**UNAI Member Activity Report – 2015/2016**

**Name of University/Institution:**

McMaster University

**Contact Person/Focal Point:**

Patrick Deane, President & Vice-Chancellor

1. **What activities did you undertake this year as part of your membership in UN Academic Impact?**

*Perspectives on Peace* was a year-long campaign designed to foster creative dialogues around global issues with an emphasis on peace and conflict resolution. Within a framework of scholarly programming and interdisciplinary learning opportunities, members of the campus community were encouraged to engage with one another to consider the root causes of conflict and productive strategies towards their resolution. The goal of the campaign was to reaffirm the University’s responsibility to engage with global issues, and to set a tone of inclusivity and respect for diversity on campus. It attempted to fulfill this goal through adherence to a set of principles, including: the exploration of peace through reconciliation, engagement and inclusion; the establishment of outlets for marginalized voices to share their narratives for peace and to offer solutions for what seem like intractable problems; the use of respectful dialogue as a tool for building mutual understanding between people of different faiths and backgrounds; the creation of safe space for exchanging ideas and fostering collaborative approaches to conflict transformation; and the inspiration of hope, scholarship and collaborative methodologies on challenging topics.

*Perspectives on Peace* hosted a series of events and activities throughout the 2015/2016 academic year, encouraging broad campus engagement with issues ranging from the protection of human rights to climate change, the economic incentives of war and the effects of conflict on human health. The campaign included a lecture series, art shows, a film festival, field trips, panel discussions, skill-building workshops, and a Model United Nations conference. Throughout the year, students, staff, faculty, and community partners led these various initiatives under the banner of peace, promoting engagement with pressing global issues and a sense of shared responsibility for peace in the campus and Hamilton communities.

1. **What UNAI principles did these activities support?**

Perspectives on Peace supported the following UNAI principles:

* *Global Citizenship* - A commitment to encouraging global citizenship through education
* *Human Rights* - A commitment to human rights, among them freedom of inquiry, opinion, and speech
* *Intercultural Dialogue* - A commitment to promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance, through education
* *Peace and Conflict Resolution* - A commitment to advancing peace and conflict resolution through education
* *United Nations Charter* - A commitment to the principles inherent in the United Nations

1. **How did you publicize your activities to the campus and larger community (social media, campus paper, posters/flyers, newsletters, email)?**

The University promoted this institution-wide campaign through various digital, print and human channels, including the University’s Facebook and Twitter accounts, campus and municipal newspapers, posters and flyers, a campaign website, the University’s news site, and through mass emails.

1. **What were the results of these activities (levels of participation, people reached, campaigns launched, policy papers developed, reports written, etc.)?**

*Perspectives on Peace* attracted engagement from a diverse group of campus and community partners. These groups planned and implemented a series of interdisciplinary learning opportunities related to peace building and conflict transformation. For example, the Library Archives and Research Collections produced monthly articles and a physical display showcasing archives related to themes of peace; faculty members from various domains of the health sciences assembled a thoughtful and cross-cutting panel discussion on peace and health; the Indigenous Studies Program led a field trip, workshop, film screening, and art exhibit with the McMaster Museum of Art, all related to peace and reconciliation; and a student group worked with the United Nations Association of Canada to bring the Model United Nations Conference to life at McMaster, an initiative that is now an annual, student-led event. These groups and many others formed a network that can work together to promote and collaborate on projects related to peace.

Overall, *Perspectives on Peace* advanced the University’s aspiration to provide students with an internationalized extracurricular experience. It is difficult to estimate exactly how many members of the community interacted with the campaign, but the number is likely in the hundreds. Although there is no way of assessing the personal impact of the campaign on the participants, or the extent to which it inspired them to think deeply about a complex social or global justice issue, perhaps for the first time, it is clear that themes of peace and conflict transformation permeated all levels of the University. There is also no doubt that the campaign provided a meaningful opportunity for dialogue on pressing global issues, and successfully raised the profile of our ongoing work to promote inclusivity and respect for diversity on campus.

1. **Did you share these activities with UNAI so they could be featured on the UNAI website, social media accounts and in the UNAI newsletter?**

We did not share our activities with the UNAI. We would appreciate the opportunity to do so in the future, and hope that this submission signals our interest in working closely with the UNAI team on matters of communications and partnership building in the future.

1. **What activities do you have planned for the upcoming academic year?**

The Hope Chair for Peace, in partnership with Peace Studies at McMaster, will host a conference under the banner of “Global Perspectives of Peace” in May 2017. The conference will focus on lessons learned from the Columbian Peace Process, and will bring together Canadian and Columbian diplomats and academics for a dialogue about lessons learned through the struggles and successes of the Columbian Peace Agreement.

1. **Additional information you would like to add**

Please send any questions or feedback to [president@mcmaster.ca](mailto:president@mcmaster.ca).