



Beacons Return 2021-2022 Annual Report



Division of Student Affairs



Message from the Interim Vice Chancellor

July 2022

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This was an exciting year for our campus. So many folks worked tirelessly to return Beacons back to Columbia Point. The Student Affairs team contributed significantly to the re-sparking of life on campus that was sorely missed during the months many of us were away from campus working and studying at home.



Shawn J. De Veau, JD
Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

In our last annual report, I looked ahead to our pending return to campus, writing that we would remain committed to student care, connection, and success and invigorate these praxis pillars through high-impact involvement practices and essential needs supports. In reviewing this year’s report, I am so proud to confirm that over the last twelve months, we did just that while remaining aligned with our values of care, justice, collaboration, learning, and integrity.

Having Beacons return en masse to campus was no small task. University Health Services staff, aided by scores of other campus areas and off-campus partners, led significant public health prevention and response efforts. Notably, the General Medicine team worked diligently to ensure a highly vaccinated campus community, timely testing, and contact tracing.

Because of these efforts, our team was able to successfully manage: one of the first large-scale programs on campus, new student orientation in August of 2021; full residence halls; and many other traditional engagement and student success efforts in person. Moreover, the return to campus life for us was also rooted in providing for the essential needs of students. Teams in University Health Services, U-ACCESS, and the Dean of Students Office managed high volumes of student interactions. They did so with a consistent aim of promoting student health and well-being, which continues to be challenged by persistent racialized inequalities and considerable financial impacts caused by the exigent shock of the pandemic economic tumult. While the virus has continued to evolve over the year, the Student Affairs staff and students adapted admirably, ensuring we could see in-person operations all the way through to Commencement and, in June, our first overnight orientation experience in UMass Boston’s history.

While much of our time this year was invested in the here and now of Beacons returning to campus, many in Student Affairs also participated in our campus’s strategic and master planning processes. While the products of these exercises are not fully finalized as of my writing, I believe they will guide a strong course for the campus over the next few years. As well as, advance the student experience which can grow our capacity to be antiracist and health-promoting.

As this is my last official update as the Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, I would like to note that it has been a great privilege to lead the Student Affairs team this past year. It has been a humbling honor to serve our students. I wish the Chancellor, the Deputy Chancellor, and the incoming Vice Chancellor Dr. Karen Ferrer-Muñiz, all the very best in continuing the progress that has been made this past year.

Be well and let’s continue to do some good,

Shawn J. De Veau, JD (He series)
Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Area Mission Statements

Off-Campus Living promotes student success by empowering off-campus and commuter students to become responsible tenants and engaged community members.

University Health Services is committed to providing quality physical and mental health services to students, as well as education and outreach to promote and enhance the well-being of our campus community. Programs are aimed at promoting optimal physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

The **Interfaith Campus Ministry (ICM)** serves the community by offering spiritual guidance and pastoral care to students, faculty, and staff. The primary aim of the ministry is to help students to develop an intellectual understanding of their faith, and to deepen their self-knowledge and their relationship with themselves, with God, and with others.

Student Activities provides opportunities for student growth and development to complement the traditional academic mission in the classroom. An array of educational, cultural, and recreational activities and special-interest clubs are supported by a staff of professional advisors who help students make the most of their experience at UMass Boston.

The **Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA)** provides leadership and administrative guidance for an integrated network of Student Affairs areas. The office also provides the direction for the campus's supportive, safe, and nurturing student environment.

Student Affairs Technology Services provides the division with information technology solutions and services.

Finance and Administration (F&A) oversees all fiscal management and administrative operations for the Division of Student Affairs. This area provides research, analysis, and modeling in support of information-based decision making and develops/implements short and long-term goals to support both financial and administrative strategies.

New Student & Family Programs (NSFP) is tasked with the onboarding of each new student and student supporter, as well as providing continuous support throughout their tenure at UMass Boston. With resources beyond the orientation experience, their office works closely with campus partners to create an immersive and supportive environment for each of our students. They are proud to be an age-friendly office dedicated to evolving the traditional student narrative and pioneering one of care, justice, collaboration, learning, and integrity.

Student Multicultural Affairs strives to build a university community in which different cultural viewpoints and diverse identities are explored, disseminated and respected. This area encourages students of diverse backgrounds to enhance their chances for successful academic and social development by engaging in campus curricular and co-curricular activities. This allows development of leadership and advocacy skills for effective engagement on campus and in communities; use trainings and dialogues that build skills and foster a sense of belonging and critical consciousness for all; and encourage community building and collaboration across established groups.

The **UMass Boston Police Department (UMBPD)** is committed to providing a safe campus community and improving the quality of life for all people. They accomplish this by delivering quality police services and enforcing laws with equity and impartiality. In partnership with the campus community and law enforcement partners, the UMBPD aims to reduce crime through public education, prevention, and awareness. In meeting this objective, the UMBPD demands of themselves the highest professional standards and dedication to their core values.

