

Max Stern Yezreel Valley College

Faculty and Students Needs Assessment YVC Internalization IRIS Project

Helena Desivilya Syna



Major Findings Students' Survey

Issues Examined

1. The impact of internationalization on personal and professional development
2. Motivation to participate in internationalization activities
3. Internationalization at YVC

The survey sample

of respondents: 262

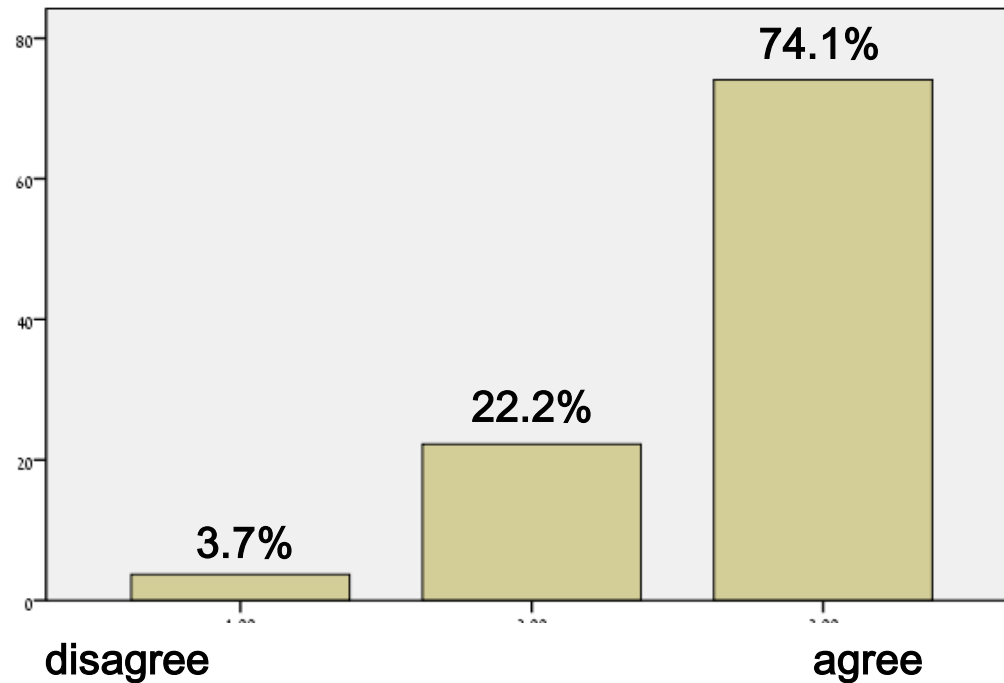
Women: 74%; men: 26%

Average age: 26.5, std.: 5.34

58% indicated an interest to participate in internationalization activities

Findings: students' survey

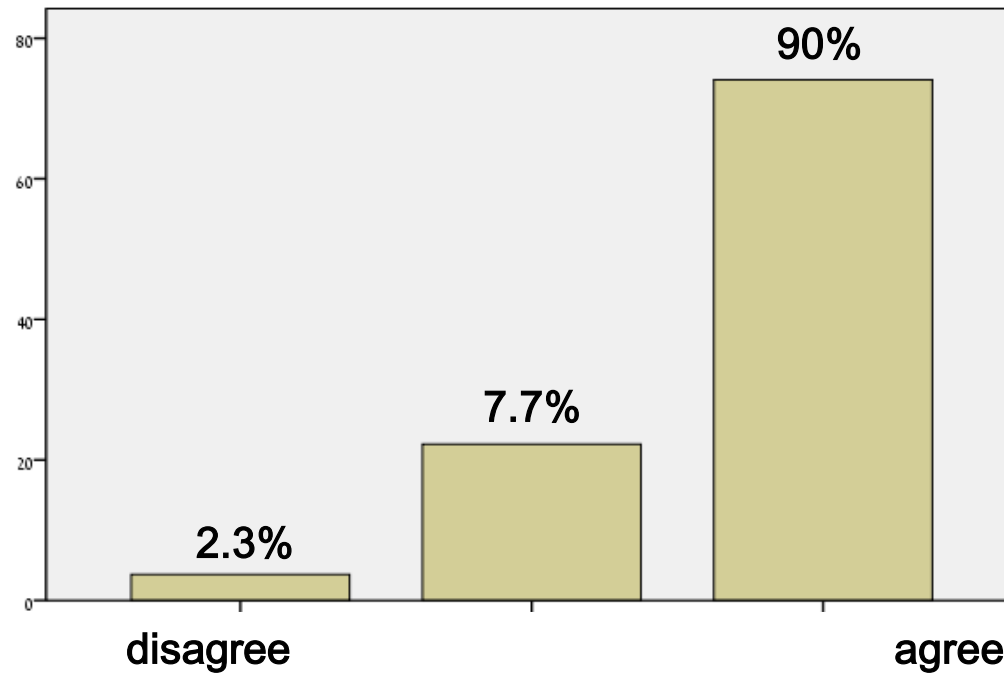
Perceived contribution of internationalization to personal and professional development



Original scale range: 1-7; condensed to 3 categories

Findings: students' survey

English proficiency is essential to the development of internationalization



Original scale range: 1-7; condensed to 3 categories

Findings: focus groups with faculty members

Six focus groups were conducted; each about 7 participants

The focus group content was audio-taped, transcribed and content analyzed

Central Questions

- What is the meaning and essence of the college internationalization in your view – at the personal and institutional level
- Why is institutionalization important for the college?
- What factors can enhance internationalizations and what factors can impede it?
- How do you see your involvement in the internationalization process/activities?

Findings: faculty focus groups

1. Why Internationalization?

- broadening horizons and learning how to deal with similar issues elsewhere
- Enhancing YVC visibility: branding, enhancing the sense of belonging/pride

Findings: faculty focus groups

2. Issues to be addressed in Internationalization Process/Activities

- Engaging inter-group relations in the context of a complex society (national majority-minority) in the curriculum/courses
- Training/Teaching/Learning of first generation students and students with special needs

Findings: faculty focus groups

Issues to be addressed in Internationalization Process/Activities

- Development of English Proficiency as a major tool of internationalization
- Development and maintenance of support network of research collaboration
- Enhancing Teaching and Learning Quality

Findings: faculty focus groups

Ideas re: implementation of internationalization at YVC

- Partnerships and internal networking of faculty members at YVC
- Comparative international research
- Faculty and students' mobility (exchange)

Findings: faculty focus groups

Factors enhancing internationalization

- Assistance of the research authority at YVC

Factors impeding internationalization

- Overload (mainly teaching load)
- Lack of professional and financial support

Findings: faculty focus groups

Challenges in implementing students' exchange

- Difficulty in studying in English
- Limited students' financial resources
- Lack of systematic accreditation and transfer of credits
- Incompatibility of academic calendar

Conclusions

- Students and faculty endorse internationalization
- Implementation of internationalization entails significant challenges
- Factors promoting internationalization
 - support of faculty members (especially new faculty through mentoring)
 - Financial investment to foster preparation of research proposals
 - Encouragement of international experiences (teaching, research)
- Factors impeding internationalization
- Work overload of faculty members
- Lack of institutional support
- Competitive Organizational Culture interfering with partnership building and internal networking
- Difficulty of students in studying in English (lack of English proficiency/literacy)