



FROM CHAOS TO CLARITY: UT AUSTIN'S NAVIGATING DATA ANOMALIES IN CBM REPORTING

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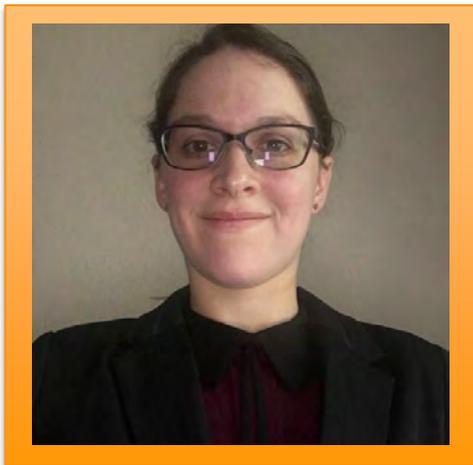
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TAIR CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2026





The University of Texas at Austin
**Institutional Reporting, Research,
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Outcomes

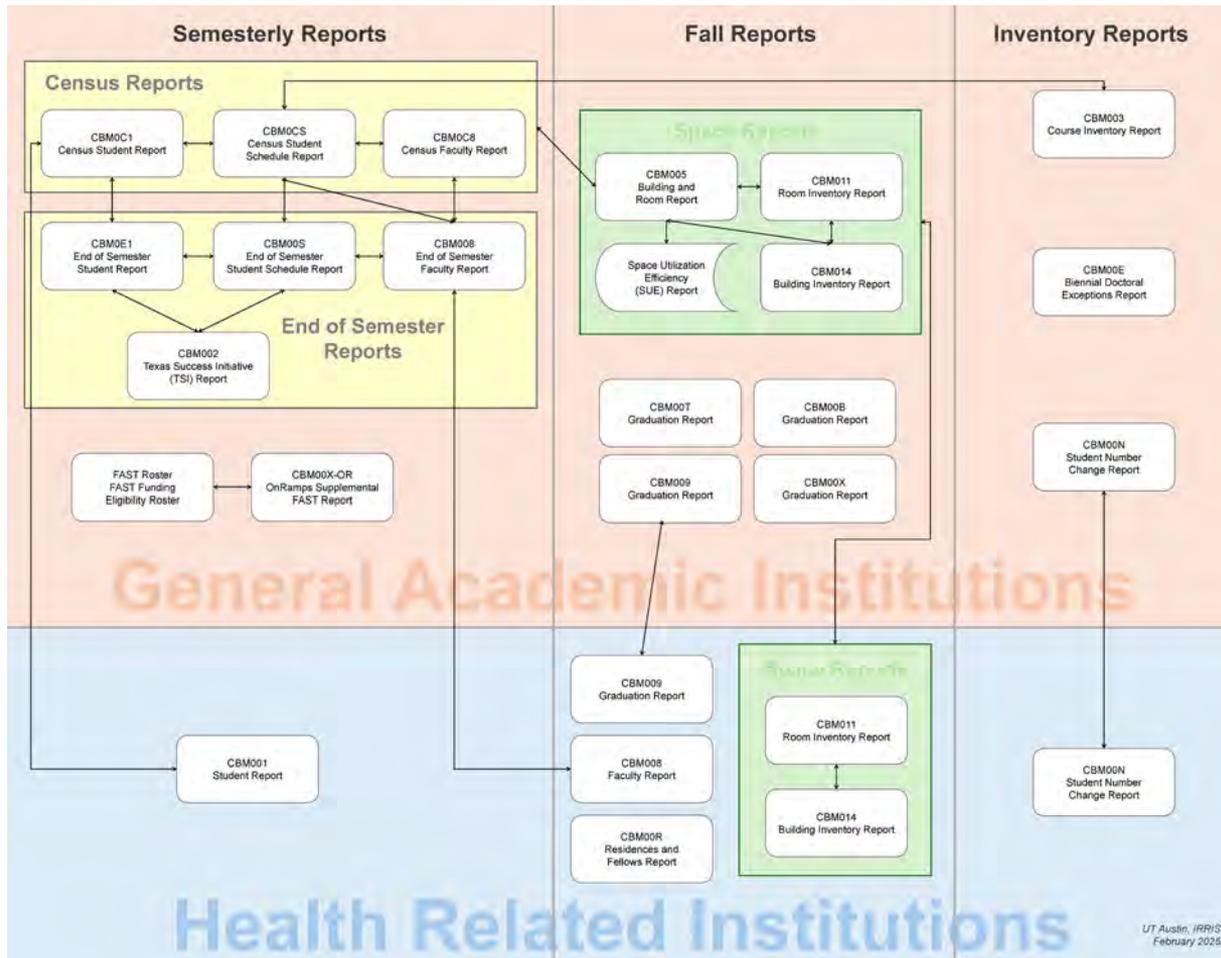
- **Attendees will see how UT Austin created a repeatable process to catch and fix data issues before they become reporting problems**
- **Attendees will get an inside look at how UT Austin handles data anomalies in CBM Reporting, primarily for UT Austin (GAI)**
- **Attendees will learn about how UT Austin determines when it is appropriate to update data anomalies**