The **Dean of Students Office (DOS)** is an essential resource for students, staff, faculty, and families. They assist our diverse community in navigating academic, personal, and social challenges through support, advocacy, and accountability.

Housing and Residential Life (HRL) enhances the student experience by providing safe, comfortable, and inclusive living communities in which residents can learn, grow, and become engaged global citizens.

The mission of **U-ACCESS** is to help UMass Boston students meet their basic needs while they achieve academic success. This office also provides leadership development and inspires student agency in mitigating systemic poverty. Along with various services to fulfill student needs, the office provides students with work and internship opportunities to empower them to fight poverty and support their peers.

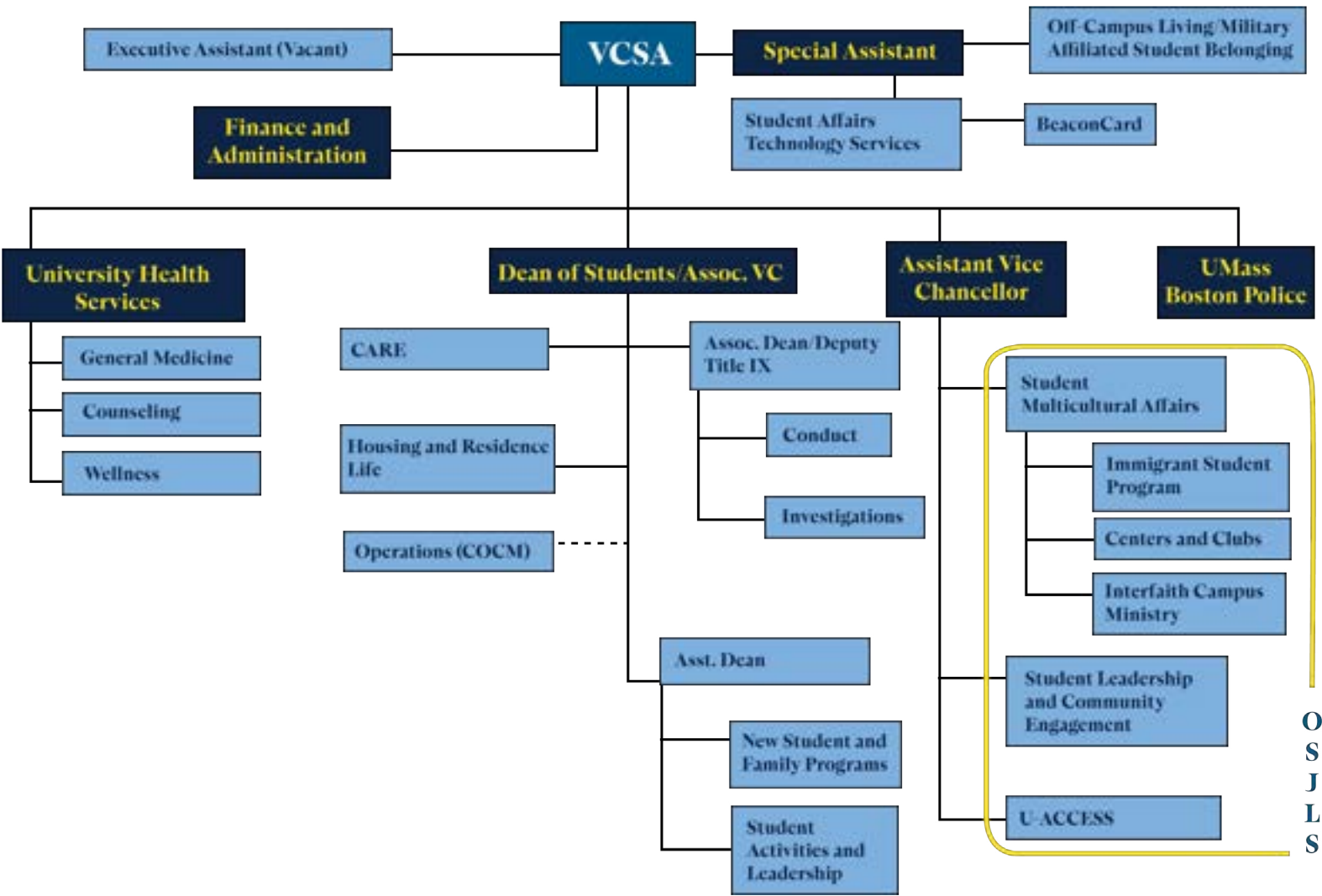
The **Office of Social Justice Leadership and Service (OSJLS)** works to provide training, tools, and resources to advance social justice and empower students to be agents of social change through personal self-discovery, an ethic of service, and the development of advocacy skills. OSJLS works to advance the notion of citizenship through the lens of reciprocal partnership and service with community stakeholders and organizations committed to social change.

BeaconCard Services is where one can obtain a BeaconCard (student ID/employee ID). Acting as the campus' universal passport, this card is used for door access; as a library card; for debit purchases, meal plans, and event attendance.

