Campus Climate and Sense of Belonging for Asian Students

Yanmei Zhang, Ph.D
Kim Pace, J.D.
Alexander Cena

University of Florida
Presentation Goals

• To examine Asian student perception of community and sense of belonging on campus.
• To understand how Asian student perceptions affect satisfaction with academic and social experiences.
• To explore what we as student affairs professionals can do to integrate Asian students to the campus community and to help them enhance their academic and social experience on campus.
Study Purpose

Why *campus climate and sense of belonging*?

- One of the Established Goals of the University Goal-Setting Task Force: An exceptional academic environment that reflects the breadth of thought essential for preeminence, achieved by a community of students, faculty, and staff who have *diverse experiences and backgrounds*.

- **Objective 1.** UF students, faculty and staff with increasingly diverse demographic and geographic characteristics.

- **Objective 2.** A university climate that is inclusive, supportive and respectful to all.
Study Purpose

**Mission:** Student Affairs actively contributes to the university’s academic mission, provides comprehensive student services, and educates all UF students. Student Affairs enriches student learning through leadership, service, engagement, and self-discovery resulting in a well-qualified, healthy, and **broadly diverse** citizenry and workforce.

**Vision:** The Division of Student Affairs will exemplify the professional hallmarks of student affairs best practices for creating educational environments where students develop as leaders, **embrace diversity** and become life-long contributors in a global society.

**Diversity:** One of Student Affairs values.

**Global Understanding and Diversity:** One of Key Strategic Areas for Student Affairs.
University of Florida Workforce

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian Faculty and Staff (TEAMS, USPS)</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2005</td>
<td>Fall 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>819 / 13,076</td>
<td>1026 / 13,766</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Asian Faculty and Staff at UF**
  - Fall 2005: 6.26%
  - Fall 2015: 7.45%

- **Faculty at UF**
  - Fall 2005: 10.64%
  - Fall 2015: 13.11%
Asian Faculty By College (2015)

- Engineering: 25.70%
- Business: 19.05%
- Medicine (Incl JAX): 19.09%
- Education: 3.21%
- CLAS: 7.53%
- Law: 4.65%
- COTA: 2.83%
- All UF: 13.11%
University of Florida Workforce

Asian Faculty by CLAS Departments (2015)

- CLAS: 7.53%
- CLAS - Physics: 18.87%
- CLAS - Mathematics: 17.78%
- CLAS - History: 0.00%
- CLAS - Political Science: 0.00%
- CLAS - Sociology / Criminology: 0.00%

@NASPAtweets  #NASPA16
## Study Purpose

### Campus Climate from SERU data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian / Alaskan Native</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black / African American</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>58%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) Spring 2015*
Asian Students at the University of Florida

- 7.06% of populations (3,710)
- 91% - In state
- 46% - Male (believed to be referring to sex)
  - unknown genders were included in female count
- 71% Undergraduate
  - 8.7% – Freshmen*
  - 22% – Sophomore*
  - 27% - Junior
  - 41% - Senior
- 2009 - 2013 - decline in numbers
  - 8% to 6.8%
- 2013 to 2015
  - 174 to 230
Data Collection

• This study used 2013 institutional SERU data. Raw data was acquired from the university’s Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

• SERU, Student Experience in the Research University Survey, is a national benchmarking study that examines student experience and learning in research universities.

• SERU was administered to all undergraduate students at the university. A total of 17,798 students participated, yielding a 58% response rate.
Selected Survey Questions

• Demographic items
• Campus Climate: Perception of campus climate for students with different identities, i.e., economic/social classes, gender, race/ethnicity, religious beliefs, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and disabilities, and immigration background (8 items)
• Overall Satisfaction: Satisfaction with academic experience and social experience (2 items)
• Sense of Belonging (1 item)
• 1-6 Likert scale: Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Somewhat Disagree, Somewhat Agree, Agree, and Strongly Agree
Selected Survey Questions

• Campus Climate: Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statement:
  - Students of my race/ethnicity are respected on this campus.
  - Students of my social-economic status are respected on this campus.
  - Students of my gender are respected on this campus.
  - Students of my religious beliefs are respected on this campus.
  - Students of my political beliefs are respected on this campus.
  - Students of my sexual orientation are respected on this campus.
  - Students of my immigration background are respected on this campus.
  - Students with a physical, psychological, or learning disability like mine are respected on this campus.

