



PIEDMONT  
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes stories, wrote, "It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data." Relevant data should drive all decisions that lead to changes in our courses, programs, offices, and departments.

As you gather data, you will notice findings, and you will make recommendations. **Findings** consist of what the data says. For example, the recent Student Advisor Evaluation revealed that 80% of the student body met with their academic advisor during the Fall 2018 semester. This data could be represented visually on a pie chart showing that 80% of the student body met with their advisors, and 20% did not meet with their advisors (see bottom right). From that statistic, we gather that most students recognize the need for input from their academic advisors.

**Recommendations** are explicit, action-oriented goals spurred by the findings. These goals should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely. Using data from the Student Advisor Evaluation, we could set the following SMART goal:

"Through email reminders and registration incentives, we will increase the number of students who meet with their advisors by 5% during the spring semester so that students will be prepared for the summer semester and the fall semester." This goal includes all five SMART components:

**Specific:** "we will increase the number of students who meet with their advisors"

**Measurable:** "by 5%"

**Achievable:** "through email reminders and registration incentives"

**Relevant:** "so that students will be prepared for the summer semester and the fall semester"

**Timely:** "during the spring semester"

If we ignore data as the foundation of decision-making and goal-setting, we may, in the words of Doyle, "twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts."

References:  
Doyle, A.C. (1891). A Scandal in Bohemia. Retrieved from <https://sherlock-holmes/stories/pdf/a4/1-sided/scan.pdf>

## STATISTIC OF THE MONTH

29 

nations represented by our current student body.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Dec. 19** - Jenzabar Training for Academic Council and Deans

**Dec. 20** - Jenzabar Training for Faculty and Staff

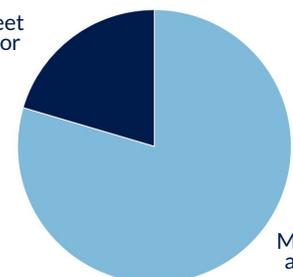
**Dec. 31** - Various Assessment Instruments from:

- Academic Technology
- Admissions
- Student Services
- School Deans
- Registrar
- Student Success

The I.E. Office will provide specific instructions for submitting these assessments.

Percent of students who met with their academic advisor during the Fall 2018 semester.

Did not meet with advisor  
20%



Met with advisor  
80%