Brief overview of State reporting



**Texas Higher
Education
COORDINATING BOARD**

- **Approximately 30+ reports throughout an academic year**
- **Census and End-of-Semester reports**



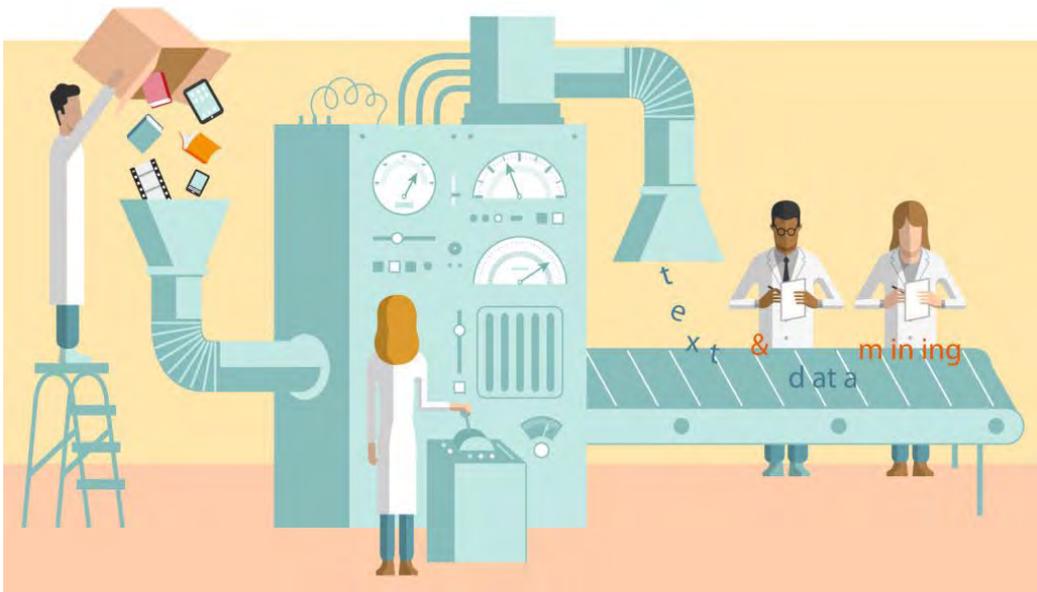
Validation Process

- **There are a few validation processes that UT Austin utilizes to ensure that the information is accurate and meets state compliance**



First Validation and System Check

- Prior to the snapshot of every semester
- Clean-up reports run every day for the first twenty class days



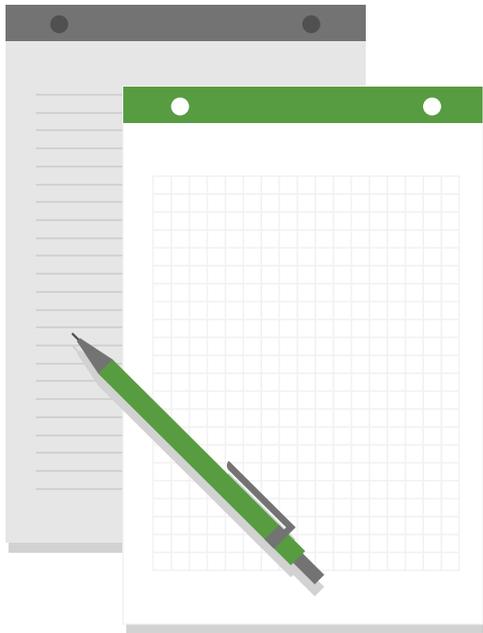
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Common Errors/Anomalies

