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The Student Experience Committee hosted the second annual Great Dane Welcome for new and returning students during the Fall 2016 Semester. The Great Dane Welcome Experience is the "official" period to welcome UAlbany’s new and returning students to campus. This experience provides students with the resources necessary to make UAlbany their home away from home. Students have the opportunity meet each other and get acclimated to both the campus and the routine of campus life.

The Great Dane Welcome spans the first six weeks of the semester and consisted of 7 Cornerstone Events, 47 Impact Programs, 24 Welcome Back Programs, and 2 Passive Programs. Cornerstone Events were designed to welcome all students and are existing or new campus traditions. Impact Programs on the other hand were planned by specific campus departments and were designed to help introduce students to different resources on-campus. Passive Programs are designed to introduce students to information and resources about the UAlbany campus.

The Student Experience Committee was once again successful in tracking and capturing events and attendance during the six week period. Overall, there was a 21% increase in events, especially impact programs. Last year, 31 impact programs were recorded compared to 47 this year. There was also a 38% increase in overall attendance. In 2015 we recorded just over 29,000 participants. This year, we have recorded 46,928.

Planning for Great Dane Welcome started in January of 2016 through the continued efforts of the Student Experience Committee. The Great Dane Welcome Report was created by the assessment sub-committee. A full list of the Student Experience Committee members and assessment sub-committee members can be found at the end of the report.
AT-A-GLANCE

6 Weeks

46 Days

81 Programs

46,928 Attendees

21% increase from 2015

38% increase from 2015

93% of students reported feeling part of the community as a result of attending the program, a 3% increase from last year.

1Data reported in the aggregate from a collection of fast five surveys. N=1,615
According to our swipe card data, **85.6%** of our incoming freshmen attended at least two events on campus during the Great Dane Welcome and **Over half** of the incoming cohort attended four events or more.

**62.7%** of students in the second year cohort swiped for at least one event during this period.²

²It is important to note that not every event is conducive to gathering swipe card data. As a result, this figure is likely an underestimate of how active the incoming class has been. A similar graph of attendance for second year students is available upon request.
New Student Orientation is designed to help students transition to the social, cultural, and academic environment at the University at Albany. At Orientation, students have the opportunity to connect with new and continuing students, faculty and staff, and a wide array of resources to support their collegiate journey.

In 2016, Orientation and Transition Programs built on the success of its new Freshman Orientation program from 2015 and introduced a new, two-part Transfer Orientation program. All transfer students attended separate Advisement and Orientation programs. The new, conference-style Transfer Orientation on Friday, August 26th offered students over 52 sessions to choose from during five time blocks. Transfer students were then welcomed with all other new students as part of Opening Convocation. Orientation and Transition Programs also integrated international students into Orientation with domestic students for the first time in 2016.

In 2017, Orientation and Transition Programs plans to continue the new model for Transfer Orientation. We are partnering with Advisement Services Center to increase early outreach to transfer students on advisement and course registration. Furthermore, we plan to continue integrating international students and enhance the programs and services we offer for this population.
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Freshman Orientation

- 2,420 freshman students attended Orientation
- 98% of freshman students reporting feeling excited to attend UAlbany after Orientation
- 94% of freshman students reporting feeling part of the UAlbany campus community after Orientation
- 94% of freshman students were able to identify one or more way to get involved in the UAlbany campus community

Suggestions for Future:
- change tour to be more interactive
- end earlier on day two
- integrate international freshmen on day one of week-long program

Student Affairs
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Transfer Advisement & Orientation

1,128 transfer students attended Transfer Advisement

Approximately 1,000 transfer students attended Transfer Orientation

Transfer Advisement:
• 90% of transfer students agreed that their questions were answered
• 92% of transfer students agreed that their academic advisor was knowledgeable about academic requirements

Transfer Orientation:
• 96% of transfer students reported feeling excited to attend UAlbany
• 76% of transfer students reported feeling part of the UAlbany campus community

93% of transfer students were able to identify one office or resource that can help them achieve their goals at UAlbany

Suggestions for Future:
• increase early advisement and outreach
• add academic college introduction to Orientation
• adjust timing of Orientation

Student Affairs
1,451 freshman family members and 277 transfer family members attended Orientation.

