

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & EVALUATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Submitted by  
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Every year is busier than the previous one, and AY 2008-2009 was no exception. The demands placed on the office increased and I'm pleased to report that the staff worked diligently to meet the demand. The year also witnessed changes within the office with the departure and arrivals of several staff members. The number and diversity of the projects completed by members of the OIR&E team was extensive. I am particularly pleased with the fact that OIR&E was once again able to provide support and services to every school (Arts & Sciences, Cummings, Dental, Engineering, Fletcher, Friedman, Medical, Sackler, and Tisch College) and division (Advancement, External Relations, Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Public Safety and UIT) within the university. A considerable amount of time and attention was devoted to supporting several major initiatives and committees:

- 1) *oversight & coordination to assure that the university is in compliance with the myriad of new reporting and disclosure requirements in the Higher Education Opportunity Act*
- 2) *coordination of all schools to insure that the university is in compliance with the new federal race and ethnicity reporting requirements*
- 3) *coordination of all schools to insure that university is meeting the requirements outlined in the New England of Schools and Colleges Accreditation Standard 4*
- 4) *the Committee on Evaluation of Educational Outcomes in Arts and Sciences*
- 5) *the Engineering Educational Objectives and Outcomes Assessment Committee*
- 6) *the Cummings Outcomes Assessment Committee*
- 7) *the Dental School Outcomes Assessment Committee*
- 8) *the Colonial Group*

- 9) *the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) U-CAN (the University and College Accountability Network) project*
- 10) *Evaluation component of the Tufts Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI)*
- 11) *Evaluation of the Tufts Campus Suicide Prevention Grant, funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA)*
- 12) *Coordination of student-related issues for the Provost's Office*

During the course of the year, members of the staff were involved with well over 100 distinct projects. These included a variety of outcomes assessment projects, consultation on research design, survey development and administration, preparation of decision support materials, and program evaluations.

Members of the staff also provided evaluation guidance and support to faculty and administrators as they prepared several major grant proposals. In addition, OIR&E processed an ever increasing number of independent data requests. Following is a sample of the many on-going activities and new initiatives that were undertaken during the 2008-2009 academic year.

## **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

Numerous projects were undertaken to assess various aspects of the undergraduate program, as well as to provide support to the graduate and professional schools. Following is a partial list of projects.

### **Admissions**

- AS&E Undergraduate Accepted Applicant Matriculant Survey & analysis
- AS&E Undergraduate Accepted Applicant Non-Matriculant Survey & analysis
- AS&E Undergraduate Inquiry Survey & analysis
- Dental Matriculating Student Survey & analysis
- Dental Non-Matriculating Student Survey & analysis

Fletcher Inquiry Student Survey  
Fletcher Matriculating Student Survey & analysis  
Fletcher Non-Matriculating Student Survey & analysis

### **Alumni Surveys & Analysis**

Cummings  
Dental  
Engineering  
Friedman Alumni & Friends  
Medical – post grad year 1  
Tisch College Alumni Civic & Political Attitudes Survey  
Young Alumni

### **Evaluations:**

Biomedical Research Experiences for Engineering Majors/BREEM  
(NIGMS)  
Clinical Translational Science Institute (NIH)  
Interdisciplinary Research Training for Veterinarians (NIDDK)  
Suicide Prevention Grant (SAMHSA)  
Tisch Scholars Program

### **Student Experience Studies:**

AS&E First Year Orientation Survey & analysis  
AS&E Retention Study  
AS&E Senior Survey & analysis  
A&S Pre-major Advising Survey & analysis  
A&S Sophomore Experience Survey & analysis  
Cummings Entering Student Survey & analysis  
Cummings Exit Survey & analysis  
Cummings Residency Survey & analysis  
Engineering First Year Pre-major Advising Survey & analysis  
Engineering Sophomore Experience Survey & analysis  
Fletcher First Year Student Survey & analysis  
Fletcher Exiting Student Survey & analysis  
GSAS & GSOE Exit Survey & analysis  
National Study of Student Engagement (NSSE)  
Tisch College Civic & Political Attitudes Survey

### **Student Services & Academic Programs:**

AS&E analysis of AMCAS data  
AS&E Counseling Services Student Satisfaction Survey & analysis  
Cummings Third & Fourth Year Outcomes Exams

