



Assessing Peer Groups

AMON SEAGULL, AUSTIN COLLEGE



Governance!



List Name	Purpose	Owner
Overlap group	Regular market analysis	VPIE
Academic Review	Context for new program proposals, etc.	VPAA
Fac Comp	Mandated per op guide for regular eval	VPAA

School	Over-lap	Acad Rvw	Fac Comp
Absense C	X		X
Acceed U	X	X	
Amble C			X



TECH TIPS

02.17.22

Building Higher Education Comparison Groups: A Data Science Informed Approach

by Adam Ross Nelson

by Adam Ross Nelson

Building Higher Education Comparison Groups: A Data Science Informed Approach

'An Art and a Science': Colleges' Tricky Task of Selecting Peers

By *Audrey Williams June* | MARCH 24, 2022

2nd!



RHE 1980: Terenzini et al.



“This paper is concerned with a methodology, not the validity of the variables for all or most purposes”

- No thresholding!
- 14 variables reduce to 4 dimensions

In the Beginning

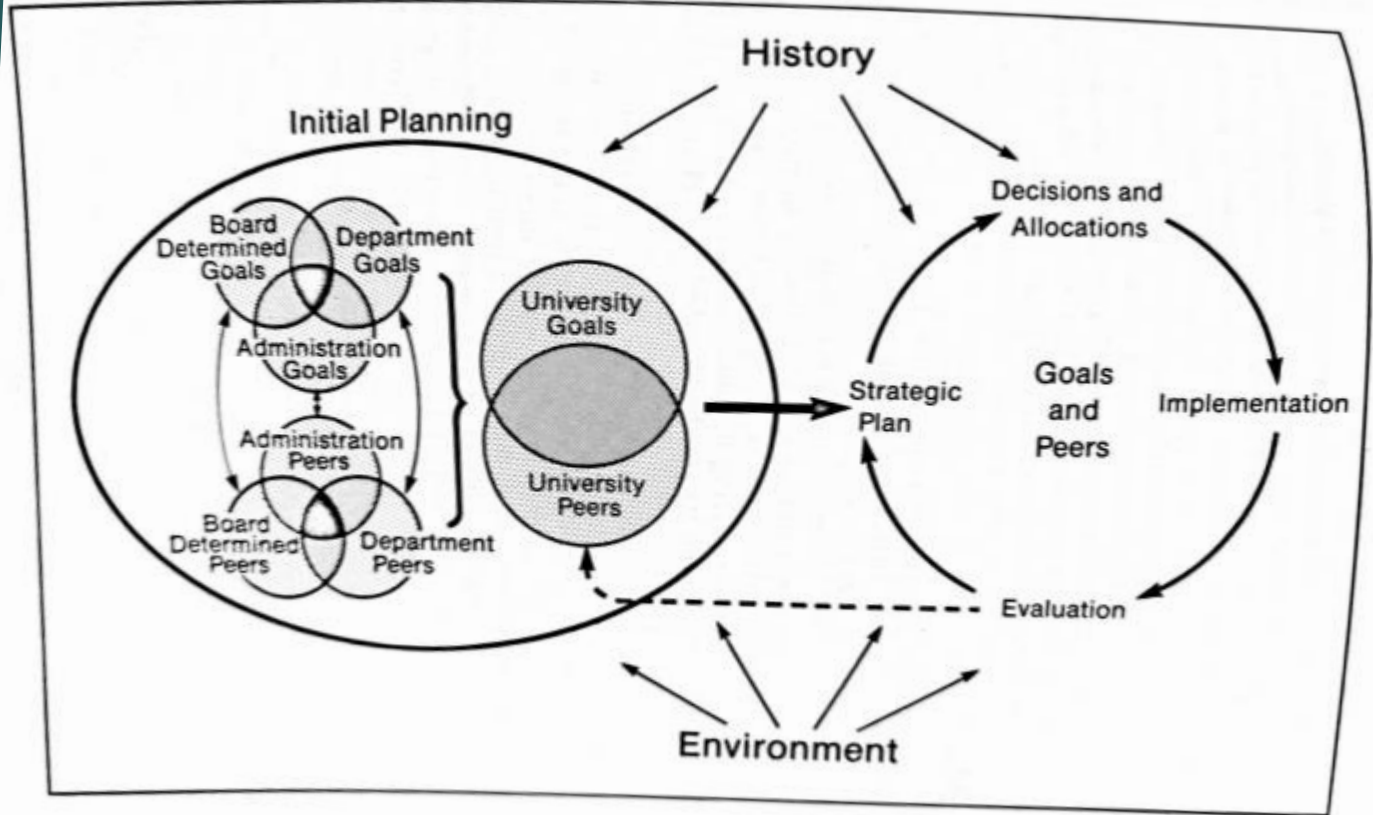
Astin
(1962)
(not pictured)



Whiteley & Stage (1987)

