



Department of Campus Life

From End-of-Year Report for Academic Year 2013-2014

Submitted by Joseph Maurer, Director;

Deanne Pandozzi, International and Diversity Coordinator;

and Josie Hudspeth, Student Engagement and Leadership Coordinator

New Student Orientation/ Hooties Halloo

End-of-Year Report 2013/2014

Prepared by Chris Frazier and Josie Hudspeth

September 2013

Review of General Accomplishments/Events:

(Chris)

From CAS: Orientation Programs (OP) must facilitate the transition of new students into the institution; prepare students for the institution's educational opportunities and student responsibilities; initiate the integration of new students into the intellectual, cultural, and social climate of the institution; and support the parents, partners, guardians, and children of the new student.

In reviewing the CAS standards above, I found that the "New Wings" program which encompasses ROAD, Hootie's Halloo, and ACAD/FYE efforts, all accomplish one or more aspects of CAS. Specifically Hootie's Halloo accomplishes the integration of students into the social climate of the institution via the entire welcome weekend style program, as well as supporting parents via the Dave Coleman "Art of College Parenting" program.

One of the learning outcomes (recommended by CAS) at which Hootie's Halloo excels is interpersonal competence. The dimensions of this learning outcome are meaningful relationships, interdependence, collaboration and effective leadership. The new students develop meaningful relationships via Dave Coleman's "Hooray!" program as well as his "Making Relationships Matter" program. They are also given the opportunity to practice interdependence throughout the weekend via the scavenger hunt and downtown celebration where they are encouraged to make connections with other students and get to know one another following Hooray. Collaboration and effective leadership are skills that the HH team and volunteers learn as they plan the event throughout the summer and help during the weekend.

CAS also states: OP should design and facilitate opportunities for new students to meet their peers and begin forming new relationships. I believe the entire Hootie's Halloo event is designed with this in mind, specifically the student/faculty lunch, Hooray, and scavenger hunt/downtown celebration.

(Josie)

We provided a winter and spring orientation program for incoming freshman and transfer students. Despite the low attendance, the information provided by the SA Directors was helpful for students and they responded positively to the events. Student leaders volunteered to attend these events to provide information about their campus involvement and provide insights to the incoming students. These events provided opportunities for these students to identify a few campus resources and make contacts that can be essential to starting at a new institution.

Increases in resources, programs, events, activities and participation over last year:

In 2013, we added three pieces to the orientation program:

- Non-traditional and Veteran Students Open Forum which provided essential information for the students of the two populations.
- “Pirate Party” (named for the theme) a social event during which students enjoyed themed games while “Pirates of the Caribbean” was screened.
- A Welcome Brunch was jointly hosted by the DC and the WRC to increase exposure of the two centers to incoming students.

We used the card readers at the beginning of each day and at all of the food-related events. We had 270 students check-in to the event (either on Thursday or Friday). This data will continue to be used to track the attendance of Hootie’s Halloo in outreaching to students, and improve our efforts over the years. It will also add to the collection of data assessed for retention and departmental efforts to provide engagement opportunities for the students. Another change made to orientation was with our student volunteers. We found that by screening our volunteers and providing training prior to Hootie’s Halloo, they were more prepared for their duties.

(Chris)

Challenges:

For the main Hootie’s Halloo event in the fall, we consistently have a challenge with tracking RSVPs to accurately gauge attendance. Often students will sign up online but don’t actually end up attending the event so our numbers are usually off a little due to this issue.

(Josie)

Despite the increase in training and screening the student volunteers, we still saw less participation than we desired. They are a critical resource for our program since our staff is so small and there are a large number of events scheduled over the three days. We have redesigned our student volunteer sign-up process and training model. We are expanding training to a day-long event (broken into sections according to duties) that will be held prior to orientation. Student volunteers will be recruited for specific pieces of the program and the schedules will be confirmed in advance. We plan to increase the level of responsibility of these students to support our student team.

Areas Identified for Growth:

Recommendations for the future of Hootie’s Halloo were discussed in a debrief meeting with the student team and was also provided by the Campus Life department, Dr. Foley, and student volunteers. The following changes have been identified as areas of improvement:

- Creating a mission statement which includes the program goal, a statement of ethical standards, FERPA training, and other pertinent policies
- Identifying learning outcomes for the program that can be used in assessment
- Increasing student-faculty interaction in orientation pieces and opening a dialogue regarding student success from the faculty point of view
- Including educational pieces in the orientation program which include finances, health, safety (alcohol, sexual assault, environmental safety, social expectations and pressure, etc.), and being a successful Oregon Tech student