Learning Goal

SENSE OF BELONGING: Students will be able to develop/experience a sense of belonging to a greater community through engaging in social activities that are reflective of one’s values and sense of purpose.

Introduction

The Campus Involvement Center has been using Bobcat Connect, an on-line system (OrgSync/Engage) to register and track student engagement in student organizations for the past four years. Through Bobcat Connect, students can create, register and manage their student organizations while making the Campus Involvement Center’s professional staff administrative support more efficient and effective. Using the data we are obtaining through Bobcat Connect we are able to identify trends in student organizations as it relates to the campus environment.

Findings

There has been an overall increase in the number of student organizations since the Campus Involvement Center went to the on-line platform for student organization creation, registration and management in 2016.

- 28.5% increase in student organizations
  - 498 student organizations in 2016
  - 697 student organizations in 2020

- 35.5% increase in the number of students in student organizations
  - 11,197 students in student orgs in 2016
  - 17,377 students in student orgs in 2020

More specifically, there has been noticeable increases in the number of student organizations that are related to academic colleges, culture and identity, health and wellbeing, the arts and HCOM. These trends can assist us in telling our story of student engagement to academic units and the rest of the university community.

Trends

Student Organization Trends

- Academic Arts
- Culture/Identity
- Health & Wellbeing
- HCOM
- Media & Publications
- Professional
- Religious/Spiritual
- Service

It is important to note that this increase in student involvement in student organizations occurred during a 4.1% decline in enrollment.

Limitations and Next Steps

In analyzing our data, we realized that we need to collect better demographical information on the students utilizing Bobcat Connect. Better demographical information will help us track student involvement according to major, the composition of student organization leadership etc.

To correct this problem, we are implementing the following Action Plan.

- Develop and Implement the Involvement Calculator (Summer 2020)
- Working with the Learning Communities, first year students will be introduced to Bobcat Connect through a training video and an activity using the Involvement Calculator (Fall 2020)
- Expand the demographic information page for all users of Bobcat Connect (Fall 2020)

Team Members

- Josh Gruenke
- Char Kopchick