Student Leadership and Community Engagement (SLCE) exists to empower growth and development in students by engaging them in lifelong learning and self-discovery through community programs that promote social justice and civic leadership.

Area Mission Statements

Divisional Organization Chart



Transformational Blueprint

CAUSE
We believe that the public urban research university experience transforms lives.

VALUES
Our Core Principles: Care, Justice, Collaboration, Learning, and Integrity.

MISSION
We create and sustain a 24/7 campus environment that supports and nurtures the academic, personal, and social development of our diverse community of students so that they can achieve their potential as active and engaged citizens of the world.

VISION
We aspire to create a new antiracist, health-promoting model for student care, connection, and success.

- GOALS**
1. Define and act upon the vision for an antiracist, health promoting campus environment.
 2. Enhance student persistence by increasing equitable use of critical services that address essential needs, including mental health, food and housing security, and community resources.
 3. Ensure every student has an opportunity to connect meaningfully with experiences that enhance belonging and promote learning.
 4. Use data to catalyze and sustain continuous improvement of racial equity, student-centered practices, space, technology, financial resources, and business processes.
 5. Recruit, retain, develop, and recognize individual staff who can and do achieve excellence in individual goals and champion our vision.

Define and act upon the vision for an antiracist and health-promoting campus environment.

As a team, we continue our aspirational commitment to antiracism and health promotion as a model that advances student care, connection, and success. Highlights of this work include the following:

All units participated in the return to campus, providing a safe, engaging, and student service-oriented environment in our new normal. The return was in alignment with the formal Return to Campus guidance. All offices were staffed, while various approaches to “remote work” were piloted. The Division also made a significant effort to support campus vaccine requirements and testing, with more than 23,000 COVID-19 tests administered.

Student Affairs staff participated in the marketing and programming of November’s Black Lives Matter Day in partnership with students and other units. The day aimed to bring together Black leaders from around the state, city, and university to celebrate, honor, and recognize Black lives and the Black community’s contributions to our communities. This year, the day focused on Empowerment through collective leading.

In March, it was announced that the **University Health Services** team received a Commonwealth citation for outstanding performance. Chancellor Suárez-Orozco nominated the team based on their pandemic response efforts that began in January 2020 when the first COVID-19 case in Massachusetts, the eighth case in the U.S., presented itself at UHS. This team of general medicine and mental health professionals and support staff, under the leadership of Executive Director Robert Pomales Miranda, have worked 24/7 on the front line of this pandemic to guide decision making, keep our campus safe, and take care of those affected by the virus.

The Director of **Student Leadership and Community Engagement**, Rachel Winters, served on the Restorative Justice Commission, participating in the working group related to curriculum.

Student Leadership and Community Engagement students have embraced a leadership for liberation framework in SLCE programming. They continue to co-create opportunities to deepen curricular engagement, such as the new leadership program, Peers 2 Power.

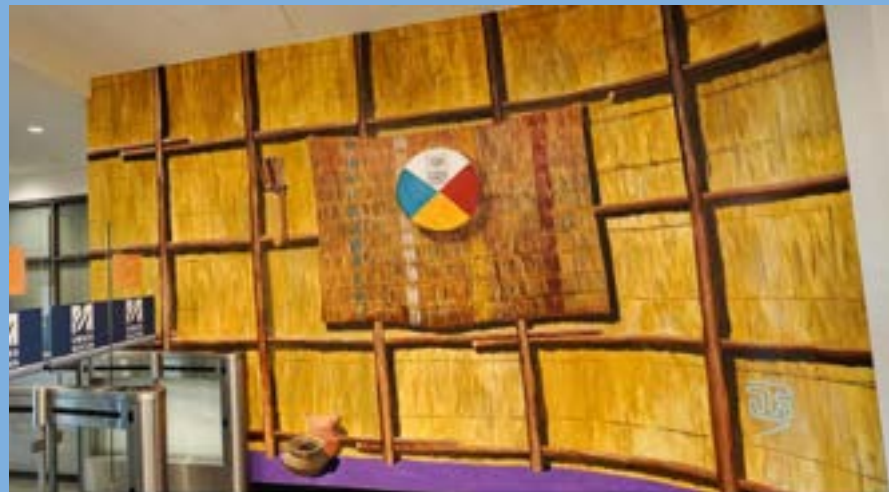
Undergraduate student leader MG Xiong organized the “Energetic Trans: Transgender Day of Visibility 2022” in March to mark the International Transgender Day of Visibility. The day aimed to bring attention and awareness to queer existence. MG has demonstrated a significant commitment to campus life, having served as a member of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Leadership council, as the Program and Communication Coordinator for the Asian American Student Success Program, and Chapter Director and DEI Coordinator for Strong Women Strong Girls. MG was recognized with the JFK Award at Commencement in recognition of academic excellence, commitment to service, and good citizenship.

