



SUMMER STUDY ABROAD IN CHINA PROGRAM

Baogang Guo, Ph.D.
Dalton State College

THE PROGRAM

- This program is a consortium program proposed and approved in 2004 by USG Asia Council. Currently it is co-sponsored by the Asia Council of the University System of Georgia(USG), Georgia State University, Valdosta State University (VSU), and Dalton State College (DSC).
- It is 4-week summer study abroad program. The courses are taught by faculty members recruited from the system's 27 public institutions. Typically we have students from 7-10 of the system institutions each year.
- The program's main host institution in China is the School of International Education in [Zhengzhou University \(ZZU\)](#), a comprehensive university with 60,000 students.

THE PROGRAM

- This group travel by high speed trains to Beijing, Zhengzhou, Xi'an and Shanghai. We also visited many historical cities near Zhengzhou, such as Luoyang, Dengfeng, Anyang, and Kaifeng. Comparing with other programs in the system, the program's itinerary include the most cities, but still maintain a low cost of \$3850 for the last few years. The program fee includes round-trip airfare, all high train speed fares, bus rental, lodging for 29 days, and most meals.

THE PROGRAM

- This group stay on the new campus of Zhengzhou University. There are 10 days classroom teaching time, each day there are three course blocks and one cultural enrichment class block.
- The cultural enrichment classes include: martial art, acupuncture, calligraphy, Chinese, and paper-cutting.
- We have a buddy system for students and faculty members. Local university student volunteers are paired with our group members.
- We arrange a host family visit, participate in the campus international cultural festivity, and conduct formal debates with the university's debate team several time.

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Students are required to take two courses. They will earn six semester hours of credits in four weeks.
- Choose from many lower- or upper-level general education courses taught by USG faculty members in English.
- Courses offered include: art, business, communication, criminal justices, economics, English, history, mathematics, music, political science, psychology, and sociology.
- Course instructions are supplemented with field trips, excursions, host family visits, and cultural enrichment classes.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

- The program is administrated by Dalton State College. The college manages the program budget using an agency account, and oversees program integrity by an annual approval by college's top administrators.
- The program has a program director, a co-director, and a on-site program assistant director. They are from three different participating institutions.
- The program hires 2-3 on-site student program assistants each year to assist program operation. The students assistants will be compensated in the form of program fee reduction.
- The program will cover faculty travel cost and provide a small per diem payment to each faculty member.

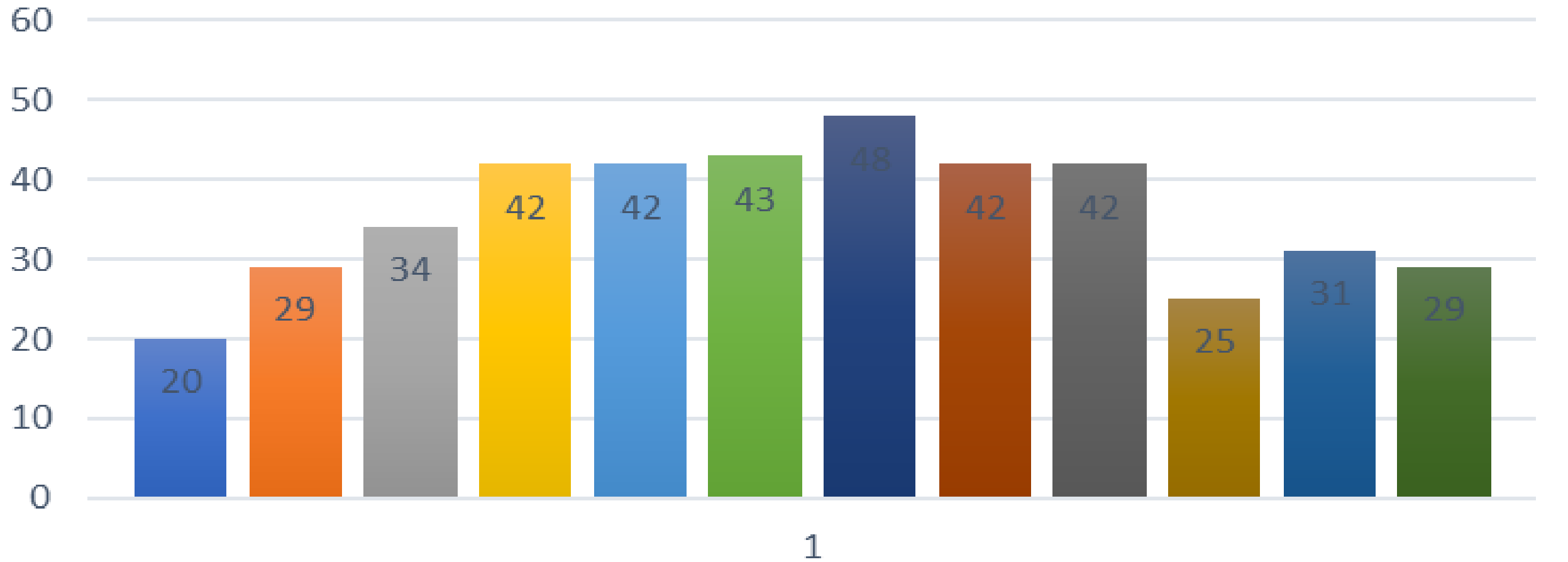
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

