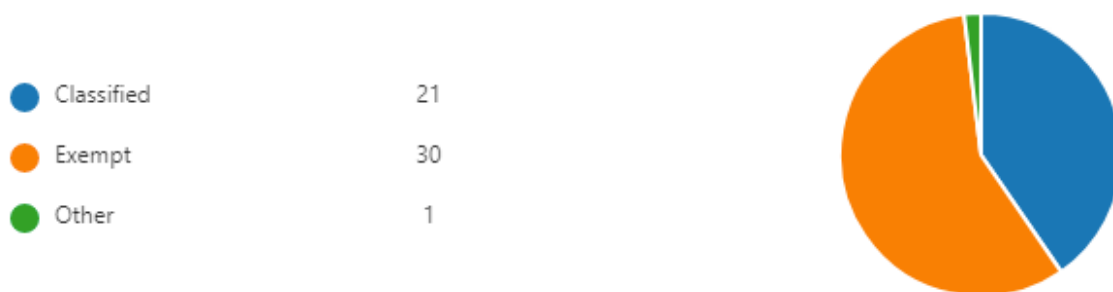


Staff Internationalization Survey

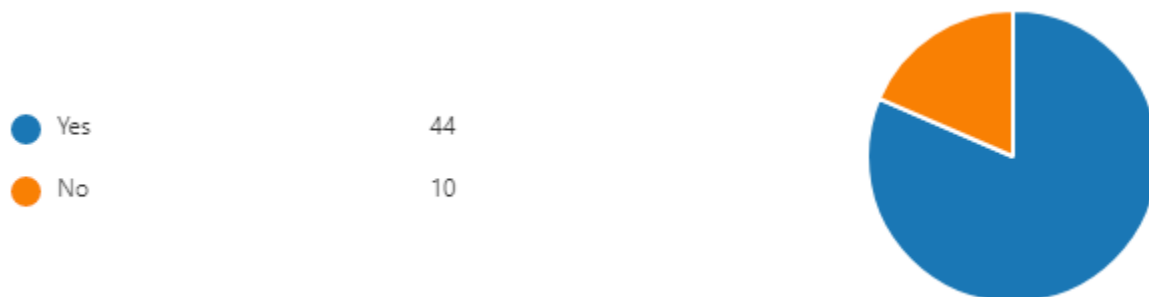
By Shpresa Halimi & Vita Chiger

The Office of Global Initiatives recently conducted a Staff Internationalization Survey in order to get a better sense of staff's interest in international staff development programs and campus internationalization.

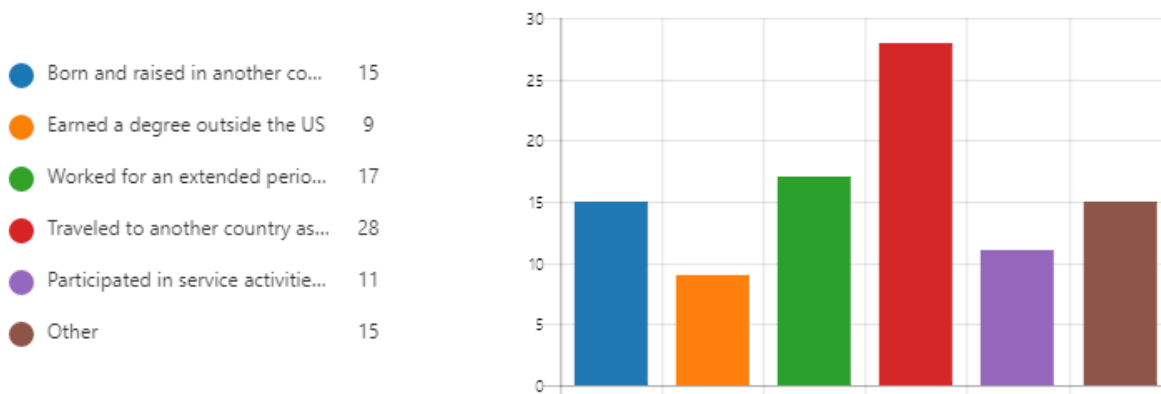
The response rate to our survey was about 10% with a total of 54 staff responses. Of those who took the survey, 39% were classified, 56% were exempt, and 4% were other.