99% of freshman family members and 94% of transfer family members agree that Orientation contributed to their Satisfaction with their student's choice of UAlbany.

97% of freshman family members and 94% of transfer family members would recommend this program to other parents or family members.

Suggestions for Future:
- change fee structure
- more time with student
CORNERSTONE EVENTS

The Great Dane Welcome Cornerstone Events serve as our welcoming traditions at the University at Albany. Not only do they welcome students onto campus, but these events also introduce students to the various ways to get engaged as well as the numerous resources that are available. This year, 19,177 students attended the Cornerstone Events, a 24% increase from last year. The following information breaks down attendance information as well as student satisfaction survey results for the event.

Cornerstone Events:
Opening Convocation
Explore UAlbany
Great Dane Game Day
Great DANEtopia
Podium Pandemonium
Clash of the Quads
Student Association’s Block Party
Once again, University Events worked in conjunction with departments across the University to ensure a successful Opening Convocation ceremony for all freshmen and over 200 transfer students. At the end of the Convocation, students had a Class of 2020 picture taken on Bob Ford Field at Tom & Mary Casey Stadium.

3,221 students were in attendance, including freshmen and transfer students.

89% of attendees were satisfied with the message of the Opening Convocation.

90% of students were satisfied with the overall experience at the Opening Convocation.

84% of students felt more connected to the UAlbany Community after attending convocation.
Explore UAlbany marks the beginning of the UAlbany academic journey for new students. Students are given the opportunity to explore a topic of interest while connecting with UAlbany’s most outstanding faculty. UAlbany faculty share exciting research in a variety of different areas and provide students with tips and resources to succeed in their first semester.

1,600 were in attendance including freshmen and transfer students.

By participating in Explore UAlbany, respondents reported:
- learning about a new topic
- becoming more comfortable in a UAlbany class situation
- realizing the importance of connecting with faculty

86% of respondents agreed Explore UAlbany was helpful in preparing them to be successful at UAlbany.

87% of respondents would recommend this program to other students.

83% believed they are more connected to the UAlbany community after attending the program.
The UAlbany Programming Board, Pathways to Success, and Campus Recreation teamed up to host the third annual Great DANEtopia. This year's event included a Resource Fair with over 50 departments and programs in attendance, free food, live music, inflatables, and many free give-a-ways. This event was a great way to kick-off the semester.

4,200 were in attendance for Great DANEtopia.

51% of students heard about the event through their Resident Assistant or a friend.

98% Would you recommend this program to other students in the future.

96% of students were more connected to the UAlbany community after the event.

93% of respondents could identify one UAlbany resource.
Podium Pandemonium

The UAlbany Programming Board sponsored the kick off for this year's Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon as part of this year’s. The UAlbany Programming Board hosted carnival-style games, free food & snacks, prizes, and an interactive bamboo-making station.

1,800 students attended this year’s Podium Pandemonium.

Students mostly heard about the program through friends, their resident assistant, and UAlbany GO.

100% of students would recommend this event to other students in the future.

96% of students felt more connected to the UAlbany Community after Podium Pandemonium.

26% of students were able to identify the Children’s Hospital that we partner with for the Dance-a-thon.
Rivalry rules each year at the annual Clash of the Quads event. Individuals and teams from all residence halls, including University Apartments, participate in competitions. In the end, only one resident hall area is declared the winner!

2,331 students were in attendance for this year’s Clash of the Quads.

57% of students hear about Clash of the Quads by their Resident Assistant or a friend.

96% of students would recommend this event to other students.

99% of students feel more connected to the UAlbany Community after attending Clash of Quads.

