**UNAI Member Activity Report – 2016/2017**

**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?**

The HOPE Chair in Peace and Health, in cooperation with the Bertrand Russell Research Centre, hosted the first conference under the theme “Global Perspectives of Peace” on May 7 and 8, 2017. The topic for this year’s conference was the Colombian Peace Process with FARC. In this conference, we asked what Canadians can learn from the successes and struggles to achieve the Colombian Peace Agreement and what knowledge can we offer to Colombia that will contribute to advances in our mutual interests in peace, justice and sustainability, based on our experience and social learning. It also aimed to develop on-going relationships among peace-makers from legal, academic, and practitioner communities in and between our respective countries.

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

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

The University promoted the academic conference and the public panel through various digital, print and human channels, including the Faculty of Humanities Facebook and Twitter accounts, Peace Studies’ webpage, 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.)?**

The activities included an Academic Conference and a Public Panel. The academic conference integrated experts from Colombia and North America. Speakers included individuals who participated in the peace negotiation and justices of Colombia’s highest courts, along with experts in peace studies, transitional justice, human rights, Colombian criminal law and compensation systems, political philosophy, and political science. The academic conference had 20 participants, mainly McMaster faculty and students. Organizers are currently working on the publication of a peer-reviewed collection of the essays and commentaries from this conference.

In addition, with the support of the Associate Vice-President, International Affairs, we hosted a Public Panel and Discussion about the main lessons of the peace process. Keynote speakers were His Excellency, Nicolas Lloreda, the Colombian Ambassador to Canada, and Justice Danilo Rojas from the Colombian Highest Court of Administrative Law. Around 60 participants from McMaster and the local community attended the public Panel.

Through these activities, we were also able to initiate collaborations with Colombian Universities and Public Agencies concerned with Peace, Justice, Human Rights, Law and Conflict; to engage McMaster University and Colombian Institutions in collaborative research, teaching, and learning; to increase awareness in wider communities in discussions and peace-building in Colombia and Canada.

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 subsequent conference under the banner of “Global Perspectives of Peace” in Spring 2018.

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

Please send any questions or feedback to president@mcmaster.ca.