- **Invalid Geography Code: Code is not a valid Texas County, State or foreign Country code**
- **Invalid Classification: Classification is not within 1-6 or 9**
- **Invalid Class for Undergraduate: student in undergraduate has a graduate or law student classification**
- **Multiple Enrollment in Organized Instruction class(es)**
- **Invalid School & Major Code**

After the Snapshot

- **After the snapshot, we shouldn't be changing the data itself**
- **We can only make note of any anomalies/errors and what we report**



Secondary Validation And System Check

- **CBM reports are submitted first, prior to any edits or corrections, to the THECB**
- **This allows us to get a baseline of the status of the report itself**



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Data Integrity Roadmap

- **Step 1: Don't Panic**
- **Step 2: Investigate
(What record is wrong)**
- **Step 3: Understand the
context**
- **Step 4: Assess Impact**
- **Step 5: Implement the
Change (or Not)**
- **Step 6: Document,
Document, Document**

As "Hitcher's Guide to the Galaxy" would say...



Image from Hitcher's Guide to the Galaxy

Step 2: Investigate (what record is wrong)



Investigate what record there are issues with

- Is it a student record?
- Is it a course record?
- Is it a faculty record?

Investigate where this record is missing or is causing errors

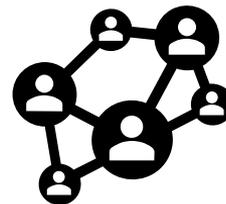
- Are the sources consistent?
- Check CBM reports
- Check IPEDS reports

Step 3: Understand the context



- How did this happen?
- Where did the system break?
- Do we fix or leave-as-is?
- What data areas does the record touch?
- Unique to a department? Or is it widespread?

Step 4: Assess Impact



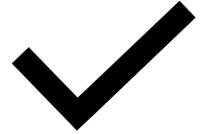
What do we do?

- Was is reported? If so, where was it reported?
- Where was it not reported?

Internal Impact & External Impact

- Does leaving it as-is negatively impact or not
- Does changing it negatively impact or not

Step 5: Implement the Change (or Not)



- **After assessing the impacts do we change or not change the data?**



Step 6: Document, Document, Document



- Document everything!!
- Even if there aren't any changes

Data Anomalies while working with State Reporting

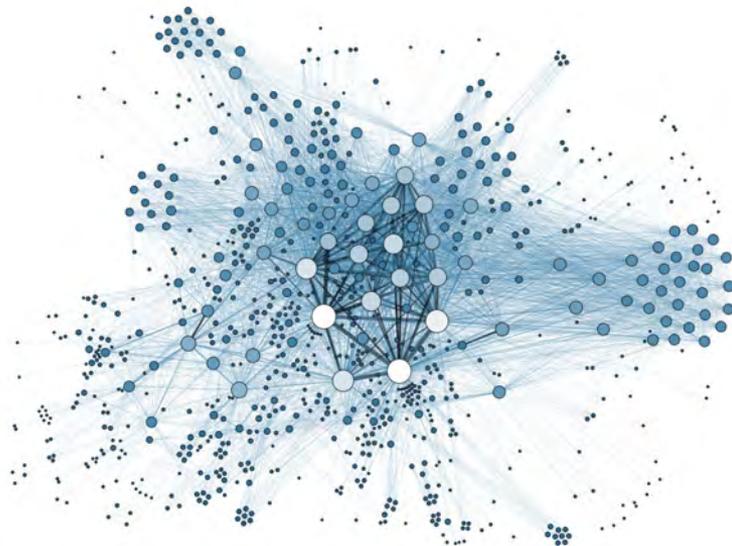
- **We are human and systems are not perfect**
- **There will be data anomalies and errors**



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Data Anomaly Examples – Student Data