Students said their Clash of the Quads experience was:

“Amazing”
“Fun”
“Exciting”
“Lit”
Kicking off the series of Great Dane Game Day experiences, the Great Dane Game Day preview gave students a taste of what to expect at the pregame celebrations before each home football game. Students received their DANEger Zone t-shirts, played games, enjoyed a BBQ, and more.

4,225 students attended the first two Great Dane Game Day events.

UAlbany's Great Dane Game Day Pregame was a huge success in the 2016 season! This year we had an amazing new Purple and Gold tent where we hosted all of the new activities, which consisted of:

- Face Painting Artists
- Airbrush Tattoo Artists
- Balloon Artists
- Caricature Artists
- Live Entertainment
- Inflatables
- Lawn Game

Our UAlbany Programming Board also provided giveaways for each game that included: Foam Footballs, ThunderStix, Winter Hats, Cowbells, Foam Fingers, and Football Noise Makers.

This year also featured the first Fraternity and Sorority Day, where the fraternal community received meal vouchers and a shout out on the Mega-Tron.
Student Association's Block Party

The annual Student Association Block Party is an involvement fair for all recognized student organizations. This offers students the opportunity to explore what organizations are at UAlbany and to learn more about those which are of interest to them. The Block Party hosts 220 student organizations, offers free giveaways, and includes student group performances.

1,800 students were in attendance, for the Student Association’s Block Party

Students heard about the event primarily through MyInvolvement.org, their resident assistant or a friend.

100% of respondents would recommend this event to another student.

99% of respondents felt more connected to the UAlbany Community as a result of attending the program.

95% of respondents found an organization that they were interested in joining.
The Great Dane Welcome Experience’s Impact Programs complement the Cornerstone Events in welcoming UAlbany’s students to campus. Impact Programs provide students with opportunities to meet new people, learn about campus life, and gain valuable information that will assist in a successful transition to the University at Albany. Impact programs are hosted by the Division of Student Affairs, Students Groups, and Student Engagement in the Office of Undergraduate Education.

The Division of Student Affairs hosted a total of 26 impact programs that boasted 7,916 attendees. While some of these impact programs were not domain specific, many were rooted in the four divisional earning domains. These programs included:

- **2 Programs**
  - **Applied Learning**
    - *(Develop transferable intellectual and practical skills to deal with complexity, diversity, and change.)*

- **5 Programs**
  - **Diversity and Inclusion**
    - *(Develop knowledge of social, civic, and economic challenges of a diverse and inequitable world.)*

- **3 Programs**
  - **Health and Wellness**
    - *(Develop strategies to optimize health behaviors and coping skills.)*

- **5 Programs**
  - **Public Engagement**
    - *(Apply knowledge and skills for action in our communities and in real-world settings.)*

Plus 11 more non-domain specific programs!
Another 21 impact programs were hosted by either Student Engagement or one of the various student groups on campus. These included:

**Student Engagement**
Student Engagement in the Office of Undergraduate Education also hosted 11 impact programs that boasted 1,184 attendees. These programs included welcome events for transfer and commuter students, service opportunities, and opportunities to learn about various resources on campus.

**Student Groups**
We were also able to track 7 impact programs that were sponsored by student groups. These included informational meetings, field days, and other events that engaged new and returning students.

**Additional Events**
We were also able to track 3 additional programs that are included in the report. Including these provides us with a more complete view of the welcome experience. A full breakdown of all the events is presented below.
# IMPACT PROGRAMS

