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DIVISION OF
STUDENT AFFAIRS

Annual Report 2014-15
Fall 2014 brought about the seventh administration of the Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) since UM-Flint began utilizing the Ruffalo Noel Levitz survey in 1996. The SSI makes it possible to track our students’ degree of satisfaction with their campus experience, and compare it with the national average for four-year public universities in twelve (12) key categories: Academic Advising Effectiveness, Campus Climate, Campus Support Services, Concern for the Individual, Instructional Effectiveness, Admissions and Financial Aid Effectiveness, Registration Effectiveness, Responsiveness to Diverse Populations, Safety and Security, Service Excellence, Student Centeredness, and Campus Life. Historically, this data has been used for assessment, accreditation and self-study reports, campus planning, and policy analysis.

3,300 surveys were distributed between November 3 and December 12, 2014, with a return rate of 42%. Consistent with previous survey results, UM-Flint students’ overall satisfaction remains above national means; and when asked, “If you had to do it over, would you enroll at UM-Flint again?” students responded with a resounding, “Yes!”

For the first time since partnering with Ruffalo Noel Levitz, SSI results were presented by Ruffalo Noel Levitz Associate Vice President for Retention Solutions Julie Bryant. Ms. Bryant spent a full-day on campus facilitating an in-depth examination of our data, and its implications for improving the student experience at UM-Flint.

It is with pleasure I share the accomplishments of Student Affairs and its respective units during 2014-2015. As always, your support and continued engagement are much appreciated.

Mary Jo Sekelsky, Ed.D.
Vice Chancellor
Student Affairs has been proactive in meeting expectations associated with the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act. SaVE charges universities to provide programming that addresses issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking via initiatives such as primary and ongoing prevention/awareness; safe and positive options for bystander intervention; and risk reduction to recognize warning signs of abusive behavior. Two types of education programs for students are mandated by SaVE: primary prevention and awareness for incoming students; and ongoing prevention and awareness for all students.

The campus is addressing prevention and awareness efforts utilizing a number of approaches:

- Beginning in 2015-16, students will complete “Haven – Understanding Sexual Assault” which is an online learning tool addressing sexual assault, relationship violence, and stalking. This interactive module is designed to engage and empower students to create safe, healthy campus environments.
- A full-time Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Advocate will join the Women’s Educational Center staff in Fall 2015. The Advocate will, among other things, coordinate services and educational programs on topics such as gender, sexual violence, and sexual assault prevention.

“Step Up, Speak Out,” the Student Affairs Bystander Intervention Campaign, was designed to raise awareness of behaviors in violation of the Student Sexual Misconduct Policy, while providing guidance on effective bystander intervention and incident reporting. Peer Educators conducted “Step Up, Speak Out” workshops at New Student Orientation throughout Summer 2015. Peer Educators will be available during the academic year to facilitate classroom and group discussions. “Step Up, Speak Out” was funded by a grant from the Avon Foundation for Women. Student Affairs trained ten Peer Educators in 2014-15.

**OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**Office of the Ombuds**
- The Office of the Ombuds marked its eleventh year on the Flint campus, and continued to offer assistance to students and staff in resolving conflicts, disputes, and/or complaints on an informal, independent, neutral, and confidential basis. Professional development was acquired through training and workshops at the 2015 Annual Conference of the International Ombudsman Association (IOA). The University Ombuds received a certificate of completion for an IOA Full-Day Specialty Workshop entitled, “Understanding and Managing High Conflict Personalities.”
- The total number of complainants was thirty-five (35), and remained within the range of 29 to 33 of the past eleven years. Approximately 74% of clients in 2014-2015 were students, of which 73% were classified as seniors or graduate students attempting to resolve a variety of academic issues prior to graduation. The total ombuds actions required to resolve and/or enable clients to resolve concerns was 252 which is over seven per complainant—a significant uptick from previous years due to complexities of several cases.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
- Administrative Information Management Services (AIMS) worked in tandem with the Data Committee of the campus-wide Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) planning initiative. Enrollment, financial aid, and scholarship data were generated by AIMS for further analysis. The gathered business intelligence was utilized by the SEM Recruitment and Retention Committees to develop the university’s strategic enrollment plan.
- Student Affairs sought to cut computer hardware costs when AIMS, with assistance from ITS, started a pilot program to use virtual desktop technology (VDI) at the workstations of several DSA staff members. VDI is the practice of hosting a desktop operating system that runs off of a centralized server. This technology has been utilized in student computer labs across campus for a number of years, and the pilot program endeavored to measure the ability of staff to use it as effectively, efficiently, and securely as regular desktops.
- AIMS devoted substantial staffing resources to a large upgrade of WebFOCUS from version 7.7 to 8 with a complete overhaul of the database structure and end-user interface. Faculty and staff were afforded many one-on-one and in-the-lab training opportunities to prepare end-users with the new feature-rich interface. AIMS also created several additional data warehouse tables that combine orientation and admissions information for the benefit of making informed decisions.

