Data Governance Coordinating Committee
Meeting Notes

February 26, 2016

Present: Susannah Livingood, Carl Grant, Chris Kennedy, Dan Shuart, Erin Wolfe (remote), Joey Albin
Guests: Nick Key, JP Morgan
Absent: Terri Pinkston

1. Meeting notes

The prior meeting’s notes that were posted to the DGCC shared Google Drive folder were approved without changes. Susannah will add them to the website.

2. Review of action items

   a. Issue tracking system
      Susannah did not have anything new to report; still working on set-up.

   b. DG Executive Committee memo re technology purchases
      Susannah has not discussed this with the Provost yet. Those present didn’t know if Terri had spoken to VP Hathaway about it yet.

   c. GPA document - results of meeting
      Chris and Susannah met with a group of administrators (representatives from advising, Graduate College, ESFS, CCE, etc.) to discuss the draft GPA document prepared by DART. Many changes and amendments were suggested. The document will be revised and submitted by the appropriate DART subgroup, then submitted back to DGCC for final review.

   d. Suggested DGCC performance metrics
      Carl did some research on this topic and brought some background information for the group to review for a future discussion.

3. Informatica and D2L

Nick Key and JP Morgan from IT attended the meeting to provide additional information about the effort to extract data from the D2L learning management system that might then be used for reporting and analysis by administrators. This project has two main drivers: the OSVPP’s request for D2L data to be incorporated into the Civitas project,
and an approved OCRC request to have D2L data added to the ODS and Cognos for reporting purposes.

Nick noted that current use of D2L data is haphazard and ad hoc, given that our current implementation of D2L isn’t set up for easy reporting out of the system. Usage data can be provided, but it is a manual and complicated process. He noted that IT has begun working on setting up a more coherent and consistent data stream, but it is still in the development stage. DGCC members asked if access had been granted to any of the D2L data yet. Nick said that no, the project is still in the early stages. IT has full approval to provide data needed for the Civitas project. The request to add D2L data to the ODS is on hold, however, until a decision is made about what LMS OU will use once the current D2L contract expires. If OU changes to a new system, data in the current LMS will need to be preserved, and IT is working on a plan for that contingency.

DGCC members asked Nick to clarify the current status of the Informatica/Mulesoft implementation, including a description of what work has already been done. He said that IT personnel are currently working to optimize and catalog data sources and get them ready to make available via the Informatica platform. The tool is not yet being used for any new development in any comprehensive way.

Nick described current discussions within IT about reforming the way ODS-type data is formatted, moving away from the quasi-data warehouse environment currently available to a more layered approach. Data coming from applications would make up a first layer, one that is raw data that has not been transformed or manipulated. IT could then create a next layer above that which provides some additional formatting, calculations, filters, etc.

There was a discussion about clarifying the boundaries of when governance is required for this project. DGCC members agreed that IT can do cataloging and organizational work on operational data sources without any governance oversight. Governance input is required, however, as soon as there is any transformative work done or if the data will be accessed/used - either by other applications, in an API, or for reporting. Whether the governance body involved is the DGCC or a relevant subgroup of DART will depend on the circumstances. The DGCC is currently working with campus constituents to create needed review processes.

Nick will provide an update to the DGCC on these topics once the Informatica project is farther along. DGCC members also urged Nick to provide more information about the Informatica project to others on campus, especially to members of DART, to increase awareness of the project and counter any misinformation that might be circulating about the project’s progress.

4. Other items
No other items were discussed.