

February 18, 2010

Deans and Vice Presidents
University of Louisville

Dear Colleagues:

By fall 2010, the University is required to implement federally mandated changes on how institutions collect and report race/ethnicity data. As part of that transition, Institutional Research & Planning (IRP)--in collaboration with the offices of Information Technology and Human Resources--began re-surveying our students during the spring 2010 registration process. As of this semester, student race/ethnicity data are being collected using the new two question format mandated by the US Department of Education which allows for the delineation of ethnicity from race and the collection of multiple races. The mandated changes require that race/ethnicity data be reported in a different format than how race/ethnicity data are collected. Students who self-identify with multiple races will be reported in the aggregate as having 'two or more races', a designation that is derived outside of PeopleSoft. As a result, significant changes to our business practices will need to be implemented throughout the university when race/ethnicity data are used for internal and external reporting and decision support for academic and strategic planning. National benchmarking surveys and other federal and state reporting mandates are just now transitioning to reflect these changes.

Please inform your functional and technical staff of the changes and direct all related questions to our IRP staff. **All reporting of race/ethnicity data from spring 2010 and forward will need to be coordinated with Institutional Research & Planning to ensure data reporting consistency.** Our IRP staff will work with all units to implement these changes and will provide any technical assistance required throughout this transition. Bob Goldstein and his staff will be communicating these changes with all key stakeholders over the coming weeks. He reports that the re-surveying of faculty and staff will get underway during March.

If you have questions, please contact Institutional Research and Planning at 852-6169 or contact Becky Patterson (becky.patterson@louisville.edu), Director, IR & Planning.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Shirley C. Willihnganz
Executive Vice President and University Provost

cc: Dr. Mordean Taylor-Archer, Diversity & International Affairs
Dr. Priscilla Hancock, Information Technology
Mr. Robert Goldstein, Office of Academic Planning & Accountability
Mr. Sam Connally, Human Resources