



DATA GOVERNANCE

FACILITATING VALUES-CENTERED,
DATA INFORMED DECISIONS

Quarterly

January 2021

The Data Governance Board worked to approve the first set of more than forty business terms for University-wide publication in the consolidated data dictionary in Fall 2020. The centralized documentation of PeopleSoft business terms will help a variety of data users across campus.

Along with the consolidated dictionary, Data Governance worked with Institutional Research to update and expand the definitions included in the TCU Fact Book. All of the documentation items help create a **common data language** across campus, which improves our institutional data literacy. To view the most current version of all dictionaries, please visit the [TCU Data Dictionary on Box](#). Please note, you must be logged into Box prior to clicking on the link, for the document to open.

In addition to this work, there are business-specific terms that the committees are currently working to update, which will have an institution-wide impact. News regarding these terms should be released this summer.

Common Data Language

Data literacy is essential to data-informed decision-making. "If there is no common language with which to interpret the various data sources in the organization, there will be fundamental communication challenges when using data- and analytics-based solutions" (Christy Pettey for [Smarter with Gartner](#)). Along with preventing communication challenges, creating a common data language and data dictionaries will help data users understand and report consistent, accurate, and timely data. The room for error in data usage and reporting decreases when data literacy increases.

Making Progress

Current & Ongoing Projects

- Creation of common data language
- Data warehouse dashboards
- Data Quality Enhancements, including:
 - Faculty workload via Primary Instructor
 - External Organizations Table review & update
- TCU STEM Definition and list of TCU STEM programs
- Primary Instructor and workload
 - DGO is working with the College Liaisons, IR, and Registrar to assist with the identification and data details for team-taught courses, including faculty load.

www.tcu.edu/datagovernance

“The use of data has become a necessity more than a luxury, as it once was around TCU. With the goal of financial sustainability forcing us to really examine and evaluate the programs and services we offer in Student Affairs, it has never been more important for us to have ‘good’ data on which to base our decisions. For us to continue providing the kinds of programs that are the hallmark of a TCU experience, we have to be more intentional and provide the programs and services that we know have more ‘bang for the buck’ and targeted at the right constituencies. In essence, we have to be more effective and efficient and that needs ‘good’ data. Data governance provides the mechanism which allows us to have accurate and timely data that is consistent across the university – in other words, ‘good data.’”

Angela D. Taylor, PhD, LCP-S
Director, Office of Quality Enhancement

Data Governance Best Practices

At the top of the list of best practices for data governance is collaboration; it is essential to a successful data governance program. The shared governance of a university culture makes TCU one step ahead of the game, but it doesn't mean we can become complacent in our shared responsibility. With shared governance and collaboration, the campus community relies on subject matter experts of data and data processes to advise, complete, and facilitate data governance work. At times, we may have other tasks that demand our attention, but it is essential to prioritize data governance responsibilities, as those tasks may be delaying institution-wide operations, data reporting, or informed-decisions. The collaboration across campus departments over the initial two-year launch of data governance has been prosperous; let's build on this momentum as we work together to embed a culture of collaborative data governance at TCU!

Data Governance Calendar

January 2021

Tuesday, January 26th

- Data Governance Board

Friday, January 29th

- Data Quality Committee

February 2021

Friday, February 5th

- College Liaison

Wednesday, February 17th

- Data Quality Committee
- Data Governance Board

March 2021

Friday, March 5th

- College Liaison

Wednesday, March 17th

- Data Quality Committee
- Data Governance Board

Thursday, March 25th

Executive DG Board