Attached is a document summarizing some feedback on Essay 4.1. Some excellent insights. Those who participated were:

Bill Neal Chad Compton Debbie Hippolite Wright Don Barnes Earl Wyman Edna Owan Jon Jonassen Kats Kajiama Kerry Muhlestein Larisa Schumann Londa Chase Marynelle Chew Mike Marler Ned Williams Norm Evans Peter Chan Phil Bruner Riley Moffatt Rus Wilson Shane Gold Tim Stanley Tom Griffiths Valerie Buck Vernice Wineera
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ESSAY 4.1
Evidence-based Decision Making at BYU-Hawai'i

General

1. Good starting point; use narrative style
2. Be clear what the message is; write to emphasize most salient topics?
   a. Do well?
   b. Should be emphasized?
   c. Missing? Examples to make it user specific
3. Document should connect the reader and be more riveting; currently more generalized tone; impersonal; begin
document with most important messages
4. Convert all tired passive sentences into candid, bold statements
5. Too much language about our future reliance upon technology; too little space devoted to other rich sources behind
decision making
6. Essay should be persuasive in nature
7. Avoid jargon (SWOT, ERP)
8. Perhaps start with a great example where a decision needed to be made and data were available to form the decision
9. What kinds of decisions?
10. Include data that is now available about returnability
11. Overall this essay seems written by a “techie” for a “techie” audience/readership. But the university ids
    experienced and evaluated in far more personal and intimate ways by all levels of participants in its mission. Are
    there ways to bring these two, somewhat opposed, points of view together in a needed report such as this one?
12. Assumption
13. Assumption that data is reasonably accurate. Alumni feedback data?
14. What good will all this data do the rank and file if decision making seems to be closely held? Didn’t WASC
    criticize us for lack of collegial ability to make or influence decisions?
15. What are the decisions that are to be made?
16. An opinion without data is just an opinion
17. Get WASC and professional accreditation evaluations on same cycle
18. Give a personal application in the intro to hood the reader

Specific

1. Add the library to Table 1 “Program Review Cycle”; also, align schedule with departmental accreditation years,
such as social work
2. Need reasonable data? Will it be available?
3. Emphasize the need to get the right information to the right place; focusing on capacity
4. We are going to pull down the information (make it available) rather than push it out
5. Mention training and support
6. Do we have the capacity to train our people to work in the new organizational environment? The capacity will be
   unused unless we train our employees intelligently.
7. More updated listing on p. 2 (some are from 1994) – What’s been obtained since 2000?
8. What is PeopleSoft going to do for us? What will the data do for us?
9. This is an area where the library is essential and yet it is not even mentioned: How does the library fit into this?
   Library/Information Technology? Information access and gathering?
10. Provide more evidence of departmental assessment throughout the document; examples of program specific
    assessment and evaluation data. – What about department assessment plans and the data/evidence gathered therein?
    Should that be weighted more in this document?
11. Do we have proof that “The University has had a history of making decisions based more upon intuition . . .” (p.
    3) – Do we have proof of this? What form does it take? How balance “intuition” with the technology suggested in
    this essay? This past summer the “system” was consistently “down” for many students in an algebra class; the
    computer technology frustrated and ultimately failed these students. Isn’t this an institution that should use faith
    and inspiration?
12. How will new initiatives (PeopleSoft) impact library resources and how will they be supported
13. PeopleSoft will/may help build your capacity for evidence-based decision making, but do you have the capacity to
    train your people to use it well? How much have you budgeted for their training?
14. The concept of data accessibility and privacy needs to be addressed.
15. Include department evaluation plans? School evaluation plan?