**Student Affairs Hosted Impact Programs**

## Applied Learning:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career and Internship Fair</td>
<td>Provide students with an opportunity to network with employers for future internship and employment opportunities.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Insights: Student Employees</td>
<td>Opportunity for student employees in the Division of Student Affairs to learn about effective communication and how to leverage those skills to resolve conflict and facilitate difficult dialogues</td>
<td>Student Affairs, Student Employees</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Diversity and Inclusion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALANA Reception</td>
<td>Meet and greet for new students, faculty and staff to get acquainted with other members of the ALANA community.</td>
<td>ALANA Students</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becky, With the Good Hair</td>
<td>Allowed students to discuss the misrepresentation of the Barbie Doll and &quot;standards&quot; of beauty.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfaith Cookout</td>
<td>Opportunity engage socially with students from different faith groups.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leave Hate Behind</td>
<td>Bullying prevention and awareness event sponsored by CHARGE Peer Educators.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ Reception</td>
<td>Opportunity for students to meet other LGBTQ and Allied students and student clubs</td>
<td>LGBTQ and Allied students</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## IMPACT PROGRAMS
### Student Affairs Hosted Impact Programs

### Health and Resilience:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAZE Movie</td>
<td>Awareness and prevention based movie teaching students how to recognize the dangers of hazing</td>
<td>Fraternity and Sorority Members</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LifeHack Expo</td>
<td>Opportunity for students to learn about active coping strategies and raise awareness of CAPS services.</td>
<td>All Students (First Year Focus)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podium Series</td>
<td>Students learned more about the Just Ask campaign and received free cupcakes and giveaways.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Public Engagement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constitution Day</td>
<td>Students were able to register to vote while commemorating the historic signing of the Constitution.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equalogy</td>
<td>Promote Sexual assault prevention and awareness</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternity and Sorority Meet &amp; Greet</td>
<td>Promoting community engagement by networking with a local organization and providing an opportunity to donate toiletries to support organization mission</td>
<td>Fraternity and Sorority Members</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet, Munch, &amp; More</td>
<td>Provide opportunities for students living off campus to network and engage with community stakeholders</td>
<td>Off-Campus Students</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAlbany, URegister, UVote</td>
<td>Campaign to get students registered to vote.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## IMPACT PROGRAMS

**Student Affairs Hosted Impact Programs**

### Non-Domain Specific:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Year BBQ</td>
<td>Welcome back event for second year students.</td>
<td>Second Year Students</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee House</td>
<td>Opportunity for students to perform with a live karaoke band.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jammin’ @ Jazzman’s</td>
<td>Students were able to send song requests to a &quot;Human iPod&quot; performer.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Mic Night</td>
<td>Alumna hosted Poetry Slam event for students.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation Leader Reunions</td>
<td>New students reconnected with their summer Orientation Leader.</td>
<td>New Students</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podium Series:</td>
<td>Students interacted with the Office of Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podium Series:</td>
<td>Students who interacted with the Programming Board received free smoothies.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podium Series:</td>
<td>Students who interacted with the Programming Board were able to create customized airbrushed hats.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podium Series:</td>
<td>Students who interacted with the Programming Board were able to paint wooden letters.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podium Series:</td>
<td>Students who interacted with the Programming Board created capes for the Superhero 5K.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex in the Dark</td>
<td>In a low-lit room, students anonymously submitted questions related to sex or energy.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Impact Programs

Student Engagement Hosted Impact Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All World Community Service Event</strong></td>
<td>On-campus volunteer opportunity for L-LC students in collaboration with various partners.</td>
<td>L-LC Students</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All World Community Service Event</strong></td>
<td>Off-campus volunteer opportunity for L-LC students in collaboration with the City of Albany.</td>
<td>L-LC Students</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Fridays</strong></td>
<td>Opportunity to learn about safe sex and what makes for a healthy relationship.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Fridays</strong></td>
<td>Opportunity to learn about undergraduate research and internships.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Fridays</strong></td>
<td>Opportunity to learn about studying or interning abroad and entrepreneurship.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall Fridays</strong></td>
<td>Opportunity to learn about academic resources on campus.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Transfer &amp; Commuter BBQ</strong></td>
<td>Welcome event to connect transfer and commuter students with resources.</td>
<td>Transfer and Commuter Students</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community College Lunch</strong></td>
<td>Meet and greet for transfer students who came from local community colleges.</td>
<td>Transfer Students</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfer Mentor/Mentee Reception</strong></td>
<td>Meet and greet opportunity for transfer students who have requested mentors on campus.</td>
<td>Transfer Students</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meet and Mingle</strong></td>
<td>Meet and greet opportunity for transfer students.</td>
<td>Transfer Students</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meet and Mingle</strong></td>
<td>Meet and greet opportunity for transfer students.</td>
<td>Transfer Students</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# IMPACT PROGRAMS

