Sample GFA Conference Breakout Session Abstract

Title: Effective Department and Chair Reviews: New Models and Promising Practices

Short Description:
This session is intended to increase participants’ ability to develop effective frameworks to assess and review department chairs and units. By combining group discussion with sharing of promising practices, the presentation will include multiple frameworks for consideration, outcome data from three institutions, and opportunities for participants to consider scalability for their schools. Participants will leave with an action plan for implementation at their own institution.

Abstract:
Background: A comprehensive retrospective review and prospective assessment of academic departments is important for quality control, performance enhancement, and mission alignment. By attending to the continuum of review from individual chair to department and across mission areas, effective reviews can positively impact future departmental outcomes and strengthen an organization. When designed and implemented well, these reviews may be leveraged to align with future institutional goals and objectives. Description: This session is intended to increase participants’ ability to develop effective frameworks to assess and review department chairs and units. By combining group discussion with sharing of promising practices, the presentation will include multiple frameworks for consideration, outcome data from three institutions, and opportunities for participants to consider scalability for their schools. Participants will leave with an action plan for implementation at their own institution. This session aligns with the conference objective to ‘model best practices for program planning that will serve as a model for attendees to implement at home’. Session Objectives: At the conclusion of this session participants will be able to: 1. Collaborate to develop a list of effective approaches to chair and department review 2. Understand how review design and implementation may impact outcomes 3. Consider and customize tools to facilitate process improvement 4. Develop an action plan for implementation.

Session Timeline that may include interactive adult learning methods:
First, participants will work in groups to develop a list of aspects of ideal department and chair reviews. Next, groups will briefly present the aspects of their models. Following this, presenters from three institutions will share their institutional approaches, and engage the audience in a conversation comparing their generated models, with the perspectives offered, considering scalability and scope for various institution types. Participants will utilize a worksheet to design an implementation plan for creating or enhancing the review process at their institution.