



2015-16 Annual Report Template Office of International Programs

A. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Major accomplishments (including student accomplishments) of unit/department/college during the year reported by Academic Affairs Goal.

1. To educate a diverse student body through an integrated academic experience that positions graduates for personal success and civic responsibility in the global environment of the 21st century:

Generation Study Abroad

UNC Charlotte joined "Generation Study Abroad" which is a five-year initiative of the Institute of International Education with a goal of doubling the number of US students studying abroad by the end of the decade. OIP's particular emphasis is on increasing UNC Charlotte student access to education abroad experiences. To that end, in March 2016 the Office of Education Abroad, in partnership with a national non-profit education abroad provider, the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE), awarded 100 free passports to UNC Charlotte students as part of the CIEE Passport Caravan project. Earlier in the Spring 2016 semester, OEA distributed general and directed marketing, including outreach to all Pell Grant recipients at UNC Charlotte, to apply for the free passports. Nearly 300 students submitted an application.

International Education Initiatives

To advance campus-based internationalization efforts, the Office of International Program's International Education Initiatives (IEI) unit successfully hosted more than 30 programs that engaged over 23,000 students, faculty, staff, and community members throughout the 2015-16 academic year. This year's highlights included a significant increase in the number of program participants in the following programs: International Career Panel (25% increase; n = 61), Great Decisions Lecture Series (40% increase; n = 72), and International Women's Day (42% increase; n = 57). The IEI team also implemented a successful process to obtain a more reliable indicator of the student attendance count at the 2015 UNC Charlotte International Festival. OIP is pleased to report that students comprise 11% (n = 2,061) of the attendees at a traditional International Festival (n = 19,497), including the contribution of 400 student volunteers.

National Ranking in Number of International Students

A critical component in promoting global perspectives, international awareness, intercultural understanding, and global citizenship is campus diversity. UNC Charlotte continues to strengthen its diverse community by further strengthening international student enrollments. The Fall 2015 census marked a record enrollment of 1,688 F-1 visa holders, representing approximately 6% of the total UNC Charlotte student body, with further breakdown by diploma level indicating that internationals comprise 23% of the graduate student body (n = 1,213) and 1.9% of the undergraduate student enrollment (n = 432). In the Institute of International Education's 2015 "Open Doors" survey report on International Educational Exchange, UNC Charlotte is ranked as 107 in the nation among 245 institutions hosting 1,000 or more international students. Within the UNC system, only one institution ranks higher than UNC Charlotte.

Community Service/Civic Responsibility: ourBRIDGE

Through the Global Gateways residential program for international and internationally-minded female students, OIP strengthened its four-year partnership and engagement with ourBRIDGE, a non-profit organization that provides after-school tutoring for refugee and immigrant students. Global Gateways (GG) residents participated in volunteer opportunities totaling 18 volunteer sessions inclusive of over 850 volunteer hours provided by the residents. For their service the GG residents primarily assisted the instructors, however, once a month, the residents created, implemented, and evaluated their own lesson plans for the community. At the close of term, the ourBRIDGE CEO and Academic Director brought 11 students to UNC Charlotte for the annual graduating student Global Gateways Academic Day. Through their engagement with the ourBRIDGE program, GG residents expand their awareness and understanding of the Charlotte international community, as well as the challenges faced by refugees and immigrants.



2. To expand the frontiers of knowledge and leverage discovery for the public benefit through innovative programs that span the disciplines in research, creative activities, and graduate education:

Record Numbers of Student Fulbright Applicants

The experience of engaging in academic inquiry while in a non-US environment, expands one's scope of knowledge, broadening perspectives and increasing discovery. With the goal of offering additional opportunities for students' frontier expansion, following a rigorous review process, the OIP's Office of Education Abroad submitted a record number of UNC Charlotte student applications for Fulbright awards. In total, nine Fulbright applications were submitted in October 2015. The submissions included research grants, English Teaching Assistantships, and a Fine Arts award application. Students represented the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Science, Health and Human Services, Arts + Architecture, and Engineering. To date, the highest number of UNC Charlotte Fulbright recipients awarded in a single year is three.

Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program

In 2015-2016 the OIP's Office of Intercultural and Educational Experiences (OIEE) applied for and received award to host participants in the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program (BSMP). OIEE assisted and welcomed 15 BSMP students to campus for enrollment in various STEM-designated academic programs: Architecture, Urban Planning, Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, and Computer Engineering. BSMP students received scholarship funding from the Brazilian government. During their year as 49ers, the BSMP students shared their cultural perspectives and introduced different modes for approaching academic challenges.