The **Dean of Students Office** developed a Student Code of Conduct Review Committee to review the Code and incorporate restorative justice practices.

The **UMBPD** Citizens Academy curriculum development was completed. The UMBPD projects to hold its first academy in the fall semester, with the aim of promoting deeper police to community and community to police engagement.



New Mural Welcomes Native Students to UMass Boston Campus



To welcome students to UMass Boston's campus, and emphasize that UMass Boston is still an Indigenous space, Robert Peters, an artist and member of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, created a mural in UMass Boston's East Residence Hall.

Peters created this mural to help Native students feel more at home. This mural also encourages non-

Native students to think about what "home" means, while also making them feel at home as a guest to the territory. The design depicts a wall in a traditional Eastern Woodlands home and includes representations and symbols of Mashpee Wampanoag culture.

With support from the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe and New England Foundation Arts, Peters directed the Menz Wetu Project. Together, 24 native youth built a 32-foot longhouse on Mashpee land. He used photographs from this longhouse to design the mural for UMass Boston.

"I wanted to share our sophisticated architecture. We showed photographs of the longhouse that we actually built on our land in Mashpee, and incorporated it in the design," Peters said. "The curve of the wall in the residence hall mirrors the curve of the longhouse we built. Our structures were round, and we used cedar poles to bend the structures. Cedar is not like all wood; it can grow in swamps and in all water. It ages more slowly and creates more resilient structures."

Peters described the significance of each aspect of the mural, from the bullrush grass wall to his signature symbol. The images of cattails are significant as well. "Cattails covered our lodges in the summer. They act as a natural air conditioner; when cattails are wet, they swell and help transfer cool air into the home," he said.

UMass Boston's Institute for New England Native American Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies program, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs reached out to Peters to design and paint the mural. Michael Metzger, Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, shared about the significance of UMass Boston's mural project:

"This project represents an important collaboration of students, faculty, and staff to bring an indigenous visual to our campus Residence Halls. We aimed to provide a piece that could contribute to an ecology of acknowledgement of native communities as the traditional land caretakers of Massachusetts."

A version of this news story was originally published by School for Global Inclusion and Social Development in October of 2021.

Enhance student persistence by increasing equitable use of critical services that address essential needs, including mental health, food and housing security, and community resources.

Progress was made to advance critical services with an equity mindset through a hybrid modality and growing community comfort with in-person services, as demand continued to be strong for basic needs services and support. Highlights of this work include the following:

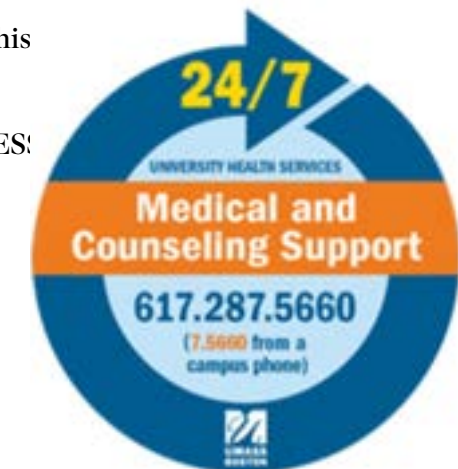
As part of ongoing efforts resulting from a collaboration with the Jed Foundation, a nationally recognized college mental health nonprofit, the Division of Student Affairs and several partners launched a new outreach effort to market its 24/7 medical and counseling support hotline. This line connects students with live general medicine and counseling support day and night. The outreach included print and digital signage in campus buildings, table tents in dining and social spaces, stickers for employees to wear, and boilerplate syllabus language for faculty.

All **U-ACCESS** student cases were managed through Maxient. This case management software increased efficiency enabling staff to assist 514 ongoing student clients, 181 of them were new clients. This resulted in a total of 1,207 food orders. In addition, U-ACCESS had 1,658 student visits for overall student needs and concerns.

The **Counseling Center** filled a Staff Clinical Social Worker and Coordinator of Black/African-American Student Mental Health counseling coordinator position. This position is part of the ongoing commitment of the Counseling Center to continue to support the success of Black and African-American students in our community. This position will provide direct clinical care, assessing and responding to the unique needs of Black and African-American students in our community with the hope that the position will bring specialized outreach, programming, and consultation to our campus to benefit this student population and further decrease stigma, make explicit the psychological impact of racism, increase help-seeking, and promote access to counseling services.

Off-Campus Living separated social media responsibilities into three Community Ambassadors teams; Facebook, Instagram, and a student BLOG called the BLOC (Beacons Living Off-Campus). This outreach strategy led to more awareness, as evidenced by the office engaging in 385 interactions, a 9.4% increase over the pre-pandemic 2019-2020 academic year benchmark.

NSFP launched the Beacon Family Hub on June 23rd. This platform now connects families with a myriad of resources and information at UMass Boston. The best feature of the Beacon Family Hub is its' ability to tailor communications and news to specific sub-communities at UMB (i.e., commuter student news exclusively to families of commuter students, first-gen information to families of first-gen students).



