

# A NOTE ON MEASURING DIVERSITY 

Illinois AIR<br>October 24-25 Peoria, Illinois

Gerald W. McLaughlin, DePaul University Josetta S. McLaughlin, Roosevelt University Jacqueline McLaughlin, UNC Chapel Hill

## Colleges Contemplate a 'Race Neutral' Future

- Race-conscious admissions policies are here to stay. Race-conscious admissions policies are in peril.
- The justices in Washington have affirmed the status quo. The justices in Washington have undermined it.
- Campus officials can rest easy. Campus officials should keep chewing their fingernails.


## The Compelling Interest in a Diverse Learning Environment

The atmosphere of "speculation, experimentation and creation" - is widely believe to be promoted by a diverse student body ...the "Nation's future depends on leaders trained through wide exposure" to the ideas and mores of students as diverse as this Nation of many people...
.(Justice Powell in Bakke, 1978 in Admission and Diversity, ACT 2006)

## The Issue of Critical Mass

The chief difficulty with looking to aggregate minority enrollment is that it lumps together distinct minority groups from different backgrounds, who may bring various unique contributions to the University environment.
African-American and Hispanic students, for example, are not properly interchangeable for purposes of determining critical mass, (Fisher, Petitioner, v. Univ. of Texas-Austin, Sept.15, 2011, Supreme Court of the United States, PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI)

## Key: Race-neutral Approaches

## School boards may pursue the goal of bringing together students of diverse backgrounds and races through other means...

Race-neutral approaches can be used for decisions about individual students...

Guidance on the voluntary use of race to achieve diversity and avoid racial isolation in elementary and secondary schools, Department of Justice (Civil Rights Division), Department of Education (Office of Civil Rights), pp. 4-6.

## What are Race-neutral Criteria?

- students' socioeconomic status;
- parental education (e.g., highest degree attained or years of education);
- students' household status (e.g., dual or single-parent household);
- neighborhood socioeconomic status;
- geography (e.g., existing neighborhood lines); and
- composition of area housing (e.g., subsidized housing, single-family home, highdensity public housing, or rental housing).


## Purpose of Presentation

To identify limitations in the current measurement of Diversity

To demonstrate a composite index for study and reporting of HE diversity

To use the composite Diversity index to look at higher education in Illinois

# Limitations of the Current Measurement of Diversity 

PART 1
CAN'T DEAL WITH
Multiple categories
Multiple measures

## Problems with Current Metrics

## Commonly Used Metrics

## Counts

The numbers of individuals in various categories (e.g., "race" or 'ethnicitv")

## Magnitude

 Calculate percentages in different categories
## Three Problems

1) When use 1 category, diversity decreases if greater than 50\%
2) With $>2$ categories, diversity is undefined
3) With > 1 measure, diversity is not an attribute

## Problem 1: Using Proportions



## Problem 2: Multiple Categories

There is no unique way to describe the institution's diversity when it has more than two categories describing a single characteristic .

The category with the largest proportion may not represent a majority.

Trying to describe diversity by using the percent in the majority category fails to describe the proportion in multiple minority categories.

## Examples: Multiple Categories

|  | Institution | Asian | Black | Hispanic | White |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | A | 10\% | 30\% | 15\% | 45\% |
|  | A | 10\% | 30\% | 15\% | 45\% |
|  | B | 5\% | 60\% | 5\% | 30\% |
|  | Which institution is |  |  |  |  |

## Problem 3: Multiple Measures Mission/Vision [UNC Charlotte]

- In the 21st century, an increasingly diverse society and a global economy are drivers for diversity in higher education.
- As North Carolina and the Charlotte region undergo rapid population growth and demographic change, UNC Charlotte must respond to the needs of a more diverse student population.


## Consistency with Mission/Vision (cont.)

- It is imperative that the University prepare its students to become leaders and thriving citizens in a pluralistic and multicultural society.
- At its fullest potential, higher education allows students to interact with people from different backgrounds and to intellectually engage a range of ideas and perspectives.
- This educational experience cultivates the skills that graduates will need to function adeptly in a global society.


## Multiple Measures

## How does UNC Charlotte describe its diversity?

- Pluralistic and multicultural
- People from different backgrounds
- Range of ideas and perspectives


## Participant Question?

- How would you define diversity as an attribute?


## Developing a Composite Index

PART 2
Deal with categories
Deal with multiple measures
Have a sustentative interpretation

## Demonstrating an Alternative Metric Using Probability

## Developing a Composite Index

- A measure of diversity which takes into account both richness and evenness.


## Simpson's Diversity Index

- As species richness and evenness increase, so diversity increases.
- Introduced in linguistics (Greenberg) as the "monolingual nonweighted method".
- Scores countries on the probability that two citizens will share a mother tongue.

