INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS & PLANNING
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The Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Planning is excited to present the latest edition of our newsletter. We hope this remains the best way to communicate with the UNI community about how we enable data-informed decision-making.

The latest addition to the IEP office is Daria Gramotieieva. Daria is pursuing a double major in Business Analytics, Statistics, and Actuarial Science at UNI. During her tenure with us, she will dedicate her efforts to conducting analysis and crunching data for our statistically intensive projects. She is originally from Chuhuiv, Kharkiv region, Ukraine, but graduated from Waverly-Shell Rock High School in May of 2023. At UNI she is also part of International Student Promoters, the Tennis Club, and Actuarial Club.

We’d like to welcome Adam Allard to the IEP office! As a senior at the University of Northern Iowa and a committed student athlete, Adam is eager to share his journey of managing academics, athletics, and the typical life of a student. With two more years ahead at UNI, Adam looks forward to excelling both on the field and in the classroom. He’s proud to have been recognized as a member of the Big 12 all-academic first team and is currently striving to maintain his high level of performance in both arenas. Outside of his athletic and academic pursuits, Adam finds joy in disc Golfing and playing video games.
In higher education, AI is emerging as a powerful agent of change, presenting the sector with unprecedented academic, ethical, and legal challenges. From administrative support to teaching and research assistance, AI is streamlining processes, augmenting human capabilities, and redefining traditional roles within universities. AI tools are being used for tasks such as data analysis, personalized tutoring, and predictive analytics, offering new insights and opportunities for improvement (Crompton et al, 2023). However, the widespread adoption of AI also raises concerns about bias, privacy, and the ethical implications of AI-powered technologies.

AI tools conduct plagiarism checks, answer questions, create study plans and even influence admission decisions based on past data. Some tools are capable of scoring personality traits, soft skills and likelihood of success based on video analysis of applicants. According to reports by USA Today, some universities have started evaluating applicants based on how they interact with school websites (Newton, 2021). Some universities in Australia even offer AI companions to students to help them study more and be more diligent with their time. Adapting curriculums and teaching methods with the aid of AI is becoming a reality as well (First Post, 2023).

Institutions must engage in transparent discussions about the impact of AI on administrative, teaching, and research practices (Hie, 2023). Frameworks for the ethical governance of AI can help ensure responsible AI use while preventing misuse and unintended consequences. Furthermore, universities must assess how AI will affect the labor market and prepare students for a future where AI plays a significant role. This includes integrating AI competencies into the curriculum and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to address the social, ethical, and pedagogical challenges associated with AI (Press, 2023). However, it all starts with institutions themselves!
IPEDS

IPEDS, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, serves as a vital mechanism for collecting comprehensive data on postsecondary education in the United States. Administered annually by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), IPEDS conducts **interrelated surveys that gather information from every participating college, university, and technical institution** involved in federal student financial aid programs. UNI's research capabilities are greatly enhanced by our utilization of IPEDS data. With access to IPEDS data, we are empowered to explore a wide range of topics and trends in postsecondary education. Whether examining enrollment patterns, graduation rates, financial aid distribution, or institutional characteristics, IPEDS serves as a valuable tool for uncovering key insights and informing our research endeavors. Moreover, the wealth of data available through IPEDS allows us to benchmark our performance against peer institutions and identify areas for improvement. By comparing our metrics and outcomes to national averages and best practices, we can tailor our research initiatives to address specific challenges and opportunities unique to our institution.

Graduate Surveys

Graduate program surveys serve as invaluable tools for universities like UNI to gather feedback on the educational experiences of our graduates, facilitating a **comprehensive assessment of program effectiveness and student satisfaction**. These surveys are instrumental in identifying areas of strength and areas for improvement within graduate programs, allowing institutions to **tailor their offerings to better meet the needs and expectations of future students**. Administering these surveys typically involves reaching out to recent graduates through email or other communication channels, providing clear instructions on how to participate, and ensuring confidentiality to encourage honest and candid feedback. By leveraging graduate program surveys effectively, universities can continuously enhance the quality of their graduate education and cultivate a more enriching academic environment for all students.
Citations


First Post. (2023, October 6). Australia to allow use of AI apps like ChatGPT in schools from 2024. First Post.