**COUNSELING, ACCESSIBILITY, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**
- Counseling, Accessibility, and Psychological Services (CAPS) created a Wellness Room for students. CAPS provides a full-body massage chair, light box for the treatment of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), and a biofeedback station which trains users on the utilization of mindfulness/meditation to alleviate stress and anxiety. These resources support a holistic approach to health and wellness.
- Clinical services provided by CAPS were expanded to include therapy groups. “Everyday Emotions” focused on emotional regulation, distress tolerance, and effective communication. Meanwhile, “Feeling Good” provided a cognitive behavioral approach to managing depression.
- The First Annual Play Day was inaugurated in April 2015. This event provided students with games, activities, and refreshments to de-stress before final exams. Over 70 students confirmed their appreciation with enthusiastic participation and feedback.

**HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL LIFE**
- First Street Residence Hall staff were Leaders and Best! Two staff members, Alicia Gillman and Tobi Adebisi, excelled academically and earned the Maize and Blue Distinguished Scholarship Award for intellectual maturity and depth, character, talent, and service. Tobi was also honored as the Student Speaker for the 2015 May Commencement Ceremony.
- Academic achievement was not limited to staff as over 45% of First Street Residence Hall students earned a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA for Fall and Winter semesters while over 60% recorded a 2.5 or higher. Students in the Honors Living Learning Community contributed to the positive numbers. The Honors
Community achieved an average 3.74 for both semesters.

- Learning remained a top priority for students living in First Street. Information Technology Services (ITS) converted the fourth floor lounge into a computer lab. Residential students may now avail themselves of 20 state-of-the-art computers to assist with coursework.
- Invest in Your Success (IYS) witnessed an increase in the number of faculty and staff volunteers. IYS students were mentored by 52 faculty and staff members from across the university. Academic achievements and accomplishments were celebrated with an end-of-the-year Invest in Your Success Banquet attended by a record number of mentors.

**INTERCULTURAL CENTER**

- The Intercultural Center (ICC) joined Student Affairs in 2014 as an official unit offering programs and services to students and the university. ICC was created with strong student input to promote understanding around culture, ethnicity, race, and their intersections while also supporting the work of UM-Flint’s cultural student organizations. An October grand opening of the Intercultural Center in Room 115 of the Harding Mott University Center featured Chancellor Susan Borrego and student leaders along with a celebratory reception.
- Three Candid Campus Conversations were planned and implemented by the Black Student Union. Students, faculty, and staff attended sessions on “Being Me at UM-Flint,” “Rape Culture,” and “Our International Community.” The Intercultural Center proved to be a safe space for the campus community to engage around such important topics.
- CAMPUSPEAK, a provider of educational resources, presented an Elephants and Onions Workshop courtesy of the Intercultural Center. The three-hour interactive workshop motivated “students to embrace diversity and peel back the layers of social justice.” Twenty participants in group activities explored social identities and diversity while simultaneously learning effective communication and critical-thinking skills.