Sources: Greenberg, J.H. (1956) The measurement of linguistic diversity, Language, 32 (1). 109-115; Speaking in tongues, Feb 15 2012, 14:38 The Economist online

## Simpson's Calculation (ecsi)

- If two students are selected at random, what is the probability they are in different categories on a characteristic?
- The probability of the difference is the diversity.
- Let $p_{i}$ be the proportion of observations in category $i$. Then

Diversity $=1-\Sigma\left(p_{i}\right)^{2}$ for categories $i=1$ to $k$

- Diversity ranges from 0 (all in one category) to (1$1 / k$ ) where there is uniform distribution in $k$ categories.


## Methodology Statement: 2013/2018 Esri US Diversity Index <br> - "The Diversity Index from Esri represents

 the likelihood that two persons, chosen at random from the same area, belong to different race or ethnic groups."- "If an area's entire population belongs to one race group and one ethnic group, then an area has zero diversity. An area's diversity index increases to 100 when the population is evenly divided into two or more race/ethnic groups."
www.esri.com/library/whitepapers/pdfs/diversity-index-methodology.pdf: 2013-08-16


## Example: Diversity as a Probability

If there are two institutions that have the following multiple categories for race/ ethnicity:

| Institution | Asian | Black | Hispanic | White |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| A | $10 \%$ | $\underline{30 \%}$ | $15 \%$ | $45 \%$ |
| B | $5 \%$ | $\underline{60 \%}$ | $5 \%$ | $30 \%$ |

Diversity for $\mathrm{A}=1-\left(.10^{2}+.30^{2}+.15^{2}+.45^{2}\right)=1-.325=.675$
Diversity for $\mathrm{B}=1-\left(.05^{2}+.60^{2}+.05^{2}+.30^{2}\right)=1-.455=.545$
Institution A is more diverse.

## Sullivan and Multiple Measures

## Developing a Composite Index

- Political Science. Extended the measure of diversity to situations with multiple measures.
- Approach. Sum the squares over the multiple proportions and divide by the number of variables.
- Interpretation. "The proportion of characteristics upon which a randomlyselected pair of individuals will differ, assuming sampling with replacement."


## Sullivan's Measures

## For describing political activity for various regions

- Sullivan's research used six measures of socioeconomic status:

| education | housing |
| :--- | :--- |
| income | ethnicity |
| occupation | religion |

- The overall diversity metric was an average of the diversity indices for the included characteristics.


## Interpreting the Composite Diversity Metric

Differences on Eight Characteristics Based on a Diversity Metric
Different Characteristics


As the Diversity Metric goes from 0 to 1, a random pair of students would be expected to differ on none of their characteristics to differ on all characteristics.

# Demonstrate the use of a <br> Composite Index <br> PART 3 

Compute the index
Look at basic properties
Compare institutions in Illinois
to see if can find interesting
facts

## Analysis: An Example

- IPEDS Data Center
- Public and Private - Illinois
- Granted > 25 UG awards in 2010-11
- Only Title IV institutions
- 2001, 2006 (2007), 2011 (2010)
- 137 with Metric
- 125 with Institutional Characteristics


## Means of Diversity Indices

|  | Categories | 2001 | $2006(7)$ | 2011 |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Staff Diversity | 6 | 0.30 | 0.32 | 0.33 |
| Faculty Diversity | 6 | 0.22 | 0.27 | 0.28 |
| FT UG Diversity | 6 | 0.36 | 0.39 | 0.43 |
| PT UG Diversity | 6 | 0.36 | 0.40 | 0.43 |
|  | Racial | 0.31 | 0.34 | 0.37 |



## Correlations for 6 Measures Of Diversity

## 200120072011200120062011 Race Race Race Social Social Social

2001 Race $\quad 0.89 \quad 0.95 \quad 0.93$-0.14 $-0.12 \quad-0.08$
$\begin{array}{lllllll}2007 \text { Race } & 0.95 & \underline{0.92} & 0.97 & -0.20 & -0.10 & -0.05 \\ \frac{2}{\overline{2}} \\ \stackrel{\rightharpoonup}{\bar{\alpha}} 2011 \text { Race } & 0.93 & 0.97 & \underline{0.91} & -0.23 & -0.13 & -0.06\end{array}$ 2001 Social -0.14 $-0.20-0.23 \quad \underline{0.58} \quad 0.74 \quad 0.61$ 2006 Social -0.12 $-0.10-0.13 \quad 0.74 \quad \underline{0.59} \quad 0.76$ 2011 Social $-0.08 \quad-0.05-0.06 \quad 0.61 \quad 0.76 \quad \underline{0.55}$


Race Diversity by Urbanicity Between



|  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Diversity Index |
| 0.60 |

