# Minding the Gaps:

UNDERTAKING A LARGE-SCALE COMPLIANCE GAP ANALYSIS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

# Minding the Gaps

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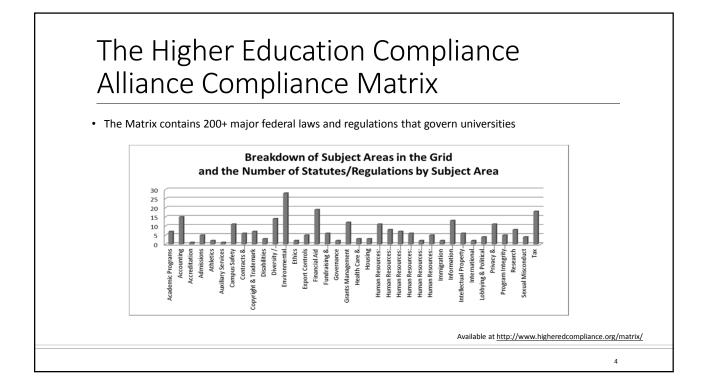
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- Newly unified compliance office combining:
  - Research Compliance Function
  - Non-research Compliance Function
- · Office adjusting to new and expanded scope and the need to set priorities
- Where/how to begin?



### The Matrix as a Starting Point

- The What the matrix identifies federal laws / regulations that apply to colleges and universities
- The Who?
- The How?

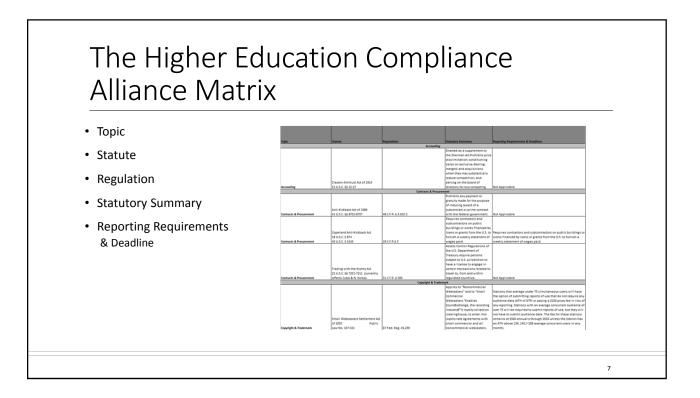
### The Gap Analysis

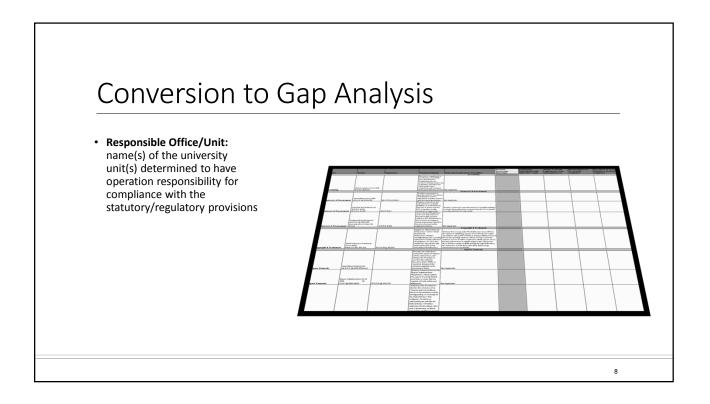
- · Identify the operational owner of issues and conduct a gap analysis
- Purpose of the Gap Analysis:
  - Shed light on the current state of compliance
  - Guide prioritization of future efforts

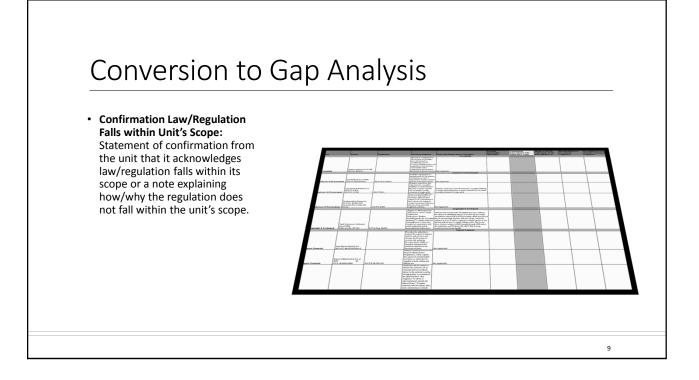
### • Benefits:

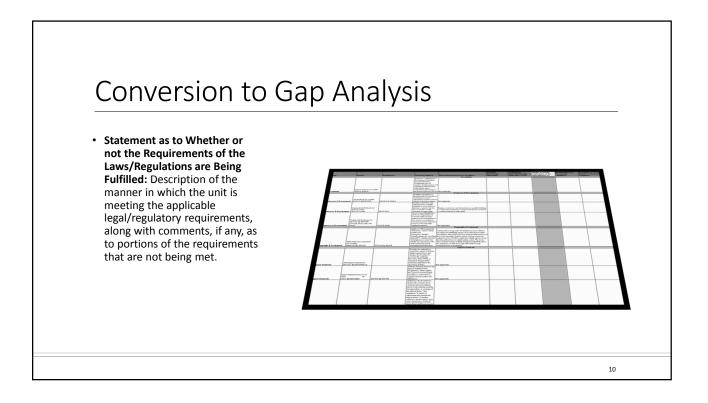
- Uncovering "opportunities"
- Planning (setting priorities) finite resources/infinite scope
- Building relationships

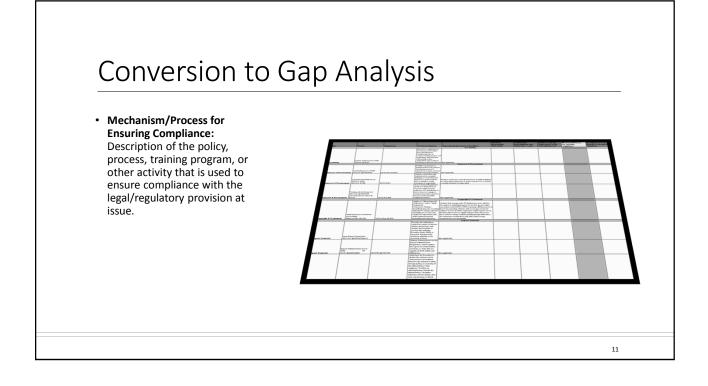
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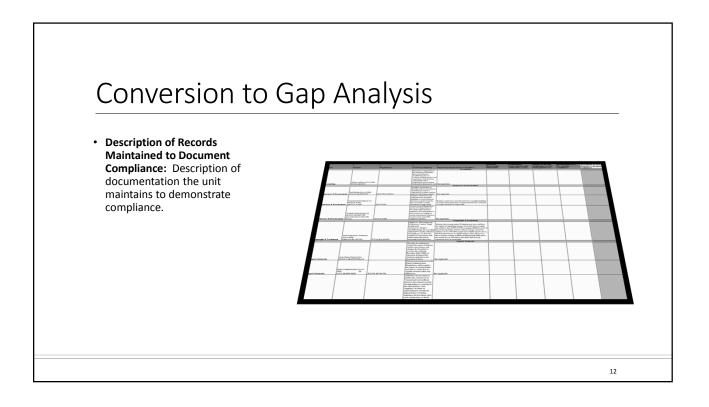








