Using Technology to Track Legislation and Regulation Changes Affecting Online Offerings

Allen Clarkson (Government Relations Manager)
Mitch Gilbert (Compliance Specialist)
Dr. Roderick Willis (Compliance Specialist)

What We Will Cover

- Background
- Tracking Tools
- Legislative Analytics
- External Commenting Process
- Questions

Background

- Accreditation
  - Regional
  - Programmatic
- 2010 Federal Financial Aid regulation
  - State Approval (not authorization to operate)
  - 50 states, plus DC and territories
- Competency model
Development

• Proactive model
• Compliance Specialist created in 2016
• Developed a process to review legislation and regulatory action
• Combination of external tools and internal databases
• Progress, process, and refinement

Research Planning & Design

• 5 Regions
  – Atlantic
  – South East/Caribbean
  – Central
  – Mountain
  – Pacific
• 5 Functions
  – Nursing
  – Educator Preparation
  – Business & Law
  – State Authorization
  – Research & Data Visualization
Web Crawlers

- Manual configuration
- Track pertinent agency meetings, publications, minutes
- Combined with web crawlers for some alerting
- Largely manual process and trailing live with minutes approval

Agency Calendars

Legislative Alerts
Research Management System Components

- Research Planning & Design
- Data Collection
- Data Cleaning
- Data Analyzation
- Data Interpretation
- Data Reporting
- Data Visualization

Data Cleaning

- Strain to Retain
  - Capture Initial alert
  - Extract Salient Issue
  - Analyze Potential Problem
  - Archive presented risk
  - Interact with customers
- Scope & Sequence
  - Data base alignment
  - Excel harmonization
  - One Drive synchronization
  - Group coordination
  - Response Configuration
- Often aggregate metadata is cleaned a third time realigned, reorganized and reanalyzed for visualization intra-university public consumption:
  - College of Business
  - College of Health Professions
  - College of Information Technology
  - Teachers College

In the interest of establishing a contextual framework, we will briefly discuss the present and anticipated Regulation, Policy, & Legislation (RPL) landscape analyzed per the Research Monitoring System (RMS) by college.

Compliance and Accreditation built knowledge and awareness around 4 Colleges and the Western Governors University at large by tracking 695 bills occurring in the 1st and 2nd Quarter which had any date in connection with 2018.

Of which 689 bills contained but were not limited to legislative actions in January, February, and March. Yet, 670 bills only contained the months January, February, & March (1st Quarter only). The following discussion will disaggregate and delineate respective 1st Quarter bill counts by month.

In the first month of 2018, 384 bills, that were monitored, also contained a January date, while 328 bills only contained a January date. In the second month of 2018, 350 bills, that were monitored, also contained a February date, while 330 only contained a February date. In the third month 2018, 21 bills also contained a March date, while 12 bills only contained a March date.

To be clear, of the 670 bills (i.e., January, February, & March only) analyzed in the 1st Quarter, 344 bills (January, February, & March only) were monitored on behalf of the Teachers College. In short in, approximately 51% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the Teachers College in the 1st Quarter of 2018. Approximately 26% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the Western Governors University in the 1st Quarter of 2018. Approximately 18% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the College of Health Professions in the 1st Quarter of 2018. Approximately 4% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the College of Business in the 1st Quarter of 2018. Less than 1% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the College of Information Technology in the 1st Quarter of 2018.

RMS: Regulation, Policy & Legislation, 1st Quarter

EXEUTIVE SUMMARY

- In the interest of establishing a contextual framework, Regulation, Policy, & Legislation (RPL) landscape were analyzed per the Research Monitoring System (RMS) by college.
- Compliance and Accreditation built knowledge and awareness around 4 Colleges and the Western Governors University at large by tracking 695 bills occurring in the 1st and 2nd Quarter which had any date in connection with 2018.
- Of which 689 bills contained but were not limited to legislative actions in January, February, and March. Yet, 670 bills only contained the months January, February, & March (1st Quarter only). The following discussion will disaggregate and delineate respective 1st Quarter bill counts by month.
- In the first month of 2018, 384 bills, that were monitored, also contained a January date, while 328 bills only contained a January date. In the second month of 2018, 350 bills, that were monitored, also contained a February date, while 330 only contained a February date. In the third month 2018, 21 bills also contained a March date, while 12 bills only contained a March date.
- To be clear, of the 670 bills (i.e., January, February, & March only) analyzed in the 1st Quarter, 344 bills (January, February, & March only) were monitored on behalf of the Teachers College. In short in, approximately 51% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the Teachers College in the 1st Quarter of 2018. Approximately 26% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the Western Governors University in the 1st Quarter of 2018. Approximately 18% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the College of Health Professions in the 1st Quarter of 2018. Approximately 4% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the College of Business in the 1st Quarter of 2018. Less than 1% of RMS (research monitoring system) activity supported the College of Information Technology in the 1st Quarter of 2018.
Program Specific Data

Data Analytics Approach: Relevance, Relationships, & Revelation

- Clarifying what is relevant from irrelevant
- Visualizing co-relationships
- Continuing to unearth impacted RPL history resulting in revelation "aha moments" to advocate for stakeholders
- Example, What impact do proposed education bills have on our current state approved programs within the Teacher College in the Atlantic Region?

Goals for Data Interpretation

- Building Knowledge and Awareness
- Applying knowledge and skills to ensure optimal outcomes
- Welcoming diverse community of customers
- Ensure visuals are easy to navigate, visible and understandable
External Comments

• Identify the Issue
• Confirm the Issue with Leadership
• Concrete institutional position
• Comment Positively and Negatively
• Suggest Replacement Language (if necessary)

External Comments

• Role as participant and observer
• Seek to build consensus
• Education is a non-partisan issue
• Pursuing success for students first, rather than institution (e.g., licensing, eligibility, approval)
• Cross-departmental, coordinated effort with a national view
Cultivate Affinity

• Active participation in policy discussion
• Passive participation as member in good standing
• Collaboration with other institutions
• Established presence and partner in field

Looking Ahead

• Efficiencies to be gained in automation
• Preserve time and effort for collaborative process
• Technology as a tool, not as an end – rely on the people involved not just the results
• Reputation, relationships, and understanding

Questions?