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| Center and Institute Assessment Policy |
| **Rationale**The University of Southern Mississippi utilizes centers and institutes (hereafter referred to as center) to expand the reach of faculty expertise within the state, nation, and the world. Centers provide a mechanism for faculty to collaborate around various research, creative activity, or social issue themes that align with the University's mission, vision, and values. The University invests monetary and human capital resources to establish and maintain the institutional portfolio of centers and institutes. It has been challenging for the University to gauge the impact of the various centers. The policy outlined below provides a mechanism for centers to offer their dean an annual assessment of the different activities promoted by the center. Annual reporting provides an opportunity for Deans and others to share the impact of centers with various constituencies and stakeholders. |
| **Policy**1. The Deans' Council will develop the assessment report template in consultation with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness to ensure assessment best practices are incorporated.
2. Only centers within an academic college structure will be required to complete the assessment report instrument.
3. Center directors will be responsible for compiling the annual academic year assessment report. Assessment reports will be due to the Dean's Office no later than June 1 of each calendar year. Centers that reside in schools will need to provide their assessment report to their school director by May 25 of each calendar year. The school director will forward the report to the Dean's Office by the June 1 date.
4. The dean and the center director will review the assessment report and upcoming goals by August 1 of each calendar year. Centers that reside in the schools may have their school director present at the meeting with the dean.
5. The dean will provide the director with an evaluation of the center's performance and impact based on the joint review of the assessment report. The evaluation will summarize the performance and impact in relation to the mission of the University and the mission of the center. The dean will work with the center director to determine future goals which may include no action, revitalization, or sunsetting.
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