Ralph,

An issue was suggested to me by a number of faculty, and I am going to mainline it to UCAP because of time pressures.

The issue revolves around the IRB (human subjects) approval that is necessary for any use of data collected from students if that data will be used for other than internal use.

As we move forward into the accreditation process for North Central, many departments will be conducting surveys for accreditation - senior surveys and the like. I have already talked to a person in the IRB who told me that the use of student data for accreditation would be outside the normal bounds of IRB coverage. But... she also suggested that any departments doing this might prudentely contact the IRB and get a letter for their files stating that survey data use for accreditation does not need IRB approval.

I am writing you because it might make sense for UCAP to consider requesting the IRB office to issue a blanket statement that surveys used for accreditation do not fall under the need for IRB approval.

This is almost noise level as an issue in comparison with others that UCAP has on tap now. But it is the sort of issue that if UCAP can take 5 minutes on it at one of your January meetings, it may prove useful.

---jon---