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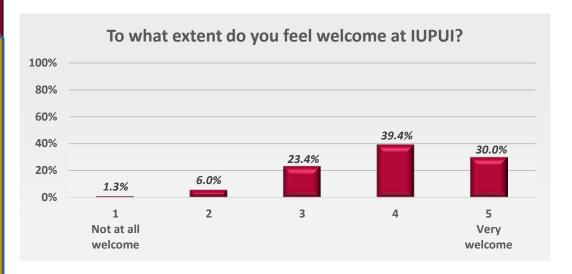Michele Hansen, Executive Director
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IUPUI

Welcoming Campus Initiative - 2016

PURPOSE: To measure the extent to which students feel welcome on campus, better understand what "welcoming campus" means to students, and to help inform decision makers of what can be done to make the campus more welcoming.

METHODS: IRDS administered a survey using two modes – (1) an anonymous link posted through social media, department listservs, and JagNews and (2) individual survey links through e-mail sent to half of all currently registered students at IUPUI. IRDS moderated four focus groups aimed at gathering information from targeted demographic groups.

FINDINGS:

	Undergraduate	Graduate
Man	32.0%	33.9%
Woman	68.0%	66.1%
LGBTQ	11.5%	7.9%
Non-LGBTQ	88.5%	92.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.8%	0.4%
Asian	5.8%	15.7%
Black	10.3%	7.6%
Latina/o	7.8%	3.5%
Multi-racial	1.6%	0.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.3%	0.0%
White	73.5%	72.0%
International Student	2.9%	16.8%
Currently has a disability	6.9%	4.3%
Veteran	3.3%	5.1%
Transfer Student	25.2%	-
Currently receiving a Pell Grant	33.8%	-
First-generation student	50.1%	38.7%
N	**1128 (61%)**	**719 (39%)**

To what extent do you feel welcome at IUPUI?

- Undergraduate students (3.98) are significantly more likely to feel welcome at IUPUI compared to graduate students (3.79).
- Undergraduate transfer students (3.84) are significantly less likely to feel welcome than students who began their education at IUPUI (4.05).
- Among both undergraduate and graduate participants, no significant differences were found on gender, race, LGBTQ status, disability status, veteran status, first-generation student status, or if the respondent identifies as an international student.

What a 'Welcoming Campus' Means to IUPUI Students (1,044 comments)

All survey and focus group participants were asked to express what a "welcoming campus" meant to them. Several themes emerged that overlapped across both data collection methods.

- **Faculty/staff/students who are friendly and helpful – 35% of comments**
    - *"There are caring faculty and staff striving to help us succeed in our future careers."*
    - *"Where people smile, say hi, will listen to what your needs/opinions are."*
- **A campus that is welcome to all persons/ideas/beliefs – 25% of comments**
    - *"An all-inclusive campus where sexuality, gender identity, major, race, religion, or any other 'defining' characteristic is accepted, included, and celebrated."*
    - *"Where a person feels free to respectfully express their thoughts and ideas in a way to create discussion and dialogue."*
- **A campus that has a sense of belonging/community – 17% of comments**
    - *"Students should feel supported and feel like part of the community."*
    - *"A place that feels like a home away from home."*

What Can IUPUI Do to Be More Welcoming? (862 comments)

Survey and focus group participants were also asked what specific actions the campus could take to be more welcoming. Again, themes emerged that were expressed in both survey responses as well as focus group comments.

- **Campus events (More options and better advertisement for current) – 18% of comments**
    - *"Have events that are easily accessible, some that go later than what they do now…my classes don't end until 5:45, and by then there is nothing left on campus to do."*
    - *"If there was a concise source of information that would provide a snapshot of current campus activities…Receiving mass email every so often with copious amounts of information is daunting to pick through and usually ends up being disregarded."*
- **Diversity education and appreciation – 7% of comments**
    - *"Cultural competency is really important. I don't want faculty and staff to say offensive things because they aren't taught."*
    - *"Hire more faculty and staff of color and make sure they are in visible positions where students can find them."*
- **Physical improvements – 7% of comments**
    - *"Have more comfortable study places in the various buildings."*
    - *"I think we could use better building signage and signs that indicate the direction you go to get to key places."*
- **Reach out efforts directed toward non-traditional students – 6% of comments**
    - *"Events are not family-friendly or convenient for non-traditional students."*
    - *"As a commuter student I have not had many chances to get involved in activities."*
    - *"More activities to facilitate bonding between American and International students."*