

The Top 10 Benefits of Using a Faculty Activity Reporting System



THE TOP 10 BENEFITS OF USING A FACULTY ACTIVITY REPORTING SYSTEM

Faculty members are active-teaching courses, conducting research, publishing papers, serving on committees, etc.—and their academic-related activities play an integral role in the credibility and success of all academic institutions.

Administrators at colleges and universities spend a great deal of time and effort tracking, compiling, and reporting faculty activity data—a job that can be both monumental and tedious, especially when faculty credentials and activity data are collected and stored in several locations around campus.

More and more schools are adopting IT solutions to help both faculty and administrators make their work lives easier and more productive.

One growing segment of these online solutions is faculty activity reporting technology, which uses cloud technology to help academic institutions gather, process, and manage faculty data quickly and effectively.

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Here are the top ten benefits of implementing an online faculty activity reporting system at your institution:

1. ENTER FACULTY DATA JUST ONCE

Faculty members have better things to do with their time than respond to numerous, redundant requests for information throughout the year.

Online faculty data management systems allow faculty members to input their activity data only one time and make it available for anyone else who needs it, leaving them free to focus on adding value through their teaching, research, and service.

2. COLLECT FACULTY DATA IN ONE LOCATION

Gone are the days of searching multiple files, lists, and databases (in multiple locations) for information, or requiring faculty members to update multiple data sources.

With an online faculty activity reporting system, the data you need for virtually any evaluation or report is instantly available in one place.

3. IMPORT AND CONSOLIDATE DATA FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES

Normally bits of important information about faculty members are stored separately in a number of different systems and databases across campus, such as HR systems, grants databases, course evaluation systems, and bibliographic databases.

A cloud-based faculty reporting system can be configured to import data in bulk from many of those

sources, allowing schools to create comprehensive, usable data for powerful and efficient decision-making.

4. STREAMLINE PERFORMANCE REVIEW PROCESSES

Tenure, promotion and sabbatical evaluations, along with other faculty reviews, have traditionally involved lots of time and reams of paper.

However, with all of a faculty member's key information already stored in an online repository, evaluations can be conducted more quickly and in a near-paperless environment. Online solutions create a "win-win" in efficiency and effectiveness for both faculty and administrators.

5. MAKE ACCREDITATION REPORTING EASIER

Regional and professional accrediting bodies require lots of information about faculty sufficiency, qualifications, and activities.

Gathering that information from faculty members can add significant drudgery to the accreditation process, but, with the right faculty activity reporting tool, administrators can easily build and access accreditation reports right from the online system.

6. SUPPORT GRANT WRITING AND APPLICATIONS

Online faculty activity reporting systems take a lot of hassle out of the time-consuming process of applying for grant funding.

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With all key faculty data available in one place, grant writers can quickly provide supporting documents (such as biosketches), and grants offices can compile the documentation to demonstrate an institution's track record.

7. REPURPOSE DATA TO SUPPORT MULTIPLE STAKEHOLDERS

Senior leaders at institutions of higher learning often rely on faculty data to make important decisions about resource management and other issues.

Allow these decision makers to spend less time hunting and compiling data, and more time analyzing and responding to the evidence. The benefits will come in better decisions and better management of faculty resources.

8. SHOWCASE FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO THE WORLD

An online faculty activity reporting system can be configured to feed faculty data to institutional web sites and other outward-facing systems.

This ability to distribute faculty skills and activities allows an academic institution to tell who it is and to reinforce its identity and reputation.

9. FACILITATE COLLABORATION, NETWORKING, AND OUTREACH

Faculty members can use the search functions of an online reporting system to find potential research collaborators at their institutions who they may not know personally.

When the system is used to publish data to the school's web site, it allows other academic institutions, as well as government and business entities, to find and reach out to your faculty members for research and grant collaborations and consulting opportunities.

10. SAVE INTERNAL IT RESOURCES

Your institution's IT staff already has plenty to do.

A third-party, turnkey faculty activity reporting system allows an institution to use software that is professionally built and maintained, while freeing its internal technology experts to focus on other important tasks.

When a solution saves time, effort, and money, that's a good solution.

About Interfolio

Interfolio launched its academic decision-making platform in 2012 as a response to user feedback about the need for better systems to support shared governance and committee decisions. Today, Interfolio has grown to support the entire lifecycle of faculty activity, decisions, and data, from hiring through tenure. With the addition of a system for faculty activity reporting and accreditation, Interfolio now offers the most comprehensive, user-friendly, and faculty-focused technology in higher education to over 200 clients worldwide. To learn more about what your peers are saying about Interfolio, visit www.interfolio.com or contact team@interfolio.com.