

Campus Conversations 2016

Groups:

Gay Straight Alliance – 9	Education class - Macon – 18
ISSA – 13	Education class - Cochran - 10
BOLD – 19	Orientation team - 9
Women’s Studies/BSU/Model AU - 14	Brit lit classes - 40
Res Life “Get the Scoop” Cochran – 33	(4) FYE classes - 28
Res Life “Get the Scoop” Macon - 21	OBAP - 16
Honor’s program - 6	Perspectives on Diversity class - 17

Comments:

Neutral is a word they used a lot. Not unwelcoming and not welcoming, just neutral; mostly welcoming; welcoming enough; overall welcoming; “I don’t feel anyone judges me because of my differences”

Commuters come to campus, go to class and leave; hard to get involved.

Campus is a 2nd home; come here to get away; feels like home here.

Size of campus helps with feeling welcome

We have a diverse student body; variety of students with a variety of background attend MGA; Diversity is not an issue; Lots of different students in core classes

Staff welcoming; diverse staff; friendly staff.

Diverse faculty – they should share their unique cultures with students and campus; faculty very open and helpful; some professors are open to listen and share differing perspectives, some just listen, some don’t; open for other opinions to be expressed; professors are nice and encouraging, “I feel like I can talk with the professors and in class;” diverse teaching methods; not enough minority professors; Sometimes it is hard to share differing perspectives in class, depends on the professor; Diverse faculty with different world experiences, perspectives, origins, and oversees experiences and studies; opportunity to debate others with respect; faculty care but hold you accountable

Many stated they felt that tolerance and inclusion was a generational thing; younger generation does not have as much of an issue as older generations.

Need a multi-cultural focus; Multi-cultural center and coordinator to coordinate events and programs.

Recognize diversity by celebrating different holidays that recognize different culture and customs in busy sections on campus, example World Hijab Day; International festival is not as great as it used to be, needs more opportunities to learn about other cultures; International festival in Cochran is great; international festivals are good way to learn about other cultures; recognize a Culture for each month and have food and programs tied to that theme; want to learn about other people and other cultures.

Technology for disability or accommodations are limiting; Counseling is small; need more counselors so we can be seen quicker.

School Spirit is something to unite everyone. We need people to be proud of MGA; greater school spirit; University Pride – something weekly or constant that becomes a tradition; slogan that unites students

Creativity needs to be welcomed.

Eastman campus feels welcoming; feels more like a flight school than a university; Feels like big things happen on other campuses; feels like there are black groups and white groups within flight, ATC, and AMT.

Dublin's multicultural group is a good way to bring different groups of people together; host Black history month, Mexican history, and women's history events.

Cochran Black History Month events, step dances, International festival, etc. bring a variety of programs to campus to learn about different things.

Black History month was not really recognized; Black history month programs were good.

"Diversity of campus opened my eyes to other people, views, opinions, and perspectives. I've met all sorts of people and it enhances my experience"

"We want to be here but you don't make campus accessible outside of regular hours"

People don't necessarily go out of their way to talk with others outside of their comfort zone; activities help people mix with other people. Hard to connect with others outside of class.

"Diversity is recognized but not appreciated"; "Don't think diversity is recognized"; "Inclusivity is better way to celebrate diversity"

"How the campus looks and feels will have an impact on the attendance and retention rate"

Website shows the diversity of the college

"Diverse faculty is useful in recruiting diverse students"

We offer study abroad opportunities that provide diverse experiences for students.

Online classes are less engaging and make it difficult to connect with diverse others

Need classrooms to be safe spaces to openly discuss issues, need faculty to be able to facilitate open discussions on hard or uncomfortable topics; develop discussion on diversity into core courses (like world like, perspectives, and others)

Students are open to learn about other cultures; expose students to more cultures

Parking on Macon campus shows who is important – faculty in front and students in the back; make it feel that students aren't the priority.

Ms. Mary in the library café was mentioned as wonderful by 3 groups.

Suggestions:

Require diversity training or attendance at speakers and panels discussions for students at least once a year and require diversity training or continuing education for faculty and staff.

Get staff more involved with students through workshops and leadership training; mentors within schools for freshmen.

Commuter space for study; smaller spaces for gathering; build community and intermingle with different people; comfortable chairs, place to plug in; more study rooms throughout campus; student lounge with access to microwave;

Provide facilities for student to access after regular business hours; When Library closes, gym closes, and Jones building closes, there is no place to go. "We go to Mercer's library" (3 different people mentioned Mercer); Study rooms with key pad/card swipe access so you know who is in the building /study rooms. The Library Friday (after 12), Saturday (all day), and Sunday hours (before 4) "we want to study but they are closed when I want to study;" need computer lab in clubhouse at University Pointe. Want someplace to study and use computer besides the library.

Consider student schedule/ hours over campus faculty/staff work hours. Things close too early. Subway, café, cafeteria, dining hall, library, wellness center. "This place is dead at 5"; nothing to do on the weekends.