• Overall Satisfaction: Please rate your level of satisfaction with: Overall academic experience and overall social experience

• Sense of Belonging: Please rate your level of agreement with: I feel that I belong at this campus.
Data Analysis

- Data was coded.
- Descriptive analysis was conducted by examining overall means for all Asian participants.
- T-test was used to compare differences due to gender, social/economic status, and first generation student status.
- A correlation analysis was conducted to examine the relationships between perceptions of campus climate, overall satisfaction, and sense of belonging.
## Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Information</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>55.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors Student</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Generation Student</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income Student</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q1. Students of my race/ethnicity are respected on this campus.
Q2. Students of my socio-economic status are respected on this campus.
Q3. Students of my gender are respected on this campus.
Q4. Students of my religious beliefs are respected on this campus.
Q5. Students of my political beliefs are respected on this campus.
Q6. Students of my sexual orientation are respected on this campus.
Q7. Students of my immigration background are respected on this campus.
Q8. Students with a physical, psychological, or learning disability like mine are respected on this campus.
Q1. Students of my race/ethnicity are respected on this campus.
Q2. Students of my socio-economic status are respected on this campus.
Q3. Students of my gender are respected on this campus.
Q4. Students of my religious beliefs are respected on this campus.
Q5. Students of my political beliefs are respected on this campus.
Q6. Students of my sexual orientation are respected on this campus.
Q7. Students of my immigration background are respected on this campus.
Q8. Students with a physical, psychological, or learning disability like mine are respected on this campus.
Overall Satisfaction and Belonging

Q9. Satisfaction with academic experience.
Q10. Satisfaction with social experience.
Q11. I feel that I belong at this institution.
## Campus Climate: Male vs. Female

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>Male Students</th>
<th></th>
<th>Female Students</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$M$</td>
<td>$SD$</td>
<td>$M$</td>
<td>$SD$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>4.78</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>4.77</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>4.83</td>
<td>0.95</td>
<td>4.88</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>5.11*</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>4.94</td>
<td>0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>4.77</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>4.84</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>4.84</td>
<td>0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q6</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>0.88</td>
<td>5.18</td>
<td>0.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q7</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>1.07</td>
<td>4.78</td>
<td>1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>5.66</td>
<td>1.34</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates a significantly higher score at $p<0.05$ level.

Q1. Students of my race/ethnicity are respected on this campus.
Q2. Students of my socio-economic status are respected on this campus.
Q3. Students of my gender are respected on this campus.
Q4. Students of my religious beliefs are respected on this campus.
Q5. Students of my political beliefs are respected on this campus.
Q6. Students of my sexual orientation are respected on this campus.
Q7. Students of my immigration background are respected on this campus.
Q8. Students with a physical, psychological, or learning disability like mine are respected on this campus.
Satisfaction/Belonging: Male vs. Female

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q</th>
<th>Male Students</th>
<th>Female Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q9</td>
<td>4.59*</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q10</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q11</td>
<td>4.91*</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates a significantly higher score at p<0.05 level.

Q9. Please rate your level of satisfaction with overall academic experience
Q10. Please rate your level of satisfaction with overall social experience
Q11. Please rate your level of agreement with: I feel that I belong at this campus.
## Campus Climate: 1st Gen vs. Others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>1st Generation</th>
<th>Other Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>4.75</td>
<td>4.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>4.89*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3</td>
<td>5.02</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4</td>
<td>4.73</td>
<td>4.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q5</td>
<td>4.72</td>
<td>4.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q6</td>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>5.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q7</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>4.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>5.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *indicates a significantly higher score at p<0.05 level.

