Bio for Ron Cushing

Ron Cushing has been the Director of International Services at the University of Cincinnati for 20 years. He is responsible for serving the needs of approximately 4,000 nonimmigrant students, faculty, and researchers. He has served as the Student Scholar Regulatory Representative (SSRR) for NAFSA Region VI (1997-1999) and as a mentor to hundreds of colleagues through his Fundamentals of Foreign Student Advising seminars. Fundamentals of Foreign Student Advising is a three-day training workshop for international student advisors (held annually in Cincinnati) and is the most comprehensive training program in the field. Ron has made dozens of presentations at professional conferences, including regional and national NAFSA: the Association of International Educators; the Association of International Educators (AIEA); the American International Recruitment Council (AIRC); the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC); the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AAOCRAO); and other organizations. In past two years many of these presentations have been focused on the use of overseas representatives in the recruitment of international students. The University of Cincinnati is one of founding member institutions for the AIRC and has taken a lead role in promoting the use of trusted third party representatives in the recruitment of international students within the higher education community. Ron has helped develop contracts and training manuals for overseas representatives and has traveled extensively identifying and training representatives for the University of Cincinnati. Most recently Ron has helped draft the Certification Standards for the AIRC. Ron is also a recipient of the University of Cincinnati’s “Just Community” award given to individuals for “outstanding contributions that promote the ideals of a just and caring community” and has been named of one the Communication Departments’ “50 Communication Alumni Champions” based on his success in his career, local community and support to UC.

General Questions

1) Do you consider yourself a developer, platform user, idealist, creator, connector, etc.? All the above.

2) What is (are) your main interest(s) in attending the workshop? Understanding the data sets that other institutions of higher education are interested in gathering/sharing and how UCosmic might be able to assist with this.

3) What would you like to learn / achieve at the workshop? See above.

4) What tools, services, efforts are most relevant for the topic of the workshop? UCosmic. See description below.

Systems Integration in Support of Global Engagement (UCosmic™)
During 2006, UC International began development of UCosmic™, the University of Cincinnati Online System for Managing International Collaboration, making UC one of the first nationally to comprehensively map global engagement and make information available through a common portal. UCosmic™ provides a window into international activity, which can be utilized (with differing access privileges) by university administrators, faculty, staff, students, commercial partners, and the general public. UCosmic allows users to search for international activities by a variety of criteria, including country, institution, or discipline. The following data is at the core of UCosmic:

- Official agreements with foreign institutions, governments and related agencies
- Ownership of official relationships and performance supervision
- Faculty international research profiles
- Foreign feeder institutions with historic performance statistics
- Foreign student enrollment with historic statistics
- Education abroad and exchange participation rates with historic statistics
- Education abroad program information for UC-administered programs and exchange partnerships
- Foreign alumni by country
- Foreign-born faculty by country and foreign institution attended
- Corporate partner international activities (co-op & sponsored research companies)
- Global media coverage of the university’s activities and accomplishments

In January 2011 the UCosmic consortium was formed. The UCosmic Consortium is an international open-source software initiative managed by the State University of New York, in partnership with the University of Cincinnati. The mission of the consortium is to provide members with a collaborative platform to identify information types needed for strategic planning, establish data collection standards, create a community of software developers, and release an open-source software solution which can be adopted by any institution.

The University of Cincinnati’s version of UCosmic can be viewed at www.uc.edu/international/.