Report from the Multilingual Students Academic Success Committee

Fall 2020
Prepared for GMU Faculty Senate
Committee Charge

MASC will be responsible for assisting in the implementation of efforts to support multilingual students.

This will include offering input on the types of **direct student resources** (e.g., classes and tutoring services) needed for students with varying English language (writing, speaking, listening, and reading) abilities, the types of **faculty development support** needed to enhance the teaching of linguistically diverse students across the curriculum; and the types of **administrative support** needed to enable programs to lead relevant curriculum and faculty development efforts.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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Executive Summary: Key Achievements

- MASC was created in December 2016 to identify needs of and resources for supporting academic success among multilingual students at Mason.

- The university-wide data we’ve identified concurs with localized reports that identify 40-50% of Mason students as multilingual (which parallels the population of northern Virginia).

- MASC Faculty Fellows in 2019-2020 helped design new workshops and faculty resource material on the Stearns Center website.

- MASC has provided input in 2019-2020 to the Mason International Collaborative.
Executive Summary: Need for Integration

MASC is charged with identifying ways to support multilingual student academic success. While MASC’s independent efforts to date have better identified multilingual student populations at Mason, we need better partnerships to be able to track, assess, and improve academic performance among these student populations.

Key concern at this time: Without centralized data collection and data-analysis partners, we do not have a baseline of performance to direct additional efforts.

- **Request to Faculty Senate:** MASC needs a sustained partner in a fully funded OIEP for the identification and tracking of multilingual students’ academic performance at Mason.

Key concern at this time: MASC needs to have its faculty development and student support charges integrated into campus-wide initiatives to increase relevance and impact.

- **Goal for ’20-’21:** MASC will work to identify solutions to our data needs, and will take steps to collaborate with other key faculty/curriculum initiatives.
Mason 2025: Vision of Success for Linguistically Diverse Student Population

NO DISPARITY IN GRADUATION RATES between English-only students and multilingual students?
We know that multilingual student enrollments at Mason & in the United States are on the rise (pre-pandemic)
We need to answer an important question -- Who are Mason's multilingual students and how are they performing? MASC has a plan to collect and analyze student data on linguistic diversity at multiple points along the student journey.

**Planned:** With support from OIEP, institute regular tracking via G# to identify patterns of academic success.
Mason needs a sustained, multi-pronged approach to support. MASC has received support from 4VA and the Provost's Office.
Mason Faculty see curriculum as a place to integrate global learning goals
- Mason International Collaborative, FA20 Survey

Q9 - What would motivate you to increase global engagement efforts?

- Resources and examples of global trends relevant to my discipline
- Curriculum design principles and course materials for incorporating global perspectives
- Operational support for international partnerships and collaboration
- Funding to travel abroad for professional activities
- Funding to support a virtual international exchange in my course
MASC will stay focused on two strategies: Collaboration & Integration

Current and future initiatives at Mason

**Partnered, 2019-2020:**

- Mason Internationalization Collaborative (MIC)

*Interruptor: Pandemic*

**Upcoming, 2020-beyond**

- President’s Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence (ARIE)
- QEP on Community Engaged Learning
- Mason Online
- ACE Engage: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Internationalization
MASC Meetings, 2019-2020

September 19, 2019: Focus on MIC collaborations, local initiatives, faculty resource update
October 17, 2019: Focus on data collection and MIC collaborations
December 5, 2019: Focus on data analysis and focus-group design
February 10, 2020: Focus on faculty workshops, annual report
March 23, 2020: Canceled due to pandemic
April 20, 2020: Canceled due to pandemic
As Mason moves toward the goal of greater access to education and commitment to student achievement, the role of faculty in supporting international and multilingual student academic success is essential. Our population of multilingual learners steadily grows; thus, the need to be more thoughtful and agile in how we offer course instruction becomes increasingly important. Looking for ways to modify approaches in the classroom, and enhance course content for deeper student learning, is essential as we work to build an institution truly committed to learning for all of our students.

We are very grateful to our Mason faculty who have created a culture of community devoted to helping students succeed and who are willing to put in the time and effort to connect with students from all cultures and levels of experience. Our diversity at Mason is our great strength; our ability to adapt and grow with this diversity is both our challenge, and our tremendous accomplishment.

Thank you for all you do to help our students be successful. It truly matters.

–Janette Muir, Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives and Services