Better communications about what is going on; Events calendar for ALL events; better communications about dates, times, locations, campuses

Students get their information by various methods Twitter #MGSU, #MGSU and then class of 20XX; Instagram; Snapchat; text messages; non-trads use e-mail and FB; all students use e-mail for important stuff like financial aid; check e-mail before school starts for FA, BO & RL but then not after school starts; Like bathroom and elevator flyers; suggested remind101 to opt in to activity texts; from friends/ word of mouth; posters on the stand in front of cafeteria in Cochran. "Can we put ads on the side of Brightspace or on the TVs in student center?;" read flyers (but need to be updated frequently)and e-mails

Repeating events on other campuses; grown-up events; interactive events; big events like the Mardi Gras event

Need signature events (like Bearstock at Mercer), some tradition that is a big draw for students; more large scale programs; signature events on each campus with community involvement. Make a big tradition.

Student Club lists need to be updated and easier to find. Help others know what we have here so they can join different groups. Club Presidents get together to promote events; better job explaining what clubs we have and advertising events;

Flip the club room in SLC – Macon to have projector, screen, and conference table and chairs by window instead of in the middle.

"Questions Ball Pit" where you have a bunch of balls with different questions or conversation starters.

Reach more into our local community; more volunteer opportunities; partnering with community organizations; Campus wide volunteerism – Saturday opportunities; make community service a niche for MGA

Need non-trad seminar or orientation to catch non-traditional students up to speed on e-mail, d2L, Swords, fin aid, etc.; feel lost when they come in and have to figure it out on their own.

Bring people together – Network with other clubs; get clubs together to plan an event; get to know others from other groups; some kind of fair where all clubs come together; Create a competition where clubs must collaborate to provide a community service to the institution – the purpose is to get different people to interact with different people. Get International students more involved; more activities on campus with different groups involved with each other; Clubs collaborate for programming

Professors should assign groups for projects to mix students up so they can work with different people.

Host events on Macon campus in open space between Library and TEB, it could draw students who don't go to the SLC. Host events on Cochran campus in afternoon on front campus so students can stop by between classes or on a class break (international festival, Fall festival); do things during the day for commuter to participate.

Need the Knight to be more visible. Knights look and feel on campus; something to represent us as Knights; make our own Knight statue like Mercer (bear) and UGA (bulldog) has; NEED School Spirit and traditions.

Need events to meet and greet people in other groups; “get to know people different than me”; Need more activities to connect with others. Need opportunities to collaborate with other groups of students.

Dublin – more larger events so more people can be involved; more events closer to 5 pm and less around lunch time so non-traditional students can get involved. Bring back Battle of the Bands; open mic nights

Create a Student Union in Cochran: card services, campus store, campus clubs and student services in one building. Place for students to hang out with the balcony by the pond.

Transportation between campuses; to athletics events; to other campus events. Provide transportation for instructors to travel to other campuses to teach; transportation between Macon airport and campus; shuttle from university Pointe to classes and grocery store

Athletics need to get fans involved at athletic events; Spirit Week during Homecoming. Make Homecoming a bigger deal; crown a Fresh, Soph., Jr & Sr. reps on Homecoming court.

Bring back gazebos as place to gather and socialize

Senior Gift – Senior class leaves something behind.

Provide students opportunities in class to write and share about their cultures and upbringing.

Build relationships with the community for student to engage with the community, community schools, networking, jobs. Events and program that students can bring their kids to at night and on weekends.

Recruit different types of people to the university; Hispanic students; international students; recruit aviation students from high schools with aviation programs and pathways (Maxwell HS) and through FAA mailing lists, AOPA, flying clubs; highlight Dublin MGA success stories to Dublin community – they don't see Dublin campus as a university; Shine light on smaller majors and where those students go after graduation – only focus on IT and Nursing;

Provide more diverse people in the videos shown in class.

Professors need to remember non-traditional students have not been in school in a while; remember that not all students are traditional students;

Admissions and Financial Aid and scheduling [advising] understand their processes but need to be able to help new students understand it simply "It is all new to us"; provide all steps we need to do in the process not just one or two; advisors need to share the same information – they get different information from different advisors. Need one person who can answer all questions.

Remind students of deadlines by e-mail and robo-call earlier, not at the last minute.

Welcome week activities with booths for student groups and other student services; T-shirt exchange – student exchanges other college t-shirt for an MGA one;

Weekly activity every Wednesday (What's Up Wednesday), even if it is just music in a courtyard, gather students together to an event that is the same time and place each week.

Faculty need to collaborate and communicate with each other to make sure what they are telling the students inconsistent. Professors NEED to answer their e-mails and communicate with their students; hard to get office hour appointment; hard to catch them; can't meet them without an office hour appointment.

English and History departments are very welcoming; Education and nursing not welcoming to students or friendly. Education has no office hours on the Cochran campus;

More opportunities to minor in another area; Registrar's office needs to understand and be able to express how you can enroll as a post-bac or another time to come back and take more classes after graduation.

Need Single Sign-on for e-mail, D2L, SWORDS, etc.