

Retention of Asian American Students in Higher Education

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Introduction

Student satisfaction in higher education is an essential indicator of student retention. Attaining academic knowledge, contributing to campus life, and graduating all determine whether students will persist through their postsecondary coursework. While campuses strive to provide an inclusive environment for each ethnic group, institutions must understand the factors contributing to the retention of Asian American students in higher education so institutions can adapt their on-campus offerings accordingly.

A systematic literature review conducted over nine weeks showed a myriad of challenges Asian American students face entering college, including language

- Faculty and student connection
- Expectations from family, institutions, and themselves
- Financial constraints

By understanding these factors, institutions can create support systems to accommodate and encourage Asian American students to engage and integrate onto the campus, provide a sense of community, and continue pursuing their coursework through graduation.

This literature review discusses thirteen quantitative and seven qualitative studies regarding factors in retention for Asian American students in higher education, and will provide areas of future research that, if institutions employ, can lead to higher retention rates.

Operational Definition

Persistence v. Retention “[p]ersistence rate is measured by the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year, while retention rate represents the percentage of students who return to the same institution” (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2022, p. 1).

Method

The rationale for this literature review is to help higher education institutions understand and provide support services needed for Asian American students, aiding in their success socially and academically, while leading to increased retention, and creating a sense of belonging that is mutually beneficial to both student and institution.

Key search words

- Asian American
- Retention
- Parent Engagement
- Higher Education
- Colleges or Universities
- Persistence

Databases

- EBSCO
- Google
- Google Scholar
- JSTOR

Excluded Terms

- Minorities
- Graduation Rates
- Academic Majors
- Professional Goals

Results



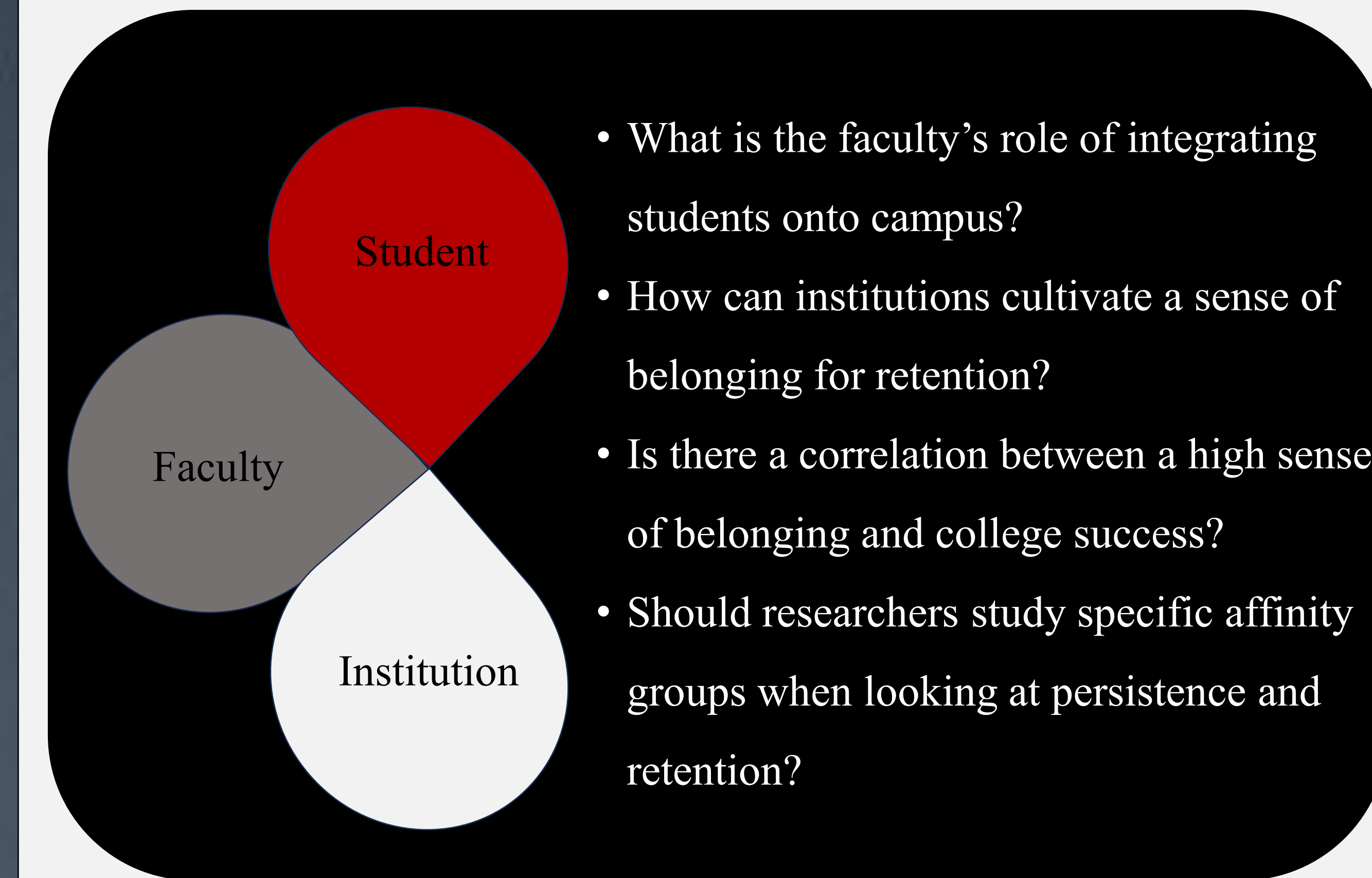
Conclusion

Asian American retention in higher education is critical for their academic success. As Asian American students diversify generationally and educationally, their needs also diversify. As institutions account for Asian American expectations, faculty and student engagement, financial constraints, and language barriers, persistence and retention is assured to increase. It is incumbent for higher education institutions to implement support systems to address the needs of this population to ensure persistence and retention. When Asian American students feel supported and empowered, persistence and retention will not be an issue for them or their institutions.

Asian American students in higher education need:

- Socio-emotional support even though they may appear well-adjusted
- Guidance from parents and faculty
- Systems on campuses on how to engage
- Mentors to help integrate onto campus
- Feel a sense of belonging

Future Research



Limitations

- Some Asian Americans may be unwilling to share their experiences for fear of cultural ramifications
- Researchers imposing their biases, such as the Model Minority stereotype, into the study
- Asian American students may have a language barrier leading to misinterpretation
- Untenured faculty are less likely to discuss their observations

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