

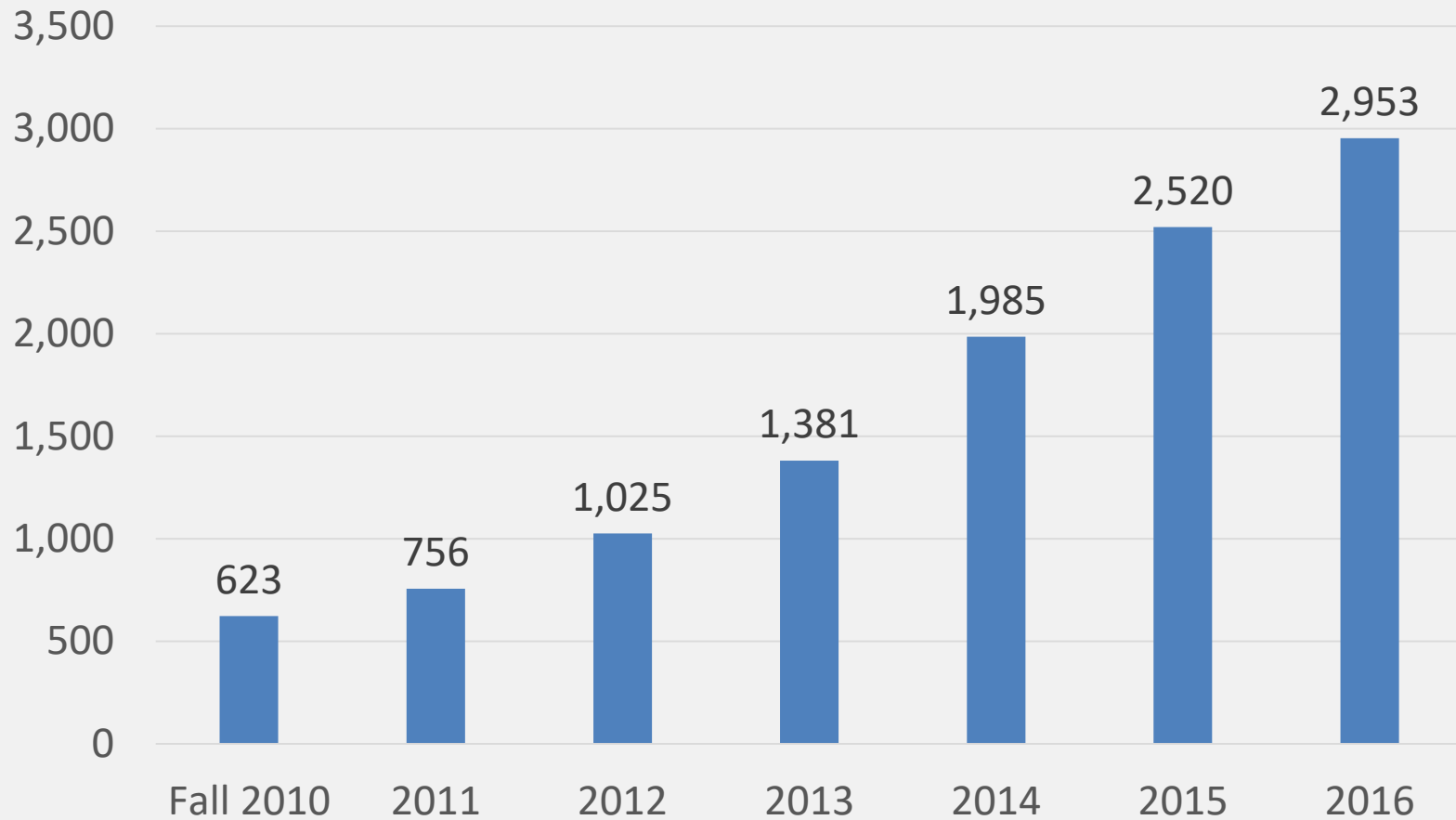
# **RU-NB International Academic Support Initiative**

RLA Fellow: Jeff Wang, Assistant Vice President for International and Global Affairs

Mentor: Richard Edwards, RU-NB Chancellor

April 19, 2017

## International Undergraduate Students at RU-NB



# Support Our International Students Academically

- Rutgers Strategic Plan (2014) – Critical Priorities: Transforming the Student Experience