- Students will pay program fee to Dalton State College and pay tuition at each participating institution.
- Student fee will cover faculty travel cost.
- Faculty will not receive teaching stipend from the program. They will negotiate with their own institutions for teaching compensation based on institution policy.

PROGRAM IMPACT

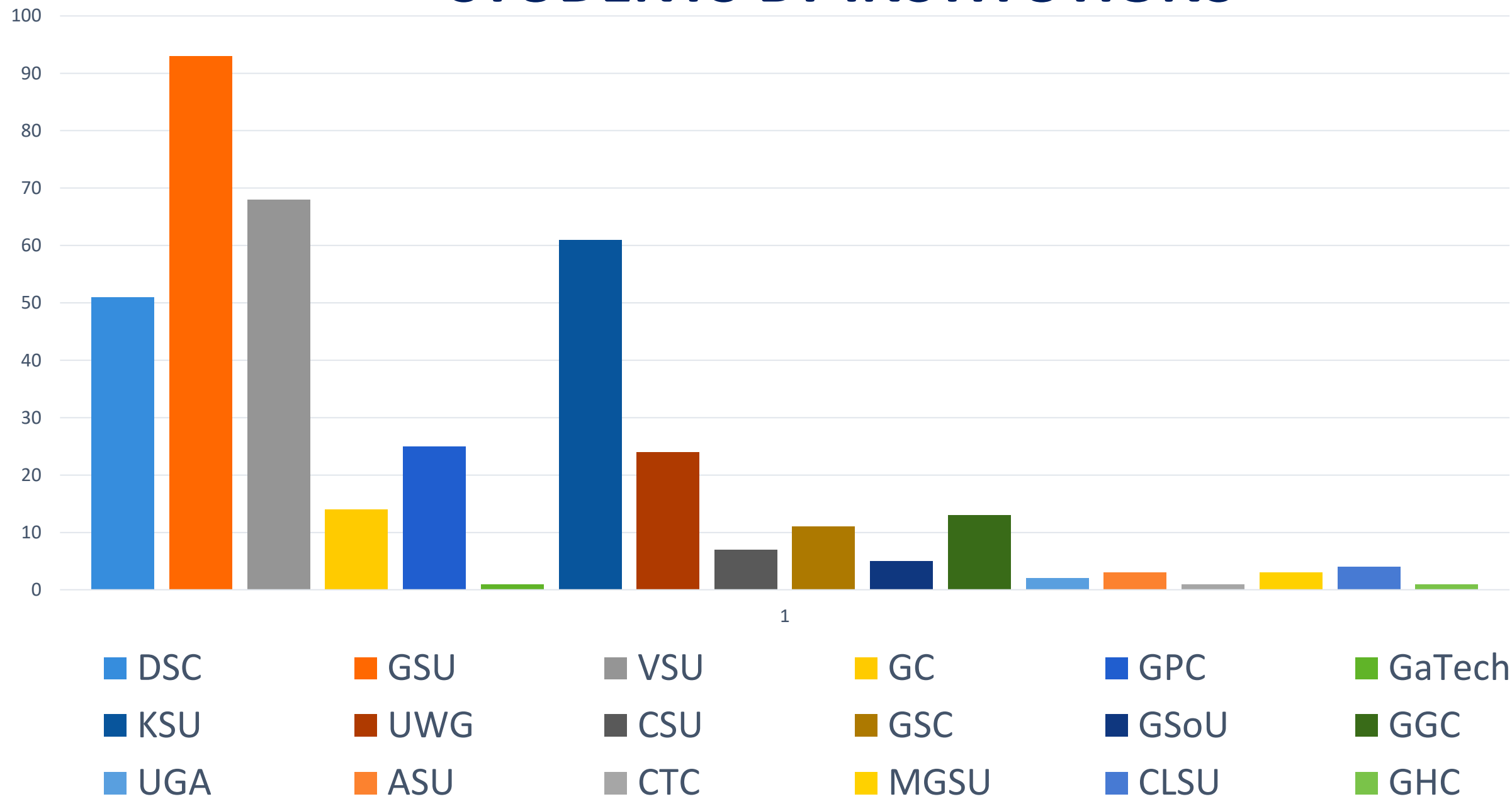
- In the past twelve years of program operation, we have enrolled 387 students from 18 public higher education institutions, most of which are affiliated with the University System of Georgia.
- The program has rendered a total of 2,322 hours of academic credits.
- The accumulated total program operating budget exceeded 1 million dollars.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (STUDENTS)

