**Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs**

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<th>Department Name:</th>
<th>Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Program or Service:</strong></td>
<td>Welcome Week 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Brief description of program or service:</strong></td>
<td>Welcome Week offers a series of events and programs to welcome, orient, and provide useful information for first year students at Boston College. Through a variety of events, students have the opportunity to form relationships with their peers, learn about life in college, and begin to transition into the Boston College community.</td>
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<td><strong>Date:</strong></td>
<td>8/24/2016</td>
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1. **State the formal learning and/or operational outcomes for the program, service, or department:**

   **After participating in Welcome Week, first-year students will be able to:**
   - identify who they can go to for help/support within their residence hall
   - understand the policies and expectations associated with living in a residence hall
   - recognize the academic and extra-curricular opportunities offered at BC
   - identify one or more people/organizations where they can go for academic support
   - navigate around the BC campus (dining, transportation)

   **After participating in MOSAIC, students will be able to:**
   - recognize diversity of their peers on campus
   - name resources and organizations to expose them to different backgrounds

   **After participating in Speak About It, first year students will be able to:**
   - articulate some of the contributing factors related to sexual assault on campus

2. **Where are these learning outcomes published? Be specific. (Where are the department’s learning expectations accessible to potential students: on the web or in your department’s handouts?):**

   [http://www.bc.edu/offices/vpsa/welcome.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/vpsa/welcome.html)

3. **What data/evidence is used to determine whether participants have achieved the stated outcomes? (What method did you use? What were you measuring?):**

   All first-year students were sent an online survey a week after Welcome Week and were incentivized with a gift certificate to the bookstore to answer open ended and Likert scaled response questions about the events/programs during Welcome Week 2016. In their responses, students assessed their ability to transition well to college by listing campus resources, as well as ways to engage in various aspects in their academics, extra-curricular activities, and residence halls. Students responded as to whether or not specific events, such as MOSAIC and Speak About It, provided adequate education and conversation around important issues such as identity, diversity, and sexual assault.

4. **Who collects and interprets the evidence? When and how often does this occur? Who assists in**

   Carrie Klemovitch, Special Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Special Projects, along with Scott Pyzik, Graduate Assistant for the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, collected results from the survey, which remained active for students to complete for ten days. Additionally, the VPSA office conducted separate debrief sessions with Resident Directors, MOSAIC presenters, and other faculty/staff members involved in...
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<th><strong>interpreting and analyzing the data?:</strong></th>
<th>Welcome Week in the weeks following, so to gather first-hand perspectives on the successes and areas for improvement with the events of Welcome Week.</th>
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| **5. Individuals with whom the data is shared (list primary and secondary stakeholders and narrative as to why):** | Data is shared with Primary Stakeholders- the Welcome Week Planning Committee and the VPSA Office- for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of the events of Welcome Week, ensuring that it is meeting learning outcome goals and meets the needs of our student population.  
Data is shared with Secondary Stakeholders: the Division of Student Affairs, Academic Affairs/Office of the Provost, MOSAIC presenters, and Speak About It performers. The Division of Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Office of the Provost may be able to use data collected to inform their future events and offerings to students.  
Providing the collected data to those involved with the MOSAIC and Speak About It programs provides them with the opportunity to understand their impact on first-year students, as well as hearing feedback on ways to adapt their presentations. Students, seen as indirect stakeholders, were given information by request. |
| **6. What changes have been made as a result of using the data/evidence? (What was the change? What data led you to make that change?) If no change, indicate why.:** | Data from the Welcome Week 2015 survey and student focus groups indicated that not all students had the opportunity to reflect and share their reactions after hearing the speakers of the MOSAIC presentation.  
As a result, we added an intentional debrief session directly after the MOSAIC presentation where students could gather with their peers living on their floor to share their reactions to the event. Students were also provided the opportunity to create and offer (if they felt so inclined) “I Am” poems, that highlighted various aspects of their personal identity, and the diversity they bring the Boston College community. These small groups were facilitated by a pair of upperclassmen students who were Bowman Advocates, members of FACES, or resident assistants.  
Due to over-crowding at the 2015 A capella concert, this year’s concert had electronic tickets available ahead of time, free of charge, to first 550 students (adhering to the capacity limit within Robsham Theatre). While not experiencing over-crowding during the 2016 year, we would oversell tickets by a marginal number in the upcoming years to factor in the percentage of students buying tickets and not attending the event.  
Finally, two other events were adapted due to undesirable feedback received during the 2015 survey. The Scavenger Hunt/Late Night Activity was improved to Way Back Wednesday/Late Night Activity, hosted in partnership with the RHA. We also increased the number of groups for the DiscoverBoston excursion to meet demands. |
| **7. How do you know that the changes have resulted in improved learning outcomes? (continuous improvement evidence):** | Data collected from the 2016 survey expressed that 47% of the students felt that the MOSAIC debriefs provided a comfortable space to discuss topics related to identity, and that 52% of the first year students believed that the session “provided a very good start to a conversation around identity at Boston College.” The survey results also showed that 64% of students felt they could recognize the diversity of their peers and how that contributes to the Boston College community. |
| **Progress:** | Completed |
| **Give the date of your last program review:** | 9/19/2016 |