## Student Group and Additional University Sponsored Programs

### Student Group Programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABLE Field Day</td>
<td>First annual ABLE Field Day. Event included games, free prizes, and information about ABLE.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASBO Informational</td>
<td>Informational meeting of the Albany Sports Business Organization.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Event: Chris Brennan</td>
<td>Connected students with UAlbany alumnus to discuss how to prepare for the current job market.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founder's Day Party</td>
<td>Iota Phi Theta Ballroom Party</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPHC Welcome Event</td>
<td>Students were introduced to Greek organizations through performances.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink Ice</td>
<td>Ballroom party hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINK Yoga Event</td>
<td>Large yoga event on Bob Ford Football Field sponsored by the Student Association.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional University Sponsored Programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Great Dane Welcome @ Your Library</td>
<td>Provide information about University Libraries’ services and resources.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are You A Climate Superhero?</td>
<td>Opportunity for students to calculate their carbon footprint and pledge to be a superhero in their living area.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Abroad Fair</td>
<td>Opportunity to learn about study abroad options offered by UAlbany and other SUNY institutions.</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Programming Board Overview:
The UAlbany Programming Board within the Division of Student Affairs is designated to host and facilitate a series of events on and off campus to enhance the student experience each semester. The goal of the UAlbany Programming Board is to provide students with an abundance of diverse programs to add enrichment to the student body. The Board is comprised of students who plan and execute events that pique the general interest of the student body.

The UAlbany Programming Board continued the tradition of welcoming the incoming class, as well as returning students. Approximately 11,398 students attended the 12 welcome events between August 23rd and September 7th. This semester, the Programming Board also planned events during Homecoming, Halloween, and sponsored a trip to New York City.
UALBANY PROGRAMMING BOARD

Student Participation

24%
of all Great Dane Welcome attendance is attributed
to UAlbany Programming Board events.

11,398
total attendance at UPB events

14.54%
increase in attendees at UPB events compared to 2015.
96% Of respondents felt more connected to UAlbany by attending a Programming Board event. Note: n=188 students

**Cost Per Student:**

Average cost per participant per event. Note: Not necessarily unique participants

$6.14

$5.24

The UAlbany Programming Board spent $5.24 less per participant than in 2015.

**Student Satisfaction**

96%

Of respondents felt more connected to UAlbany by attending a Programming Board event. Note: n=188 students
Project Description:

The 2016 Great Dane Welcome Survey was conducted from October 3rd, 2016 to October 17th, 2016. The survey was administered to all 4,024 incoming, first-year students. Of the 4,024 students who were sent the survey, 917 participated for a response rate of roughly 23%.

This year’s survey was much shorter than previous iterations, including only 48 questions compared to the 85 questions asked in the 2015 version. This report, provides an outline of some of the new features of the survey as well as a snapshot of some key findings. A more extensive report can be obtained by contacting the Office of Student Learning and Assessment in the Division of Student Affairs at the University at Albany.

3 Defined as any student with full-time status admitted during either the Summer 2016 or Fall 2016 Semester (admit type FRS or TRN) that was currently enrolled at the time of the survey.
Attitude Questions:
The first six questions of the 2016 survey remained identical to those asked the previous year. Much like the 2015 survey, responses to these questions are consistently positive, with large proportions of students agreeing that they are excited to attend the school, that the school is a good fit for them, and that they are confident that they can succeed academically.