Ensure every student has an opportunity to connect meaningfully with experiences that enhance belonging and promote learning.

Data drove continuous improvement efforts on a number of fronts. It was used to retool and advance practices, space, technology, and processes. Data continues to drive our aim to steward allocated financial resources. The return to campus afforded many welcome opportunities to reintroduce students to belonging and learning experiences offered by Student Affairs; examples of this work include the following accomplishments:

Housing and Residential Life successfully managed a larger than usual residential population through informed policy decisions and promoting community accountability. This approach promoted community development while minimizing COVID-19's impact.

In partnership with Eastern Bank, **U-ACCESS** offered 80 food and home insecure UMass Boston students a free financial literacy course. After taking the course, 78% of participants reported being likely or very likely to have a serious conversation about money, and 95% reported a better understanding of how one's spending choices impact quality of life.

Outreach efforts to engage more military-affiliated students in belonging efforts led to 87 new members joining the Student Veterans Center.

Student Activities continued to increase student involvement opportunities by adjusting its programming mix, scaling successful programs, and growing training capacity, resulting in 105 clubs activated, a year-over-year increase of 31% more clubs activated and two times the participants in SAEC programs, which totaled more than 13k participants this year.

Working with Undergraduate Admissions and Academic Affairs, **New Student and Family Programs** elevated intentional engagement pre- and post-orientation. Efforts included a Beacons at Night Virtual Events campaign to keep students engaged prior to the start of the semester and all students receiving access to presentation recordings.

The feeling of personal safety continues to be of great importance to the sense of belonging; thus, **UMBPD** hosted several community events to grow feelings of safety while on campus, including Coffee with a Cop, Trunk or Treat, and Pizza with a Cop. UMBPD staff have also been working with Res Life conducting scenario-based training, co-instructing Police in Society, and enhancing the Cadet Program by providing cadets an opportunity to participate as volunteers in police training at the Police Academy.

GOAL 3 continued

Thirteen undergraduate student fellows completed the Civic Action Fellowship Program, a year-long scholarship experience that included bi-weekly workshops with community leaders and community-based internships. The program was founded to engage a diverse cohort of students in civic life. Community partners for this year included Mass Budget & Policy Center; Commonwealth Seminar; Boston While Black; Boston City Councilor At-Large, Julia Mejia; Massachusetts Voter Table; 826 Boston; King Boston; State Representative, Jessica Giannino; City of Boston Language & Communications Access; Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School; and New Boston Coalition. Fellows were able to receive credit for their work through a new course hosted in the Africana Studies department. The Civic Action Fellowship Program is sponsored by Student Leadership & Community Engagement, Student Multicultural Affairs, & Office of Community Partnerships.



City Councilor At-Large
Julia Mejia with the Civic Action Fellows.

Celebrating First-Generation Students at UMass Boston

Gray Milkowski

Looking at the First Gen canvas in the Campus Center in early November, it's clear that being the first person in your family to go to college can mean a lot of things. At UMass Boston, it means you're family.

Throughout First Gen Week, the campus celebrated that family via a week of events and workshops that recognize the Beacons who are the first in their families to attend a four-year college or university in the United States.

"Sometimes there's this perspective that being First Gen is something that's a negative thing or something that puts you at a disadvantage," said Phil Begeal, the director of new student and family programs, who was the first in his family to go to college. "What we're trying to do [this week] is recognize the fact that this is something that should be celebrated, delegitimizing that stigma that people have in their minds about being a first-generation college student, and having it be something that they wear as a badge of honor, that they embrace, that they show their pride around."

As one of the most diverse campuses in the United States, thousands of First Gen students pass through Columbia Point each year, each of whom has a different story about what being First Gen means to them.



Gilmathan Del Valle, a fourth-year student majoring in early education and care in inclusive settings who was staffing a table at Tuesday's resource fair, spoke as to why it was important to celebrate first gen students like himself. "[First Gen students] are going above and beyond in places that maybe others in their lives didn't think that they could reach, but we're here. We're doing these things. We're making these waves, that otherwise, would not be seen anywhere else. So, it's important to celebrate these things," he said. "It makes UMass Boston the university that it is. It wouldn't be the same without all of the first-generation students and faculty that we have."

Use data to catalyze and sustain continuous improvement of racial equity, student-centered practices, space, technology, financial resources, and business processes.

Data drove continuous improvement efforts on a number of fronts. It was used to retool and advance practices, space, technology, and processes. Data continues to drive our aim to steward allocated financial resources robustly. Through the collection and use of qualitative and quantitative data, our annual cycle of continuous improvement and planning engaged a mindful focus on racial equity and student-centered practices. Additionally, the planning extended to a multiyear horizon via Strategic and master planning. Examples of this work include the following:

Ten Student Affairs staff were members of Strategic planning committees, and two served as co-chairs (Shawn De Veau and Michael Metzger). Moreover, elements of the draft Strategic plan were used at the Summer 2022 Cabinet Retreat for AY22-23 Divisional planning. Data that fed this process included NSSE and unit level satisfaction and engagement data.