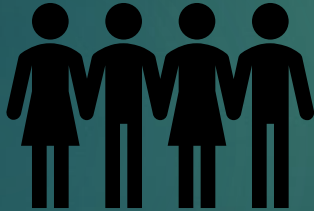
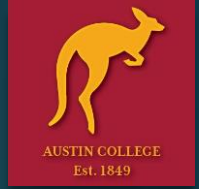


Figure 1. Peers and the Planning Cycle

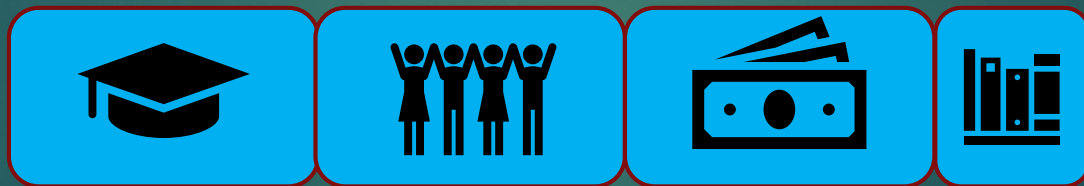
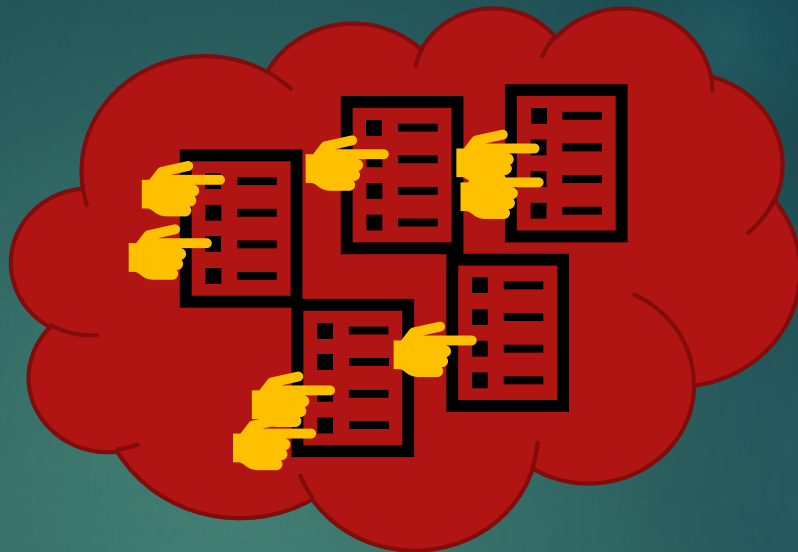


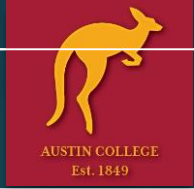
Whiteley & Stage (1987)

“Institutional Uses of Peer Comparisons”

