

DATA GOVERNANCE
At University at Buffalo
A Definition and Key Overarching Principles

DEFINITION

Data Governance is the organizing framework for aligning strategy, defining objectives, and establishing policies for enterprise information.

Data governance is distinguished from data management in its focus on decision-rights and policy making for enterprise information rather than the tactical execution of those policies. Data governance aligns information need with university strategy, while data management is a diverse, tools-focused, information management function that enables the tactical, day-to-day execution of data governance policies.

PURPOSE

The Purpose of data governance at UB is to support the President, Provost, Deans, University Leadership, and the Campus Community in:

- Informing strategic planning for achieving UB2020 and beyond.
- Managing daily educational and institutional operations through evidence-based decision-making.
- Supporting regulatory, accreditation, governing body, community engagement and other reporting requirements.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DATA GOVERNANCE

1. **Recognition of Primary Data Sources**-There is a single accepted source and truth for all primary data. These data may exist/originate within the central ERP systems, unit level created data, or accepted external sources. Data governance will determine the process for establishing recognized primary data sources including definitions, cleansing, and stewardship.
2. **Unambiguous Transformation of Data**-The use of the primary data sources for transformation, analytics and reporting will be governed by a clearly defined procedure including detailed data definition taxonomy, stakeholder vetting/review, and data dictionary posting. A data governance council is responsible for review and approval of these definitions with the Executive Vice President and Provost providing final reconciliation/confirmation, as necessary.

1. **Transparency**- Enterprise information is accessible to and intentionally shared within the institution except where consideration of privacy, security or for strategic purposes, requires access limits.
2. **Data Quality, Integrity and Security**- All data governance and management efforts will ensure effective information security protocols are adhered to and appropriate data quality practices are employed.
3. **Systemic and continuous**- Durable and adaptable data governance processes and structures are required to accommodate changing internal and external information sources, decision support needs, and information volume increases.
4. **Feasible**- The design of the data governance plan must be aspirational but achievable with actionable deliverables given existing capacities and competing priorities.
5. **Alignment of data management approaches**- Existing and future data curation efforts and data stewards must be mindful of and align data management around these Guiding Principles.
6. **Evaluative**- There must be continuous broad-based assessment of what technologies work, which do not and what should come next as the result of that assessment.

Approval Signature



Signature

Date

6/29/14

Charles F. Zukoski

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Approval Signature