The **Student Affairs Technology Services** Office implemented the BeaconCard for Transportation and Parking, which enabled community members to use the BeaconCard for parking access. Additionally, SATS collaborated with Athletics launched Fusion, which allows scheduling, enrolling, and taking fitness classes via BeaconCard taps.

Student Activities completed fall and spring Welcome Week's assessments, which found that 86% of surveyed students reported satisfaction with Student Activities Welcome Week. Data from these surveys has driven and will continue to drive improvements to this signature UMass Boston experience.

In 2020, the Assessment and Decision Support Committee launched a program review process for all departments that did not have formal accreditation requirements. This process was designed to support the NECHE Student Standard 5 paragraph 20, which advises institutions to engage in "a program of regular and systematic evaluation." This year, the committee conducted two program reviews, one from Student Multicultural Affairs and one on orientation from New Student and Family Programs.

In 2019-20 a small team from the Division of Student Affairs updated the Division's co-curricular learning framework using national best practices and literature. During the 2020-21 academic year, an assessment effort to measure student growth in the new domains occurred. Analysis that occurred during this past academic year found that students who participated in student affairs employment, resident assistants, leadership programs, cultural organizations, and basic needs support services showed remarkable growth, as students were found to have grown in leading or knowledgeable competence levels between fall and spring assessments for each domain between 6 and 27 percentage points. Such noteworthy growth demonstrates the quality and wholistic nature that student affairs experiential learning offers.

Using Insights to Inform Practice

At this mid-year point of the academic year, the division traditionally collects updates on the departmental objectives and key performance indicators. This year, Interim Vice Chancellor De Veau compiled this data into a brief one-page document called Insights.

The document was shared with senior staff broadly to help inform them of the progress that the Division has made and to spark cross-functional conversation about challenges and opportunities being observed related to the student experience. De Veau then engaged in a listening tour with each divisional department focused on their thoughts about Insights. This tour added great richness to the initial understanding reflected in the document and additional questions for future exploration.

This work with Insights then informed the division's planning phase of its' continuous improvement cycle, which shapes the day-to-day practice of divisional team members. This yielded draft unit and divisional objectives, which were informed by year-end reporting, as well as, a Student Affairs Cabinet retreat in May. These objectives will be further refined to align with the University's final strategic plan and the Chancellor's annual goals.

Recruit, retain, develop, and recognize individual staff who can and do achieve excellence in individual goals and champion our vision.

Efforts to recruit, engage, and support staff who advance our work are ongoing amidst high national turnover and a COVID-19-impacted workplace have continued. Examples of this work included the following:

As positions were vacated, each underwent a needs analysis and was retooled, or repurposed. Personnel turnover has been noteworthy -- ten new hires for AY21-22 were made compared to two from the previous academic year. This aligns with similar turnover reported by campus and regional peers. To provide a strong foundation for new hires, Student Affairs' Retention, Onboarding, and Recognition Team (ROAR) updated the new staff onboarding process.

Technology continued to be essential this past year as more in-person services returned to campus and the value of a flexible, adaptive, and hybrid campus environment became normalized. The SATS unit participated in the Huron study with central IT to assess the distributed IT model. After the long-time director of SATS retired, the position description was revised to better align with central IT via a dotted line to the office of the CIO.

Time continues to be made at leadership meetings to review goal progress in anti-racism and health promotion. The mid-year divisional senior leadership retreat emphasized the importance of supporting staff seeking additional professional development for areas of DEI interest that could be achieved with travel limitations.

At least three staff currently are using tuition remission and campus access for Master's/Ph.D. programs. Additionally, staff participated with professional organizations through committee work and conference attendance.

Division of Student Affairs Committee Participation:

- Mariette Ayala †
- Chiquita Baylor*
- Donald Baynard †
- Peter Bonitatibus †
- Ashlee Carter*
- Caitlin Cichocki*
- Shawn De Veau**
- Charles Henriques †
- Jennifer Maitino*
- Mike Metzger**
- Steve Neville* †
- John Silveria*
- Bethany Tuller †
- Rachel Winters*

* University Strategic Planning Committee Member

** University Strategic Planning Committee Chair

† Search Committee

Student Affairs by the Numbers

2,272 first-years served by NSFP orientation in summer 2021

928 service tickets were completed by SATS

13,523 students attended SAEC events

10 new employees were onboarded

230,815 visits to Off-Campus Living's online housing directory for the fiscal year

24,140 pounds of food were distributed by U-ACCESS

18,121 hours served by SLCE student volunteers

514 students were assisted by U-ACCESS

1,512 students attended Student Multicultural Affairs events

21,147 calls were dispatched by the UMB Police Department

6,840 ID cards were printed by BeaconCard Services during the fiscal year

Nearly **50,000** visits to UMBeInvolved

347 Dean of Students conduct cases were initiated

86% of students surveyed reported satisfaction with Student Activities Welcome Week.

