills. The one exception is on interpersonal communication skills with patients and their families, where students are generally rated "Adequate."
- 7. Students in the DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) program demonstrate excellent clinical skills, but some struggle to interpret numerical, statistical, and graphical information correctly.

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