- **Gender**
- **High School Codes**
- **Duplicate Degrees**



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Additional Data Anomalies – Student Data

- **Two students with the same SSN**
- **SSN incorrect for Hazelwood student(s)**
- **Issue with Degree Conferred**

Data Anomaly Example – Faculty Data

Tenured Professor –

- **Tenure status not report correctly**
- **The professor retired from UT in Spring 2025 and came back as a Visiting Professor**

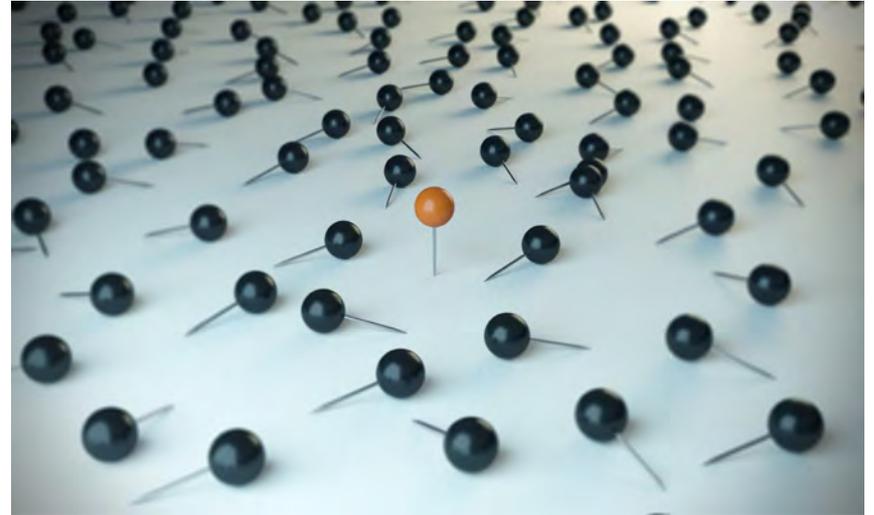
Additional Data Anomaly – Faculty Data

Spring 2019 End-of-Semester

- **Faculty Member has the incorrect tenure status for the End-of-Semester Snapshot in Spring 2019**
- **They were already reported to the THECB with the incorrect tenure status**

When do we implement corrections?

- **The actual, and easier, question would be when to NOT...**



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Recommend not to update data anomalies if...



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- **Data was reported as-is to IPEDS**
- **Data was reported as-is to THECB**
- **Data is more than 5 years old**

Snapshot Data

When can the snapshot change?

- Before the data load for snapshot

When should the snapshot change?

- If there are significant data load issues
- When the change being proposed is a meaningful change, where the benefits outweigh the downstream impacts

CBM reporting

- **Data is hardly ever changed or updated after it has been snapshot.**
- **We can correct or updated what we report with the proper documentation on why it is different (justification)**

Back to the Anomalies

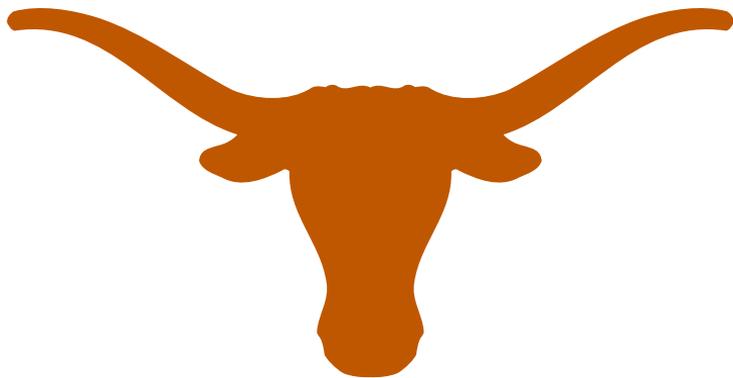
If we change the data...

- **Will the documentation we keep on why the data was altered be maintained?**
- **THECB audit**
- **Different numbers across historical data and deliverables**

If we do not change the data...

- **Will the documentation we keep on why the data was not altered be maintained?**
- **“Bad” or inaccurate data**
- **Different methodology utilized by different offices across data offices**

Thank you for joining our session!



Any questions?

Scan the QR code to
complete the session
survey.