Points of Pride

Ashlee Carter from the Dean of Students Office taught a first-year seminar called Sexual Ethics for the College of Education and Human Development. She also served on the Engagement and Volunteer Planning Committee for the NASPA National Conference 2022 and was a member of the NASPA Region I Mid-Level Institute Planning Committee.

Student Leadership and Community Engagement Staff served as the adjunct faculty for a new course in Africana Studies supporting the Civic Action Fellowship Program.

Jen Maitino from Housing and Residential Life served as the Liaison to Professional Organizations for the NASPA Region I Advisory Board.

Kristina Hall-Michel was the NASPA Region I Co-Chair of the Student Affairs Partnering with Academic Affairs Knowledge Community.

Cindy Nelson from Housing and Residential Life earned a master's degree from UMass Boston.

Kassie Ozoonian from Housing and Residential Life earned a master's degree from North Dakota State University.

Shannon McGonigle from Housing and Residential Life earned a master's degree from UMass Boston.

Zach Pransky from Housing and Residential Life and Student Activities earned a master's degree from Salem State University.

Phillip Begeal from New Student and Family Programs, served as the Co-Chair for UMass Boston NASPA First-Gen Forward Team leading in part to the launch of Tri-Alpha First Generation Student Honor Society with over 200 inductees.

John Sears from Off-Campus Living, taught a Connected Futures course for veteran and military-affiliated students and served as a member of the Student Veterans Steering Committee.

Julia Hehir from Student Affairs Technology Services earned a bachelor's degree from UMass Boston.

Peter Bonitatibus from Student Affairs Technology Services retired from UMass Boston after 30 years of service.

Points of Pride

Rachel Winters from Student Leadership and Community Engagement participated in the grant-funded Native Digital Storytelling Project through Institute for New England Native American Studies & Asian American Studies. She also served as the co-chair of the NASPA Student Leadership Programs Knowledge Community.

U-ACCESS received a \$10,000 grant from Easter Bank to sponsor their Financial Literacy Program.

Mariette Ayala from U-ACCESS taught a Sociology 101 course at Bunker Hill Community College. She also co-published a chapter in Save Our Schools! When Students Protest: Secondary and High Schools.

Rita Haidul-Campbell from the F&A unit retired after many years of service to several UMass Boston offices.

Mike Metzger completed service as the co-project owner of the UMass Boston mobile application redesign project with CIO Ray Lafebvre.

Points of pride were submitted by area heads as part of the annual reporting process.

Spotlight on Assessment



UMass Boston's first Social Justice Case Study Competition – initially proposed by former Community Director Pilar Nelson and sponsored by the Division Assessment and Decision Support Committee, the Chancellor's Office, and the Provost's Office – successfully concluded this May.

The goals of the Social Justice Case Study Competition were to give students, staff, and faculty at UMass Boston and in the Greater Boston area an opportunity to build new knowledge around the challenges people of minority identities experience as they move through higher education. The competition aimed to ignite collaborative problem-solving for issues related to bias, discrimination, diversity, equity, and inclusivity as it relates to the college experience. The contest was divided into two sub-competitions. In each stage, the first-place winner received a \$1,000 cash prize as well as a physical award for each team member.

The first stage, was open to faculty, staff, and doctoral students at UMass Boston, with each entrant entering the competition as an individual or a pair. Entrants in this stage of the competition were encouraged to present one or more problems that center around a complex issue related to social justice, diversity, equity, and/or inclusion within a college setting. Judges selected "Asians: Revealing the Complexities of Inclusion in Campus Communities," submitted by Jarling Ho and Shino Yokotsuka, as the first-place winner. The second-place winner was Sarah Phou, who wrote "A Race Against Race: Black Lives Matter and Stop AAPI Hate in Public Discourse." The third-place winner was Timothy Oleksia, who submitted "(Dis)respecting Pronouns."

Stage two of the competition, was open to undergraduate students in the greater Boston area. Entrants of this competition were asked to respond to one of the above case studies from the perspective of an administrator of a college/university, and explain why they believe their response/solution to the chosen case study was satisfactory. The second stage first place winners were Jona Fejzaj and Nawal Khalif, who wrote "Changing the Paradigm of Minority Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity Within Higher Education". Second place was awarded to Rudy Eiland, Tim McCarthy, Ellen Hildebrand, and Samar Sharief, who curated "Promoting Safe and Affirming Campus Environments: Guidelines for Institutional Policy on Gender Pronouns and Misgendering." And the third-place winners were Andrew Alswanger and Ava Berry, who wrote "UOO: safety in learning."

Thank you to the judges who diligently provided their support and educated opinions to this competition and to undergraduate student Kaya Willingham who provided the contest's logistics support.