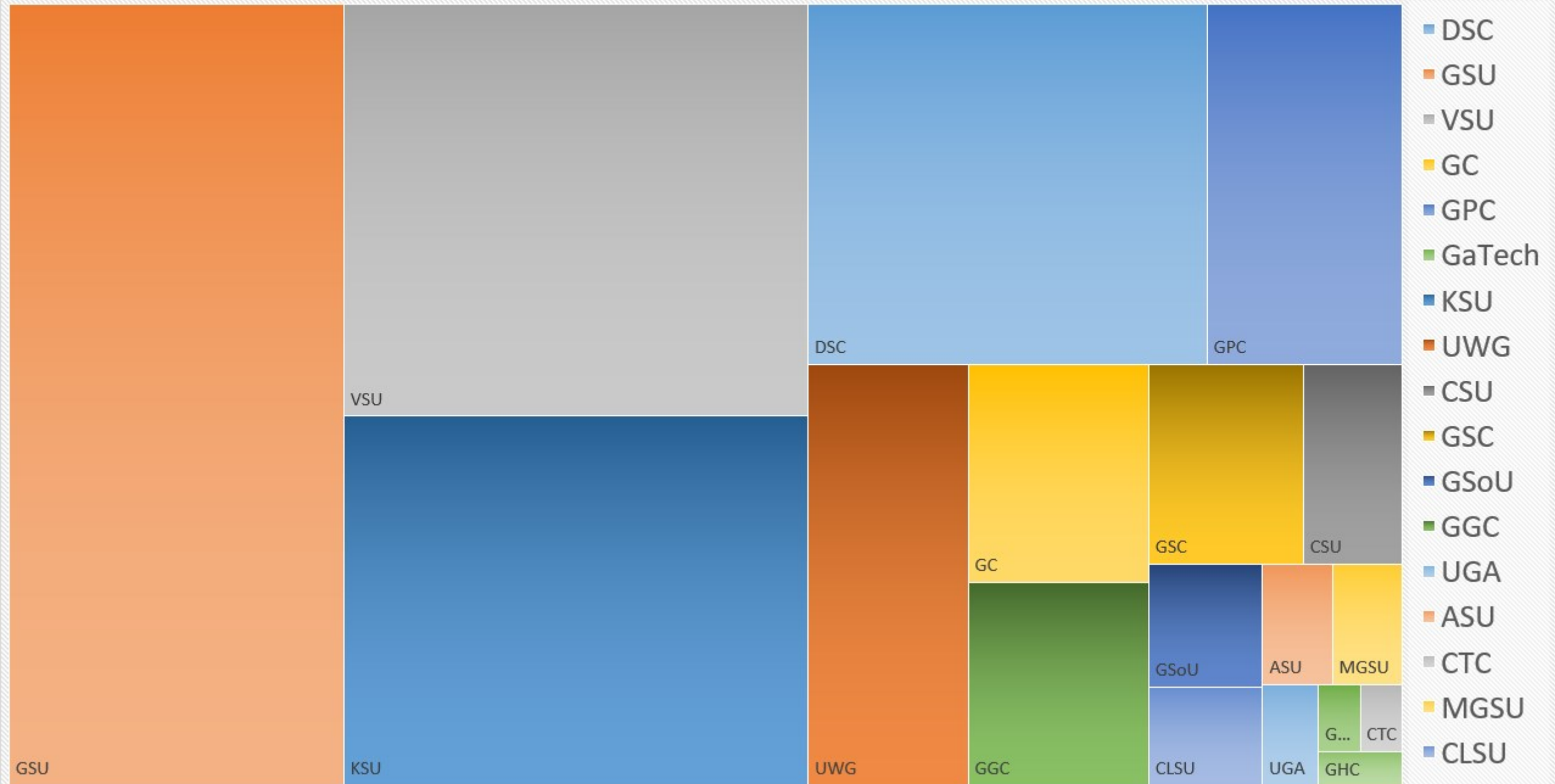


■ 2005 ■ 2006 ■ 2007 ■ 2008 ■ 2009 ■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016