## Principal Components - Varimax Rotation

\section*{Diversity Indices} | Ethnic | Social |
| :--- | :--- |
| Diversity | Diversity |

## 2011 Staff Diversity

| .864 | -.221 |
| :--- | :--- |
| .804 | -.220 |

2011 Faculty Diversity
2011 Full-time student Diversity

| .890 | -.010 |
| :--- | :--- |
| .897 | -.024 |

2010-11 Federal Grant Diversity -. 173 . 723
2010-11 Federal Grant Diversity -. 173 . 723
2010-11 Federal Grant Diversity -. 173 . 723
2010-11 State Grant Diversity
2011 Cohort Diversity
-.160 . 738

2011 Part-time student Diversity . 897 -. 024
-. 160
. 219
. 777
2011 Age Diversity

## Undergraduate

## Ethnic $\quad$ Social Institutional Diversity Diversity Diversity

| Size (FTE) | $\underline{.302}$ | .024 | $\underline{.300}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Graduation Rate | -.078 | $\underline{-.261}$ | -.193 |
| Enrollment Growth 2005-10 | .198 | $\underline{-.212}$ | . .093 |
| ACT | .148 | $\underline{-.350}$ | -.018 |
| Faculty Sal | $\underline{.225}$ | .027 | $\underline{.228}$ |
| \$ Research \&Svc/TT Faculty | $\underline{.226}$ | -.132 | . .156 |
| \$ Instruct/Acad Spt /FTE Stu | $\underline{.278}$ | $\underline{-.290}$ | .134 |
| \% FT Faculty Ranked | $\underline{-.367}$ | $\underline{.384}$ | -.177 |
| \% Faculty as FT | $\underline{-.226}$ | . .116 | -.164 |
| Faculty as \% Staff | -.154 | $\underline{.250}$ | -.034 |
| Net Income Ratio | -.196 | -.028 | $\underline{-.201}$ |
| Tuition/state Dependency | .230 | -.163 | . .146 |
| Endowment/ FTE Student | .066 | $\underline{-.388}$ | -.113 |
| \$ Instit/Stu Svcs/FTE Student | .148 | $\underline{-.244}$ | 32 |

# Comments and Conclusions 

## Comments

Conversations about diversity permeate discussions and influence policies about student access and achievement

Institutional policy on diversity has lead to mandatory and voluntary reporting to show accountability to the public

An institutions should use diversity indices that incorporate "race neutral" along with more traditional race and age-based measures

## Conclusions

Diversity has multiple dimensions - and will differ for individuals institutions Mission

The two primary dimensions found here are Ethnic Diversity and Social Diversity

## Diversity has been increasing in Illinois

Types of Diversity vary by institutional characteristics and urbanicity.

## Questions?

## Gerry McLaughlin: gmclaugh@depaul.edu

We have only started the journey to demonstrate our responsibility to validate Judge Powell's conclusion that the 'Nation's future depends on leaders trained through wide exposure.'

## Thank You

Gerry McLaughlin: gmclaugh@depaul.edu

## Appendix

- More results



## Undergraduate

## Race

 DiversitySocial
Institutional
$\begin{array}{lll}0.302 & 0.024 \quad \underline{0.300}\end{array}$
Diversit
0.024
Diversity

## Size (FTE)

Graduation Rate
Residential
Capacity/FT UG
Acceptance Rate
Retention
Enrollment
Growth(2005-10)
Tuition
Apps/UG
ACT
\%UG Part-time

## Academic

## Race Social Institutional Diversity Diversity Diversity

Faculty Sal
\$ Research \&Svc
Results - Corerelations /TT Faculty
\$ Instruct Acad Spt /FTE Student
\% FT Faculty Ranked
\% Faculty as FT
Faculty as \% Staff
Student/Faculty Ratio
$\begin{array}{lll}.225 & .027 & .228 \\ .226 & -.132 & .156\end{array}$

$$
.278
$$

$$
\underline{-.290}
$$

$$
.134
$$

$$
-.367
$$

$$
\text { -. } 177
$$

$$
-.226
$$

$$
\text { -. } 164
$$

$$
-.154
$$

$$
-.034
$$

$$
.067
$$

$$
\text { -. } 146
$$

$$
\text { -. } 002
$$

## Financial

## Race Social <br> Diversity <br> Diversity

## Institutional Diversity

Net Income
Tuition/state
Dependency
-. 196
-. 028
-. 201
$.230-.163$. 146

$$
.066 \quad \underline{-.388}-. .113
$$

Financial
Viability
\$ Inst / Stu Svcs IFTE Student $.148 \quad-.244$
. 031
Administrator/
FTE Student

$$
.086-.188 \quad-.003
$$