UMass Boston Police Works to Strengthen Campus Community and Police Relations

50 Years Ago in Campus History

We continue our annual report series with a look back in campus history. On April 21 of 1972, UMass Boston students and faculty marched through the streets of Boston in opposition of the Vietnam war. An estimated 65 New England schools participated in the movement, as that week marked International Peace Week. Their goal was to have their voices heard in a trying and changing time and help alleviate the social and political issues that arose during war.



In the years that followed, scores of veterans returned to the U.S. One such veteran was William (Bill) Gilbert Joiner, Jr. Joiner was an African American veteran who was born in Lawrenceville, Illinois in 1942 and served in the Army during the Vietnam era. After leaving the military, he witnessed the difficulties that many Vietnam veterans were experiencing as they returned home and attempted to transition back into society. Joiner took his observations and focused them in higher education, serving as UMass Boston's first Director of Veterans Affairs. For his service, the William Joiner Institute for the Study of War and Social Consequences was named in his honor; continuing today to be a dedicated resource to veterans in celebrating, researching, and supporting veterans. The Joiner Institute continues to inform; develop; and implement equitable policies, programs, and pathways to help ensure the health, safety, well-being, and success of veterans, their families, and others impacted by war or military service, without exception.

Veteran William (Bill) Gilbert Joiner Jr.

UMass Boston's long-standing commitment to peace-building and supporting those who serve is strongly rooted into our campus fabric. In 2022, UMass Boston currently serves more than 650 student veterans, their families, guardsmen and women. Continuing to be nationally ranked as culturally diverse and military friendly. As a campus and division that values anti-racism and health promotion, we are proud of our campus's history, those students and faculty who have served our country in uniform, and those who spoke up about the profound costs of war. This year, that commitment in part took the form of new collaborations consisting of Student Affairs and the Joiner Center to provide further support for military affiliated students. As we look ahead to the next academic year, we look forward to continuing collaboration with Joiner and others who are passionate about a more peaceful and secure world.



The UMass Boston Police Department (UMPBD) continues working diligently to build bridges between the department and the UMass Boston community. One such bridge is the University's Community/Police Advisory Board, which has met regularly since July 2020 with the aim of creating an environment that focuses on crime prevention and problem-solving strategies through partnerships with students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Another bridge is the department's community outreach and service-based programs. The UMBPD has collaborated with Housing and Residential Life to participate in their start-of-the-semester training. The training comprised of scenario-based training and roll-play that afforded Resident Advisors and Community Directors the opportunity to sharpen their communication and critical thinking skills when addressing issues around alcohol and intoxicated students, illegal drugs, unauthorized guests, and social gatherings.

UMBPD collaborated with Casa Myrna and hosted Domestic Violence Awareness and a tabling info session. The department hosted a Trunk or Treat event to promote police and community engagement. A similar engagement event was offered in November, "Coffee with a Cop." The department also provided Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training. This comprehensive course trains women in awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and risk avoidance while offering basic, hands-on defense training.

The department has also worked to connect more deeply with the campus's academic mission. One such example was a collaboration with Sociology faculty member Jackie Lageson on the course Police and Society. The partnership provided students with firsthand knowledge of policing in Massachusetts and policing on a college campus. Additionally, the Chief of Police was a keynote speaker for the McCormack Graduate School's Welcoming and Tribute Event to address "Police Reform."



Vice Chancellor's Student Leadership Council Members



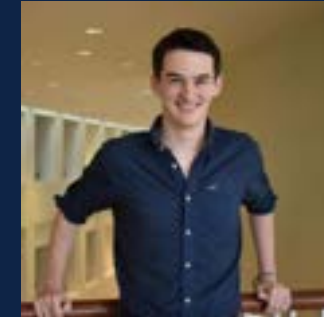
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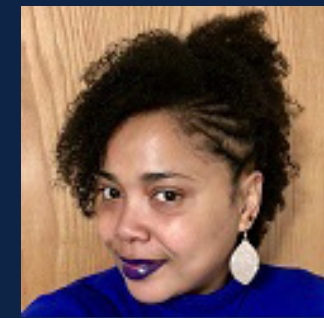
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Supporting the Division

The Division of Student Affairs is devoted to creating an integrated learning experience that helps students reach their educational, personal, and professional aspirations. With your help, Student Affairs creates an inclusive, safe, thought-provoking, and supportive environment where students can achieve their goals, develop critical thinking, and become Beacons for life!

If you're not already engaged in our work, why not get involved today? Gifts in the form of donations or volunteering can go a long way.

Your gifts directly support students on campus by providing critical resources like health and wellness education, leadership development programs, hunger and homelessness support, community volunteerism, residence halls programming, and so much more.

To learn more about how your gift can make a difference, contact Michael Metzger (michael.metzger@umb.edu), Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor. He can discuss with you opportunities across the division.

To donate today, visit www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/give.



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The Division of Student Affairs University of Massachusetts Boston

Quinn Administration Building | 3rd Floor
100 Morrissey Boulevard | Boston, MA 02125-3595
617.287.5805 | VCSA@umb.edu

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