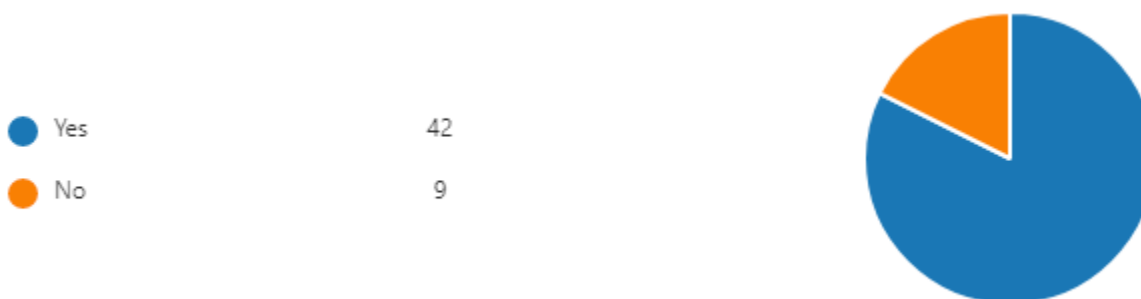
The job positions respondents hold vary from Program Manager to Dean to Administrative Assistant with 81% percent stating that they interact with international students or visitors. Interactions with international students and visitors include career and academic advising, testing, recruiting students into MBS or BAS programs, greeting and providing customer service, and supervising them when they work on campus.



83% percent of the survey takers have either studied abroad, traveled, worked, or were born and raised in another country. Over half of the respondents (59%) speak one or more languages. 14 people speak Spanish, 7 speak French, 5 speak German, 4 speak Japanese, 3 speak Mandarin, 2 speak Cantonese, 2 speak Korean, 2 speak Arabic, 1 speaks Portuguese, 1 person can speak Kurdish, Turkish, and Farsi, 1 speaks Hindi and Malayalam, 1 speaks Malinke, 1 speaks Haitian Creole, 1 speaks Hebrew, 1 speaks Indonesian, 1 speaks Hokkien, and 1 speaks Vietnamese.



When asked if staff would be interested in participating in international development programs, 78% of them said that they would.



39 staff (72%) replied with examples of the kind of programs and events they would be interested in participating including international conferences, development workshops, studying another language, networking with international scholars, attending trainings on immigration, and developing international partnerships. Staff were also asked about the kind of initiatives they would like to see developed to enhance internationalization efforts. The top suggestions included an exchange of faculty, staff, and students with foreign institutions, more campus events focused on cultural awareness that involve the entire campus and BC departments, curriculum internationalization, partnerships with foreign institutions, increasing domestic participation in study abroad, and offering paid opportunities for staff development outside of campus. One respondent suggested that we need to revise BC's Strategic Plan and Academic Master Plan to include specific internationalization goals.

If you need further information about these survey results or if you would like to contribute your input on campus internationalization, please give our director, Shpresa Halimi, a call at extension x5214 or stop by our Global Initiatives office in N211.

Staff quotes:

“Conferences and courses are all well and good, the best way to learn about another culture is to experience it.”

“I am excited and love to be part of this important work to empower our students to be global citizens.”

“Develop internships and/or under graduate research intrinsically international and global, involving transnational collaborations that require graduates to be cognizant of cross-cultural differences and similarities. When our students cannot go abroad, they need to be exposed to international and global issues.”

“BC is a two-year public institution that advocates open enrollment (not selective) and vast majority of the faculty are part-timers. There might be a very strong interest in internationalization of the college, but without fully or at least adequately funding, actual participation in this effort may be low. BC already has many loyal overseas partners, and I would really like to see more reciprocal engagements with them before we start sending students/faculty to newer partners.”

“Increase transferability of international credits/degrees that can transfer to BC (and other schools. Maybe BC can be more of a leader in this that others can follow). Too many experienced international professionals have to "start over" when they get to the US - especially in health fields.”