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**

- Total award dollars exceeded $75,000,000 for the fifth consecutive year!
- Federal student loan borrowing experienced a mild downward trend in 2014-15. This was hailed as a good sign as it portends less student loan indebtedness upon graduation! Over $2 million less was borrowed in federal Perkins, Subsidized, Unsubsidized, and Graduate PLUS Loan programs by UM-Flint students.
- The Office of Financial Aid welcomed Phillip Hang as the Assistant Director of Scholarships. This newly-created position manages, awards, and maintains all aspects of scholarships while serving as the primary contact with Development and other units such as Undergraduate Admissions. Such a specified role was the recommendation of Consultant Michele Sandlin from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) who conducted a comprehensive site review in 2013. A specified role was the recommendation of Consultant Michele Sandlin from the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) who conducted a comprehensive site review in 2013.
- In partnership with Mpowering My Success, U.S. Congressman Dan Kildee hosted a roundtable on August 26, 2014, in the Harding Mott University Center Happenings Room. Approximately 50 “Community Champions” met to discuss issues impacting foster youth transitioning to higher education. It was Congressman Kildee’s intent to use the gathered information to form policy position in Congress.
- Director of Financial Aid Lori Vedder and Vice Chancellor Mary Jo Sekelsky represented UM-Flint/Mpowering My Success in Washington, D.C. on October 29, 2014. “Creating Access to Postsecondary Opportunities for Youth in Transition from Foster Care” was convened by the American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF). Diverse stakeholders from across the country gathered to reflect upon promising practices, and consider opportunities for further investment and innovation for youth in transition—shifting the conversation from “transitioning out of foster care” to “transitioning to opportunities.”
- The Mpowering My Success Program received a one-year grant extension from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services in the amount of $143,636. This extension funds the program and Life Skills Coach through September 2016. $566,544 total dollars have thus far been awarded to Mpowering My Success!

**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR**

- The Office of the Registrar worked closely with Information Technology Services (ITS) and Graduate Programs to implement a grading scale conversion for graduate students. Records of active graduate students were converted to change from a 9.0 to 4.0 scale which is consistent with the Ann Arbor and Dearborn campuses. Over 1,400 records were converted.
- Faculty and students alike were pleased with the successful implementation of

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new functionality in the online registration process. Students may register online with an override in the first ten days of the semester if seats are available. The new paperless process allows waitlisted students 48 hours to register for an open seat once alerted by e-mail.

- Registrar’s commenced the roll out of DegreeWorks in partnership with Administrative Information Management Services (AIMS), the Student Success Center, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and Information Technology Services (ITS). DegreeWorks will facilitate the creation of academic plans benefiting students and academic departments alike, and it will replace the current Curriculum, Advising and Program Planning (CAPP) degree evaluation module. 2016 is the targeted “go-live” date.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Club Sports
- Club Sports continued to grow in 2014-15! Women’s Soccer, which will compete in the Women’s Midwest College Club Soccer League, was the newest club sport to be welcomed into the fold while the Football Club was reorganized and reenergized with eager enthusiasm for the upcoming season. There are currently thirteen active club teams of which seven were recently elevated to Sponsored Student Organization (SSO) status: Cheerleading Club, Football Club, Men’s Ice Hockey Club, Men’s Lacrosse Club, Men’s Soccer Club, Women’s Ice Hockey Club, and Women’s Soccer.
- Numerous club sports experienced success in 2014-15. Men’s Lacrosse, which competes in the National Collegiate Lacrosse League (NCLL), was ranked 4th in the nation! Similarly, Women’s Hockey was no less impressive going undefeated with an 18-0 record while Men’s Hockey once again qualified for the Michigan Collegiate Hockey Conference (MCHC) Tournament with an 18-11-1 record.

Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Ten fraternity and sorority members attended the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI) in February 2015. This five-day institute, hosted by the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, brought "together fraternity men and sorority women from across North America to create opportunities to explore, define, and enhance leadership skills, personal awareness, and commitment . . ." UIFI attendees constructed individual blueprints for making changes in their chapters and the Greek Community that included building Greek unity among all chapters, raising chapter grade-point averages, and conducting values-based membership recruitment programs.
- Fraternity and Sorority Life sponsored four students in January to attend the IFC Academy and Panhellenic Academy in Indianapolis to receive hands-on training and tools for ensuring the success of Interfraternity Council, College Panhellenic Council, and individual council officers. Indianapolis was also the site of the AFLV (Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values) Central Conference held in conjunction with
the National Black Leadership Conference in February. The annual conference, attended by five University of Michigan-Flint students, provides programming to fraternity/sorority governing councils, chapters, and advisors while also focusing on current events and issues that impact fraternity/sorority communities.

Leadership Programs
- Student Involvement and Leadership (SIL) hosted the 2nd annual Blueprints Leadership Conference. Over 100 students were in attendance. The keynote speaker was former NCAA track champion, Olympian, and current Lansing City Council member Dr. Judi Brown Clarke who educated attendees on elevating their performance in the classroom and life.
- Several new leadership initiatives were implemented in SIL. These included the Catalyst Leadership Program (through LeaderShape) which provided an intensive one-day leadership jump-start for 27 students, an eight-part lunch and learn series, a StrengthsQuest training, and the Leadership Challenge. Eight SIL interns assisted with programming and events in 2014-15.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Center
- The Ellen Bommarito LGBT Center celebrated its 20th Anniversary in October with a formal dinner and program attended by more than 80 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members. Approximately $9,000 was raised at the celebration for the Mary Jo Sekelsky Critical Difference Grant. This important grant affords LGBTQ students financial assistance when confronted with an emergency.
- The Coming Out Monologues proved very popular as the LGBT Center hosted this program for the first time. Over 60 attendees heard personal stories from UM-Flint students, faculty, and staff. Meanwhile, the Second Annual Lavender Graduation Ceremony closed out the academic year as 44 dinner guests including the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, and faculty honored the achievements and contributions of 19 gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, asexual, and allied student graduates.

Student Activities
- The year began with a Welcome Back Carnival on Kearsley Street for all students. Additional welcome back activities included M-Gagement in the Fall and a Block Party in Winter where students were able to interact and learn more about on-campus student organizations. SIL’s Leadership Awards 2015 concluded the year by recognizing and celebrating student and organizational accomplishments.
- Student Involvement and Leadership (SIL) purchased OrgSync in an effort to enhance communication amongst student groups. This initiative was a partnership with Campus Activities Board (CAB) and Student Government. OrgSync, a dynamic group management program that facilitates inter-group communication, stores documents, apprises students of campus events, and tracks student participation, will “go live” in Fall 2015.

WOMEN’S EDUCATIONAL CENTER
- The Women’s Educational Center (WEC) initiated the Women’s Educational Speaker Series in partnership with Women’s and Gender Studies, Political Science, and the International and Global Studies Program. This was part of a collaborative educational effort to highlight women’s participation in social movements of national and global scale. Leading broadcast journalist Amy Goodman from Democracy Now! was welcomed to campus as well as Saru Jayaraman, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC) and Director of the Food Labor Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley.
- Phase one of the 2014-17 Strategic Plan was completed with continued programming on issues related to gender and an increased capacity to provide academic, personal, and financial support to low-income women and families. Over 60 low-income students, the largest number in WEC history, were provided assistance in preparing applications for the Center for the Education of Women (CEW) Scholarship in Ann Arbor. A comprehensive resource guide was also completed for low-income students listing local, state, and national benefits as well as local non-profit based resources.
- Sexual assault advocacy, prevention, and awareness programs and services were enhanced. The WEC partnered with other departments, programs, and groups during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Dating Violence Awareness Month, and Sexual Assault Awareness Month on events such as Sex Signals, I Found My Voice, Online Dating Dialogue, Rape Culture Dialogue, Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Trainings, the Clothesline Project, Pillowtalk Discussion with sororities, and the 6th Annual Take Back the Night Rally and March. Take Back the Night 2015 was the largest in UM-Flint history due to collaboration with the LGBT Center, Social Work Department, Criminal Justice Club, Social Work Club, Students for Free Thought, Public Safety, and the Interfraternity Council.