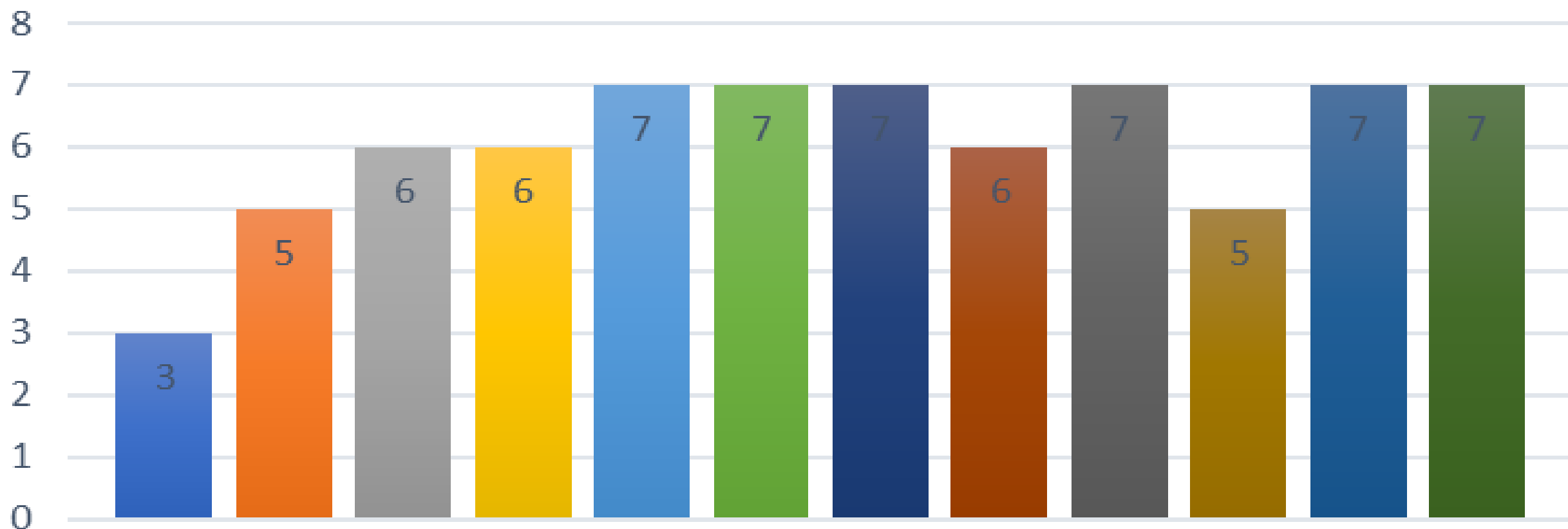
STUDENTS BY INSTITUTIONS



PROGRAM IMPACT



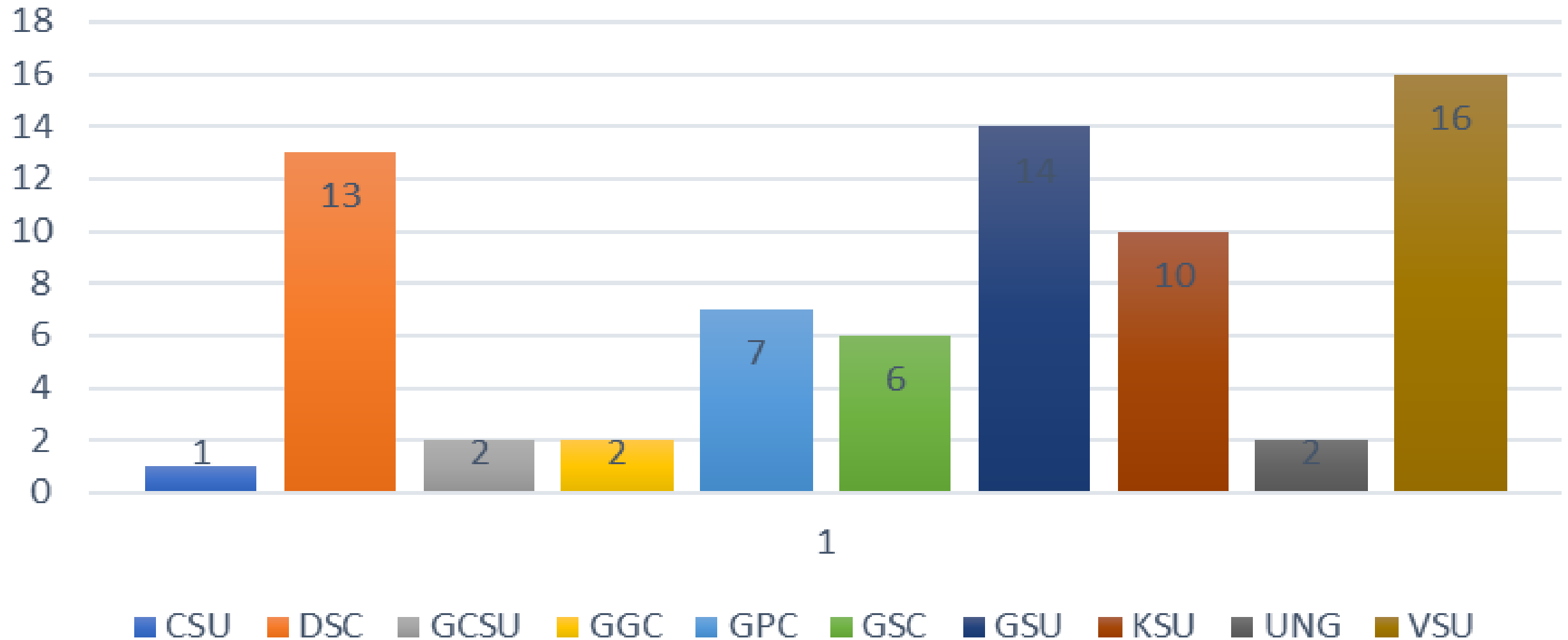
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (FACULTY)



1

■ 2005 ■ 2006 ■ 2007 ■ 2008 ■ 2009 ■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016

FACULTY BY INSTITUTIONS (TIME/PERSON)



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- There are more paper work, more regulatory guidelines, and tighter financial scrutiny from business office and state auditor's office.
- Although many of the regulation are necessary, they od make the management of study abroad program more burdensome, especially for a faculty member or a faculty-led program, which discourage faculty members' enthusiasm to start new programs.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Student Conduct Issues
 - We have encountered several behavior issues: home sickness, cohabitation, quarrel and fight, drinking, alienation, and possible criminal behaviors such as stealing, sexual harassment, and soliciting prostitutes.
- Health Issues
 - In the past 12 years, we have faced a couple of public health pandemics, such as Swine Flue (2009).
 - We had a couple of cases of student injury or hospitalization, but they are handled properly.
 - Air quality is a major concern.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Issues with grading and variations of institution policies
 - Grade too leniently
 - Grading policy differ from institutions to institutions
 - Grading reporting issue
- Our enrollment has declined since 2011. There following reasons may count for some of the declines
 - More and more institutions now offers summer study abroad programs. Many institutions have multiple China programs.