International Enrichment Seminar

OIP's International Enrichment Seminar (UCOL 1200) continued for its fourth consecutive year. In the Fall 2015 semester, OIP offered six sections of the three credit course and enrolled 150 freshmen. Approximately 600 students have completed the course since its inception in 2012. The class is strategically designed to challenge and encourage students to expand their cultural awareness and understanding through a variety of intercultural and international events and experiences. Students are required to reflect upon their participation in programs and events through extensive writing assignments and classroom dialogue. In order to support the University's Prospect for Success (PFS) initiative and associated Learning Outcomes, OIP aligned the lesson plans, class discussions, and assignments to support the Common Reading, *The Postmortal*, as well as the expected learning outcomes: Inquiry, Student Success, and Self & Cultural Awareness. OIP Associate Director further supported the PFS work by contributing to the PFS eBook scheduled for publication in Fall 2016. At the close of the Spring 2016 semester, OIP Associate Director Sanchez, in collaboration with IEI Assistant Director Wongtrirat, facilitated a workshop for PFS instructors to address the Cultural Awareness learning outcome.

3. To engage community partners in mutually beneficial programs that enhance the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the region:

Partnership with World Affairs Council of Charlotte

As acknowledgement of the Charlotte community's appreciation for the university's and its leadership's promotion of an inclusive, diverse city, Chancellor Dubois was recognized as the World Affairs Council of Charlotte' 2016 World Citizens Award recipient in April 2016. The award program was a premier community affair, drawing approximately 550 of the area's most distinguished business leaders and prominent philanthropists. OIP was UNC Charlotte's primary sponsor and nominator for the recognition. The event highlighted and showcased UNC Charlotte, specifically the institution's international engagement and global reach.

Great Decisions: Foreign Policy Association Community Lecture Series

OIP hosted the Great Decisions community lecture series in January and February at the UNC Charlotte Center City Building. The series, which is based on topics selected by the Foreign Policy Association, is implemented by OIP in partnership with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte and Charlotte Country Day School. Over 358 attendees participated in 2016, representing an increase in community participation by 40% over the previous year. The increase is of particular note since one fewer speaker presentation was offered in 2016 (n = 5). Topics included: International Migration, United Nations Post-2015, Shifting Alliances in the Middle East, The Rise of ISIS, and Cuba and the United States. For the second consecutive



year, all presenters featured UNC Charlotte faculty. Two programs further engaged the community by extending a “featured partner” opportunity to The Magellan Society and the Young Professionals of Charlotte, two internationally-focused non-profit organizations hosted by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte and the Charlotte International House, respectively.

UNC Charlotte-Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Global Learning Collaborative

For the second consecutive year, OIP collaborated with the Military and Global Leadership Academy at Marie G. Davis (MGLA), a Charlotte-Mecklenburg School K-12 Magnet Program to coordinate the Earth Balloon educational partnership. The Earth Balloon, a gigantic inflatable earth balloon standing 19-feet high and 22-feet in diameter, is rented by UNC Charlotte. Then, during the week prior to the UNC Charlotte International Festival, the Earth Balloon is loaned to MGLA for on-site access at the school. Lesson plans exploring geography and earth science are incorporated into the experiential opportunity offered for students to “step inside the globe.” Teachers from MGLA, in addition to area K-12 institutions invited to participate (e.g., St. Mark’s Day Care, The Learning Collaborative, etc.), created specialized Earth Balloon lesson plans for their students. Participants were invited to revisit the Earth Balloon and join the UNC Charlotte community for the annual International Festival held the weekend following the K-12 classroom Earth Balloon experience. In 2016, over 500 K-12 students participated in the Earth Balloon project to learn more about our world.

International Festival 40th Year Anniversary Recognition

On October 17, 2015, the Office of International Programs, with support from numerous campus and community partners, hosted the UNC Charlotte International Festival, the institution’s largest and longest-standing cultural event celebrating the campus and city international communities. UNC Charlotte serves nearly 2,000 international students representing 85 countries. In addition to the traditional arts, crafts, cuisine, games, and performance elements showcasing more than 60 cultures and drawing nearly 20,000 attendees, the 40 year anniversary included a special closing celebration. At 6pm, following the Parade of Nations procession in the Student Activity Center, attendees were escorted by flag bearers to parade along a specified route to the Irwin Belk Track and Field Stadium. The special celebration program featured the student organizations representing the two countries with the largest international student enrollment at UNC Charlotte: India (n =853; 51% of the enrolled international student body) and China (n = 213; 13%). The student Kung Fu Club led the parade with drummers and offered thanks with a special Chinese lion dance blessing performance in front of the Student Union. Attendees then finished the parade route at the soccer stadium where the Indian Student Association, Trivini, shared an encore dance performance. With sunset, the crowd of approximately 1,500 enjoyed a fireworks display while listening to international instrumental music.