Q1. Students of my race/ethnicity are respected on this campus.
Q2. Students of my socio-economic status are respected on this campus.
Q3. Students of my gender are respected on this campus.
Q4. Students of my religious beliefs are respected on this campus.
Q5. Students of my political beliefs are respected on this campus.
Q6. Students of my sexual orientation are respected on this campus.
Q7. Students of my immigration background are respected on this campus.
Q8. Students with a physical, psychological, or learning disability like mine are respected on this campus.
Satisfaction/Belonging: 1st Gen vs. Others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Generation Students</th>
<th>Other Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$M$</td>
<td>SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q9</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>1.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q10</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>1.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q11</td>
<td>4.79</td>
<td>1.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q9. Please rate your level of satisfaction with overall academic experience.
Q10. Please rate your level of satisfaction with overall social experience.
Q11. Please rate your level of agreement with: I feel that I belong at this campus.
Pearson Correlation

- Perception of campus climate vs. sense of belonging, satisfaction with academic experience, and satisfaction with social experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sense of Belonging</th>
<th>Satisfaction with Academic Experience</th>
<th>Satisfaction with Social Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>r</td>
<td>p</td>
<td>r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Climate</td>
<td>.352*</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>.354*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*indicates correlation is significant at .01 level.
Findings: Overall

• Asian students reported a positive campus climate, with means ranging from 4.78 to 5.69 on a 1-6 Likert scale.
• More than half Asian participants agreed or strongly agreed that students of their identities were respected on this campus, ranging from 67% to 82%.
• 67% agreed: Students of my race/ethnicity are respected on campus.
• 67% agreed: Students of my religious beliefs are respected on this campus.
Findings: Significant Differences

• First generation students agreed less (Mean=4.74 vs. 4.89 for non-first generation students):
  - Students of my social/economic status are respected on campus.

• Male students agreed more (Mean =5.11 vs. 4.94 for women):
  - Students of my gender are respected on campus.

• Male students are more satisfied with their academic experience (Mean=4.48 vs. 4.34 for female students).

• Male students agreed more (Mean=4.91 vs. 4.74 for female students):
  - I feel that I belong at this institution.
Findings

• Perception of campus climate was found to be positively related to satisfaction with academic experience, satisfaction with social experience, and sense of belonging on campus.
Questions for Future Research

• How often are Asian Pacific Islander/Asian Pacific Islander American students socializing with students of different backgrounds?
• What is the experience of Asian Pacific Islander/Asian Pacific Islander American female students? Are we serving the needs of these students? How can we help women students to enhance their academic and social experience on campus?
• What are the experiences of the 18% API/APIAs participants who reported that their sexual orientation was not respected on campus?
• What are the contributing factors to sense of belonging for API/APIAs?
• How can we use this data to develop programs that meet the needs of more API/APIAs?
Disaggregating Data!!!
Initiatives at the University of Florida

• Needs
  -- Data
    • IRB demographic survey
    • Student testimonials (literary and digital)
    • Analysis of student event surveys
  -- Networks
    • Alumni, grad, faculty/staff, and affinity groups
  -- Resources
    • Staff
    • FWS/OPS
    • Asian American Studies Minor
    • Office of Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs
  -- Trainings
    • Leadership Development Institute
    • University partnerships and advocacy
• a. How are you collecting data on the Asian community on your campus
  – What base data should be available?
  – How does this data compare to data you have seen at your institutions or others?
  – Challenges IRB
• How do you capture non Asian identifying individuals
  – 1. International, mixed race, non identifiers
• b. What challenges are you facing with regard to creating a sense of belonging on campus for the Asian students at the institution that you serve?
• c. What programs have been successful in creating a sense of community on your campus
  – How is community being defined
Questions?
SAVE THE DATE

March 11-15, 2017