 - Negative publicity about China's environmental problems.
 - Retirement of some of our best faculty members who are good at recruiting .

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Program Cost
 - Although most American believe the value of Chinese Yuan is artificially kept too low, our experience has suggested otherwise. Inflation is a main problem hotel, dorm, food, and bus and service fees have gone up considerably. Our program fee has increased from 2850 in 2005 to 3850 in 2016. We use local agents directly to lower our program cost.
- Faculty Recruitment and Pay
 - We have success in retain several excellent faculty members over the years. GSU Professor Doug Reynolds has gone with us for the past 12 year. As some of them start to retiring, our enrollment figure has gone done.
 - Faculty teaching stipend is another challenge.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Tuition arrangement with the consortium structure
 - As the previous charts shows, we provide service to 18 institutions, but only 10 institutions have faculty members participated. Other institutions simple kept the tuitions collected from their participating students.
 - Participating faculty are struggling with meeting their institutional recruitment quota, and many took a smaller or no pay option.

DISCUSSION

- We are considering the option to require students who are from an institution where there is no faculty participation in the program to register as a transient student with Dalton State
 - What is the financial aid implication?
 - What is the likely negative consequent for existing participating institution to continue to participate when their students can no longer register locally?
 - Will these institutions accept transfer credits from Dalton State College?

Thank You!

