Program Review: the Validator View

The Software

The software has problems but these can be improved.

There should be a “stop” prior to submission if there is an incomplete field. The submitter should not be able to submit if there is an area that has not been responded to.

The Validation Section fades out and prevents the validator from moving to the next section. The message “do you want to save?” is on the screen, even if the answer has been saved. The validator must leave IES and re-enter.

The section on Goals demonstrating linkages, has a hidden responses easily missed.

Saved validations cannot be returned back to the division when the validation is complete.

There should be an automatic red check for areas missed by the validator. The validator must spend needless time going through each item. Frequently, there are breaks in the review and it is hard to find your last notation or review site.

There is a need to have more cues and checks. Checks should correspond to validator actions. It would also be helpful to have the validation responses following the section being reviewed rather than the bottom of the document.

The Program Review is not friendly to Macs’. 

The Process

The process is comprehensive. This cycle, the division responders are making strong links between Planning (SLO’s and instructional outcomes) with allocations for funds (salary, equipment) and space needs. This is a general observation for all reviews. The level of review was intense, chairs and faculty asked for additional time with deadlines to complete the reviews. The message that PR was essential to college planning and funding allocation was received and had an impact on chairs and faculty. Responses were thoughtful and more focused on student outcomes than in previous reviews. Some divisions were more inclusive than before. The emphasis on SLO’s underscored the relationship to student achievement and completion to planning and budget. There seem to be many steps, but the overall effect is to focus the responders on the interconnectedness of data driven decisions and their outcomes.