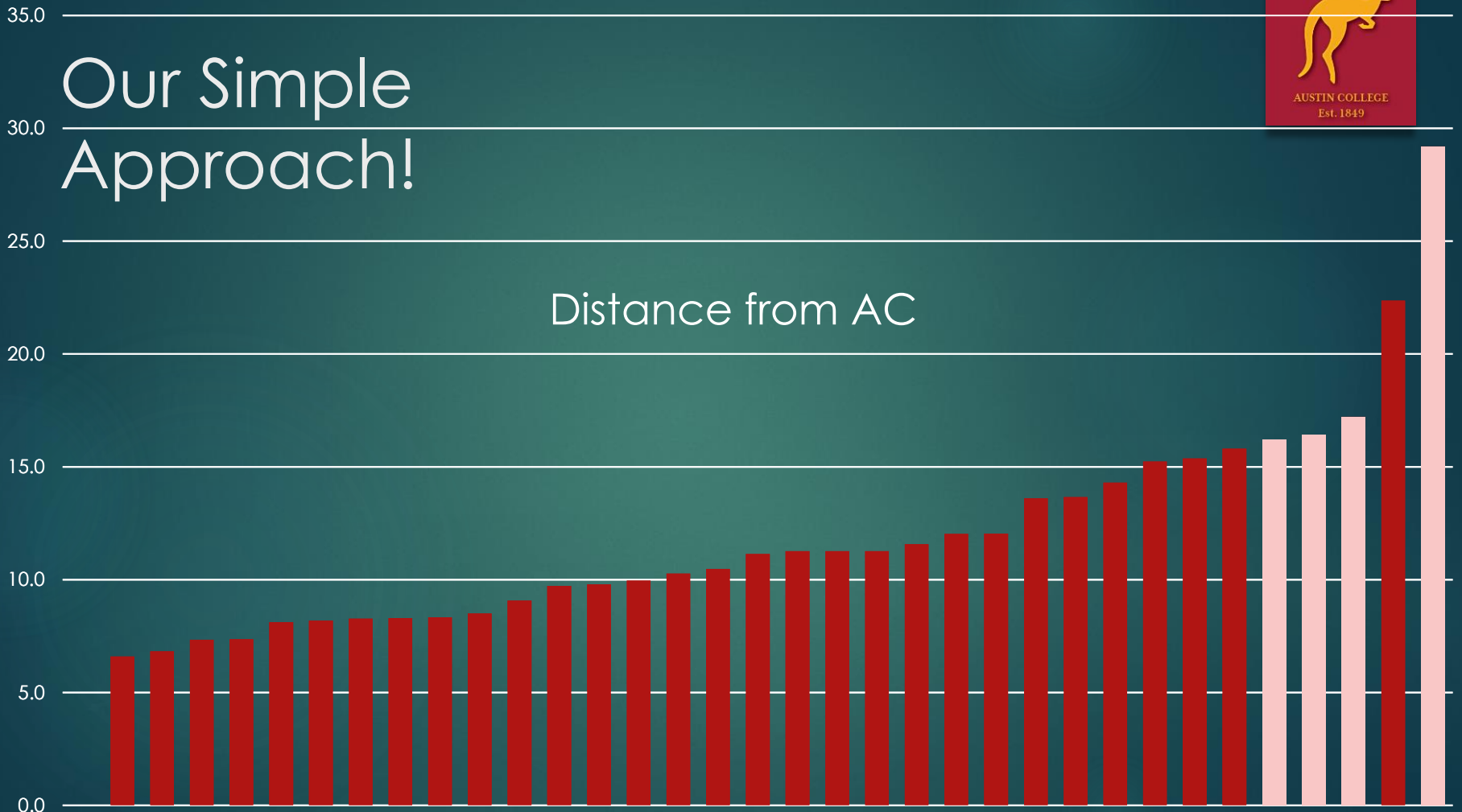


Our Simple Approach!





Our Simple Approach!



Assessment: NSSE 2022

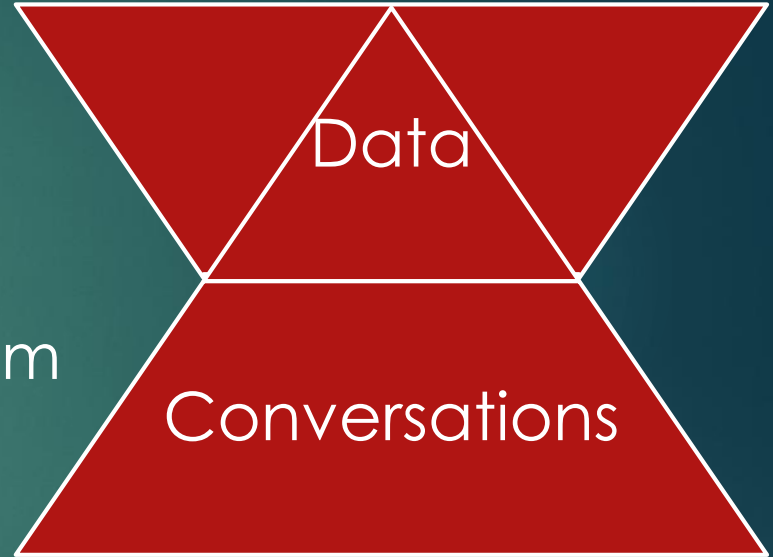


Seniors		Your seniors compared with Peerish	Your seniors compared with Peer Schools	Your seniors compared with Liberal Arts College
<i>Theme</i>	<i>Engagement Indicator</i>			
<i>Academic Challenge</i>	Higher-Order Learning	△	--	--
	Reflective & Integrative Learning	△	--	--
	Learning Strategies	△	--	--
	Quantitative Reasoning	△	--	--
<i>Learning with Peers</i>	Collaborative Learning	△	--	--
	Discussions with Diverse Others	△	--	▲
<i>Experiences with Faculty</i>	Student-Faculty Interaction	▲	--	--
	Effective Teaching Practices	▲	--	△
<i>Campus Environment</i>	Quality of Interactions	△	--	△
	Supportive Environment	--	--	--

Conclusions!



1. Keep it simple!
2. Have a feedback mechanism



Thank you!!

References

- ▶ Alexander Astin. "An Empirical Characterization of Higher Education Institutions," *Journal of Educational Psychology*, Vol. 53. (1962).
- ▶ Patrick T. Terenzini, Leif Hartmark, Wendell G. Lorang, Jr. and Robert C. Shirley. "A Conceptual and Methodological Approach to the Identification of Peer Institutions," *Research in Higher Education*. Vol. 12, No. 4 (1980)
- ▶ Teeter, D. J., and Brinkman, P. T. (2003). "Peer institutions." In W.E. Knight (ed.), *A Primer on Institutional Research*, pp. 103–113. Tallahassee, FL: Association for Institutional Research.
- ▶ Whiteley, M. and Stage, F. (1987). "Institutional Uses of Comparative Data." In P. T. Brinkman (ed.), *Conducting Interinstitutional Comparisons*.
- ▶ McLaughlin, G., Howard, R., & McLaughlin, J. (2011). "Forming and using peer groups." Paper presented at the Association for Institutional Research International Forum, Toronto, ON.
- ▶ Pike, G. R. and Kuh, G. D., "A Typology of Student Engagement for American Colleges and Universities," *Research in Higher Education*, 46,(2), March 2005, pp. 185- 209