B. EXAMPLES OF DATA-BASED IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

Describe 3 examples of how the unit/department/college has used assessment data for the purpose of improvement during the year.

Three examples of how OIP has used data to improve during the FY16 follow. The first two resulted from the Office of Education Abroad’s (OEA) Program Review Study (Fall 2015) and the third from the International Student and Scholar Office’s student satisfaction questionnaire findings.

Following analysis of the OEA’s Program Review (Fall 2015), OIP and OEA leadership identified the top two recommendations for immediate address: (1) development of a formal process for review of study abroad eligibility for countries with travel warning status, and (2) establishment of a centralized financial billing process for the study abroad student payment system.

- (1) As noted by the program review team, “We recommend that UNCC develop a formal policy on study abroad in countries with a Travel Warning issued by the U.S. Department of State.” At present, the default policy is that any country included on the United States Department of State’s Travel Warning list is not eligible for UNC Charlotte students to select for a study abroad program. However, the policy is not one that has been officially reviewed by the institution, nor is a complete country restriction always reasonable simply based on the USDS Travel Warning notification. For example, in many instances, a Travel Warning noted for a country may actually refer to a specific regional area or city vs. the entire country. To investigate the recommendation, the OEA Director and Legal Affairs have



engaged in discussion to develop a formal policy for UNC Charlotte. As part of the process, OEA is reviewing various policy examples from peer institutions (Summer 2016). Then, in collaboration with Legal Affairs, OIP expects to create an effective and flexible policy to allow our campus to address education abroad programming in countries under USDS Travel Warning, for implementation in FY17.

- (2) The second recommendation provided in the OEA Program Review addressed billing matters. The reviewers recommended for OEA to engage in “. . . a serious exploration of the possibility of OEA utilizing existing UNC Charlotte student billing systems and methods rather than handling student payments in a ‘shadow system’ via credit card.” OIP Assistant Provost Gallegos and OEA Director Sekulich met in March 2016 with Controller Williams and Assistant Controller Vetzner to discuss the proposition to incorporate the OEA billing process into the centralized institutional structure within the Office of Financial Services (OFS), under administration by the Bursar. With support from the Controller, in April 2016, OEA Director Sekulich and OEA Administrative Coordinator McGinley met with Assistant Controller Vetzner to explore the technical matters associated with movement of the billing process from OEA to OFS. OEA provided a list of payment types, a workflow chart for payments, and a list of OEA fund numbers associated with the present billing process. OFS is now reviewing the information. If the transition of billing is feasible, then OEA expects to work with OFS to implement a new process in FY17.

The final example of use of data results to implement change is the International Student and Scholar Office (ISSO) findings associated with the Spring 2016 ISSO Office Survey.

- (3) In Spring 2016 the ISSO distributed a questionnaire to international students enrolled for Spring 2016 (n = 1,487). Periodically, ISSO surveys international students to identify student satisfaction with various matters (e.g., ISSO services, campus environment, financial stability, etc.). Based on anecdotal feedback received by ISSO Advisors in consultation sessions with international students over the past two years, in addition to anecdotal evidence demonstrated by increased volume of student usage of ISSO services (e.g., workshops, 1-1 advising, etc.), the ISSO staff opted to revise the 2012 survey to include questions regarding personal adjustment, with emphasis on matters producing anxiety. Analysis of completed survey data (n = 125; 2% return), indicated that students are concerned at the “highly” or “moderate” level regarding immigration status (n = 56; 45%) and financial stability (n = 54; 43%). During the Summer 2016, ISSO will identify strategies to address the noted concerns and the overall findings from the survey.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO 2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT

1. ANNUAL PROGRESS ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES FOR 2015-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN

GOALS: After completing sections III H and III I of your 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, attach the entire 2015-2020 Strategic Plan to the annual report.

2. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT DATA:** Attach a 2015 Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plan and Report for each undergraduate and graduate degree program and certificate program, stand alone minor, and distance education program offered online only by each department. **Colleges that do not submit the required *Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Plans and Reports* will be contacted by the Office of Academic Affairs.**

3. INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS REPORT ASSESSMENT FINDINGS:

Attach the 2015-16 Institutional Effectiveness Report template with assessment findings.