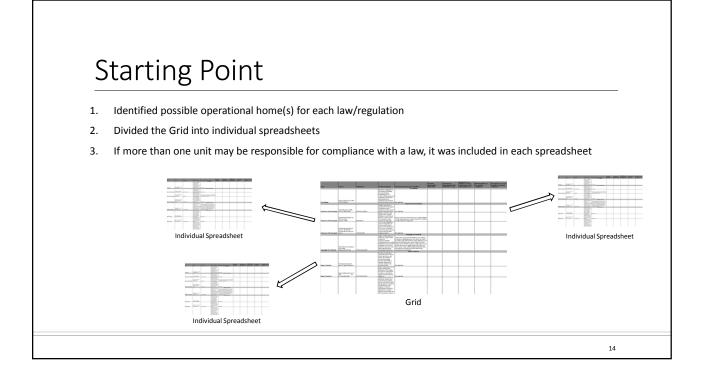


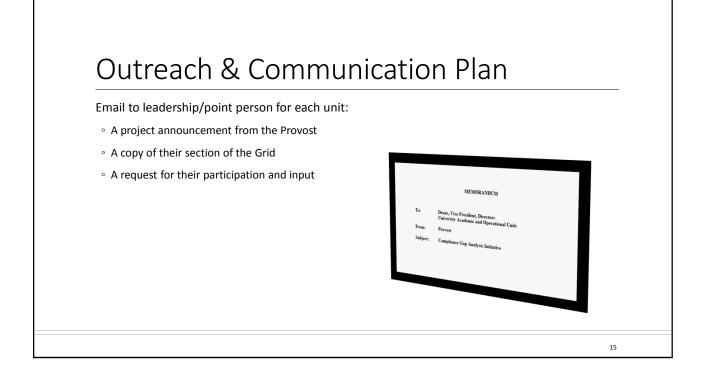


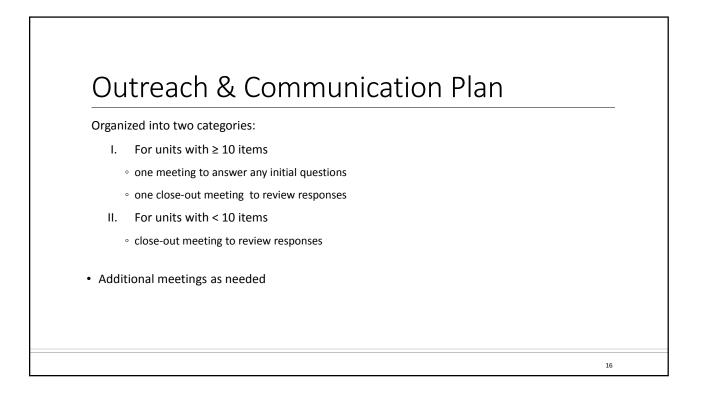
### From Matrix to Gap Analysis

The modified matrix allows you to:

- Identify and categorize federal laws and regulations
- Identity the operational unit(s) that have primary responsibility for ensuring compliance
- Undertake high level review of units' <u>compliance</u> with the laws and regulations within their jurisdiction

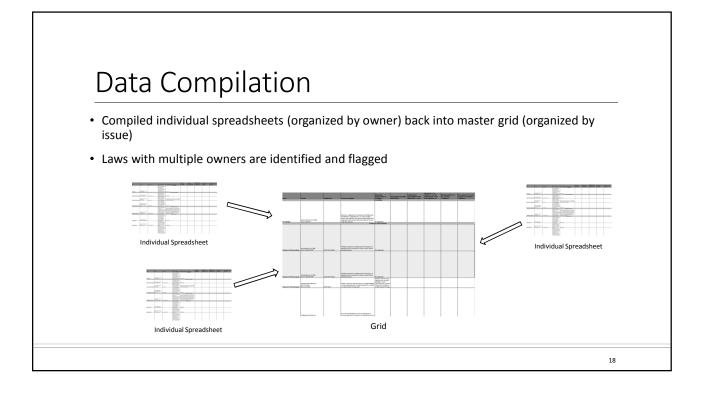






### Data Review

- · Responses reviewed prior to close-out meeting
- Items for clarification flagged for discussion
- Occasional follow-up beyond the close-out conducted via in-person discussion, email, and/or telephone
- New leads tracked down as the information-gathering stage progressed



### Analysis & Risk Assessment

Analyzed information provided and sorted the findings into one of four categories:

- 1) Appropriately Addressed
- 2) Lacking an Operational Home
- 3) Requiring Additional Action
- 4) Requiring Further Review

### Analysis & Risk Assessment

Category 1 – Appropriately Addressed

- · Defined compliance home within an identified operational unit
- Unit demonstrates, via appropriate documentation, that it has taken steps to ensure compliance with the specified law/regulation

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# Analysis & Risk Assessment

Category 2 – Lacking an Operational Home

• Cannot be linked to a specific operational unit's scope

### Analysis & Risk Assessment

Category 3 – Requiring Additional Action

- Can be linked to an operational unit's scope, but additional action on the part of the unit required to ensure compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.
  - Unable to provide sufficient assurance that appropriate policies, processes, training, or other measures were being taken to ensure compliance.

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### Analysis & Risk Assessment

### Category 4 – Requiring Further Review

- Information gathered from unit was insufficient to determine whether additional action was necessary to ensure compliance
- Two major reasons:
  - Item had complex requirements that were spread over multiple units and it was impossible to tell from basic interviews whether compliance efforts were sufficient
  - Unit failed to provide adequate information, making it difficult to determine whether compliance requirements were being met

### Analysis & Risk Assessment

For Category 2 (Items Lacking an Operational Home) and Category 3 (Items Requiring Additional Action) we assigned one of two risk levels:

- (a) Higher Risk
- (b) Lower Risk

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### Lessons Learned & Observations

- Manageable project/can be scaled
- Messaging and tone are important
- Enthusiasm will vary
- Great opportunity to establish relationships across the university

### Lessons Learned & Observations

- There may be "hot potatoes"
- You will have a lay of the land
- You will learn a lot
- Manage expectations: "Appropriately Addressed" doesn't preclude potential for future compliance concerns

### Additional Considerations

- Consult with leadership/Office of General Counsel before you start
- State institutions and open records laws
- This does not replace auditing and monitoring
- State/local laws not included in the Matrix
- Opportunities for further application such as state law, NIH Grants Policy Statement
- An ongoing exercise

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# The Road Ahead

- Remember finite resources/infinite scope
- Focus on risk areas when setting office goals for the next several years
- Recognize there will always be emerging issues
- Set a timetable to revisit

