

# **SELF-STUDY: IMPROVING OUR INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS BY ENHANCING OUR ASSESSMENT CAPABILITIES**

## **MIDDLE STATES STANDARD 7: INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT**

The institution has developed and implemented an assessment process that evaluates its overall effectiveness in achieving its mission and goals and its compliance with accreditation standards.

### **UMBC SELF-STUDY CONCLUSIONS ON INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT:**

- UMBC's new strategic plan recognizes the importance of connecting goals, strategies and objectives to measures of success.
- Each academic unit undertakes its own Academic Program Review every seven years, used to guide development of that particular unit. The non-academic units are actively performing regular assessments, collecting data on the performance of key activities, and taking action based on that data.
- UMBC has a strong commitment to shared governance and regularly uses its mechanisms to share assessment information, including at the University Leadership Retreat.
- UMBC has the opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the collection of assessment data and to leverage what is now a data-rich environment (UMBC's data warehouse and REX system) to lessen the burden of collecting survey data each and every year.

### **UMBC SELF-STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS ON INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT TO AID IN THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN:**

- Integrate divisions and units assessment plans with the implementation plan and metrics articulated by the strategic plan.
- Develop a formal communication plan for how assessment results are shared to document best practice across the University.
- Encourage units to make a formal presentation of assessment data to the Council of Vice Presidents and Deans, the President's Council, and other governance groups periodically to better identify longer term trends.
- Create a college/campus-wide process that compiles the results of the APR action plans across units. To track how well institutional assessment functions in the academic units, higher level synthesis will help with planning, budgeting, and accountability.
- Align review process for centers with the review process for academic departments and programs.
- More fully utilize the data from the REX data warehouse to identify problems, possible solutions, and improve decision making.

**COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN RESEARCH,  
SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT**

**THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

**INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM AND PEDAGOGY**

**COMMUNITY AND EXTENDED CONNECTIONS**