Dental Post-Treatment Plan Analysis

**Administrative support:**

COACHE Faculty Survey  
Cummings Faculty Survey & analysis  
Cummings 360 Survey  
Dining Services -- Student Satisfaction Survey & analysis  
Faculty Salary – comparative analysis  
Mail Services Satisfaction Survey & analysis  
Public Safety - multiple surveys & analysis  
University Dashboard

**UNIVERSITY-WIDE COORDINATION ACTIVITIES & SHORT TERM**

**PROJECTS**

Throughout the year, the office has been called upon to provide both the coordination and collection of university-wide level information. Both internal and external constituencies use this information. Activities that fall under this category include:

Preparation & distribution of the Fact Book and Fast Facts (mini fact book)  
American Association of University Professors Annual Survey of Faculty Compensations  
College Sports Project  
College & University Personnel Association Faculty Salary Survey  
National Research Council (NRC) Assessment of Research & Doctoral Program  
New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC)  
New England Board of Higher Education Annual Survey  
U-CAN  
U.S. Department of Education IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) data collection

A variety of short-term projects were completed for several organizations within the Tufts community. These included providing responses to an ever increasing number of informational surveys, providing evaluation and survey design consultation, gathering comparative and/or longitudinal information for

**Tufts University**  
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a number of individuals or offices including, but not limited to, the President, the Provost; the Executive Vice President; various offices within Arts & Sciences; the School of Engineering; Information Technology; University Advancement; Alumni Relations; Public Relations, Operations; the Budget office; and several academic departments.

There is institutional research representation on the following university committees: Academic Council, Administrative Council, Provost's Council, University Committee on Teaching and Faculty Development, Medford Campus IRB, AS&E Admissions & Financial Aid Committee, AS&E Retention Task Force, Committee on Evaluation of Educational Outcomes in Arts and Sciences, Engineering Educational Objectives and Outcomes Assessment Committee, Faculty Information System Committee, Friedman Branding Project, IT Advisory Committee, Information Stewardship Committee, IPEDS Race/Ethnicity Project, NEASC 2013 Graduate & Professional Program Assessment, One Transcript Committee, TCSVM Outcomes Assessment Committee, TUSDM Outcomes Assessment Committee, and Tufts Open Courseware Steering Committee. In addition, I serve as the University's accreditation liaison officer to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

This year the OIR&E witnessed significant changes in both leadership and office composition. Stephanie Topping was promoted to associate director. Senior Research Analyst Thomas McGuinness departed for the University of Michigan to pursue his doctoral studies. OIR&E welcomed two new staff

members: Jennifer Reid, Research Analyst, and Annapurna Ghosh, Research and Evaluation Analyst.

Members of the staff took advantage of a number of professional development opportunities throughout the past year. Several members of the staff presented papers at national and regional professional meetings: Karen Schreiner (North East Association of Institutional Research (NEAIR) & the Association of Institutional Research (AIR); Stephanie Topping (NEAIR and Reinvention Center), and Dawn Geronimo Terkla ( 2008 Assessment Institute, American Evaluation Association, AIR, NEAIR, NEASC Self-Study Workshop, and Reinvention Center). Susan Storm attended several Tufts training courses (Digital Storefront, People Soft Comparative Financial Reports, Procurement Update, Space Survey) and participated in the inaugural Eco-Ambassador program. Stephanie Topping participated in two Tufts training courses: Manager Training and Office 2007. Karen Schreiner attended an AIR Foundations Institute, a quantitative analysis workshop and Office 2007 training. Melanie Jenkins completed two graduate level courses: program evaluation and multivariate data analysis, as well as, the following Tufts training courses: Thinwire, Office 2007, Excel 2007 and Pivot tables. She is currently enrolled in an Item Response Theory (Rasch Analysis) on-line course. Meredith Billings completed an Applied Multivariate Analysis course and attended a Structural Equation Modeling workshop.

I was an invited presenter at the Association of Institutional Research annual forum. In addition, the following articles were authored by members of the staff:

“A Mixed-Method, Longitudinal Approach to Assessing Civic Learning Outcomes” (R. JB. Tan, D.G. Terkla, and S. Topping) in Banta, Jones & Black *Designing Effective Assessment: Principles and Profiles of Good Practice*, San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2009.

“Comparison of Attitudes between Generation X and Baby Boomer Veterinary Faculty and Residents” ( L. Freeman, C. Trower, R. JB. Tan, and D. G. Terkla) *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*, vol. 36, no. 1 pp 128-134, 2009.

I continue to serve as a pre-major academic advisor and a member of the National Postsecondary Education Consortium R&D panel.