Q1: In general, I am excited about attending UAlbany.
Q2: I feel like UAlbany is a good fit for me.
Q3: I understand how Career and Professional Development can help me with my career questions.
Q4: I am confident that I will do well academically at UAlbany.
Q5: I have met someone who shares aspects of my identity that are important to me.
Q6: I feel part of the UAlbany campus community.
New Survey Questions:

One of the features of the 2016 survey is that it included additional questions aimed at capturing academic performance and how well students are transitioning academically at the University at Albany. While questions from previous years often showed little variation, new questions asking students to judge their experiences relative to their own expectations provide us with different insight.

Questions 7 and 8 are new to this year’s survey and demonstrate that while most students express confidence in their ability to do well academically, there are still sizable segments that state that their classes are more difficult than they expected and that the grades they’ve received have been lower than expected.
National Survey of Student Engagement Questions:

In addition to the new academic questions that were added to the 2016 survey, questions were added that were aimed at gauging whether a student had ever thought about leaving the University. Questions 41 and 42 were modeled after questions that are included in the First-Year Experiences and Senior Transitions module of the National Survey of Student Engagement (hereafter: NSSE).\(^4\)

**Question 41 asked respondents:**

*During the current school year, have you seriously considered leaving this institution? 1.) Yes 2.) No.*

Response options were presented in a random order and of the 789 respondents that answered this question, 164 indicated that they had seriously considered leaving the institution.

Question 42:
Those who indicated that they had seriously considered leaving the institution in their response to question 41 were asked, “Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply)”. Students were then presented with a series of response options in random order, which are included below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q 42: Why did you consider leaving? (Select all that apply.)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Personal reasons (family issues, physical or mental health, homesickness, stress, etc.)</td>
<td>53.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Financial concerns (costs or financial aid)</td>
<td>37.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Campus climate, location, or culture</td>
<td>29.27%</td>
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<td>4. Too much emphasis on partying</td>
<td>22.56%</td>
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<td>5. To change your career options (transfer to another school or program, military service, etc.)</td>
<td>20.73%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Other academic issues (major not offered, course availability, advising, credit transfer, etc.)</td>
<td>18.29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Difficulty managing demands of school and work</td>
<td>16.46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Relations with other students</td>
<td>15.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Not enough opportunities to socialize and have fun</td>
<td>14.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Another Reason (Please Specify)</td>
<td>14.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Relations with faculty and staff</td>
<td>8.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Academics are too difficult</td>
<td>7.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Unsafe or hostile environment</td>
<td>6.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Academics are too easy</td>
<td>5.49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Question 43 asked students “On a scale of 1 to 6, how important is it to you that you graduate from this institution?” with 1 being “not important” and 6 being “very important.” As one might expect, those who have not considered leaving are more likely to express that graduating from the University is very important and those who have seriously considered leaving are less likely to report that it is very important.

With that said, a sizeable proportion of those who have seriously considered leaving still express that it is very important that they graduate from the University. Of the 164 students that have seriously considered leaving, 75 students selected a 6 on the scale (45.7%).
Future Directions, Great Dane Welcome Survey:
In future waves of the survey, we plan to explore ways to better target respondents that are not captured using our current approach. Furthermore, the aim is to continue to shorten the survey, with the goal of increasing response and completion rates. The best way to achieve this will be to focus on questions that provide us with the clearest insight into the student experience.

Notes for Continuous Improvement: Student Engagement
Strengthen partnerships with Residential Life and Orientation and Transition Programs to ensure increased attendance at Fall Fridays and transfer events
## Student Experience Committee Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Felix Abreu</th>
<th>Karla Jaime-Benitez</th>
<th>Luke Rumsey</th>
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<td>Pamela Alexander</td>
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<td>Samantha Murray</td>
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<td>Griffith Hunter</td>
<td>Leah A Rotella</td>
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**Student Affairs**

*reimagining THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE*
Student Affairs

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