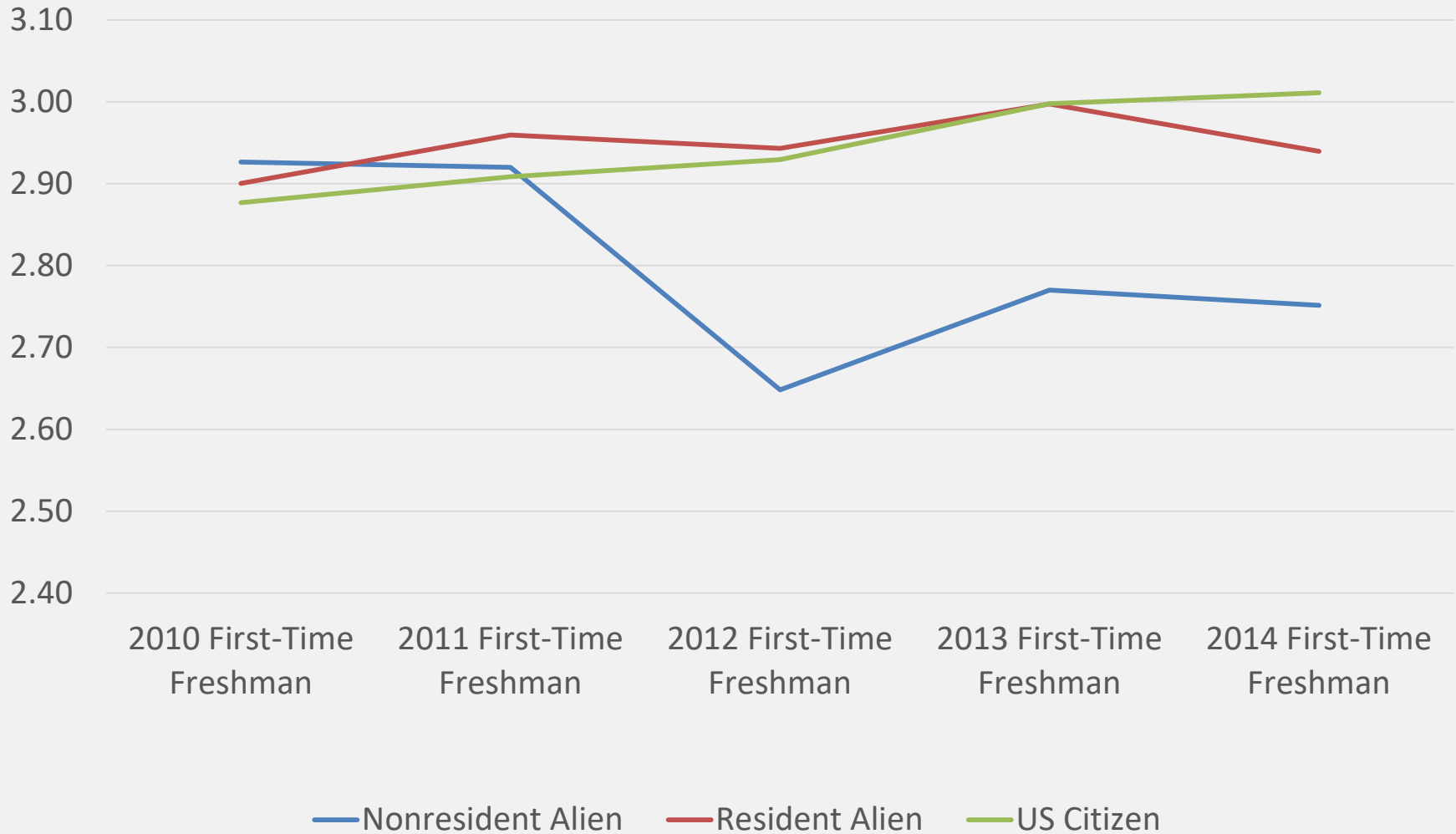
“Heightening attention to student advising and services, both academic and nonacademic, to ensure student success and enduring satisfaction. New Brunswick-wide projects will bolster student advising, improve the first-year experience, **support international** and transfer students, and create a first-rate Honors College.”

- Rutgers University Senate Report 2015 – Response to Charge S-1207 on Support for International Students

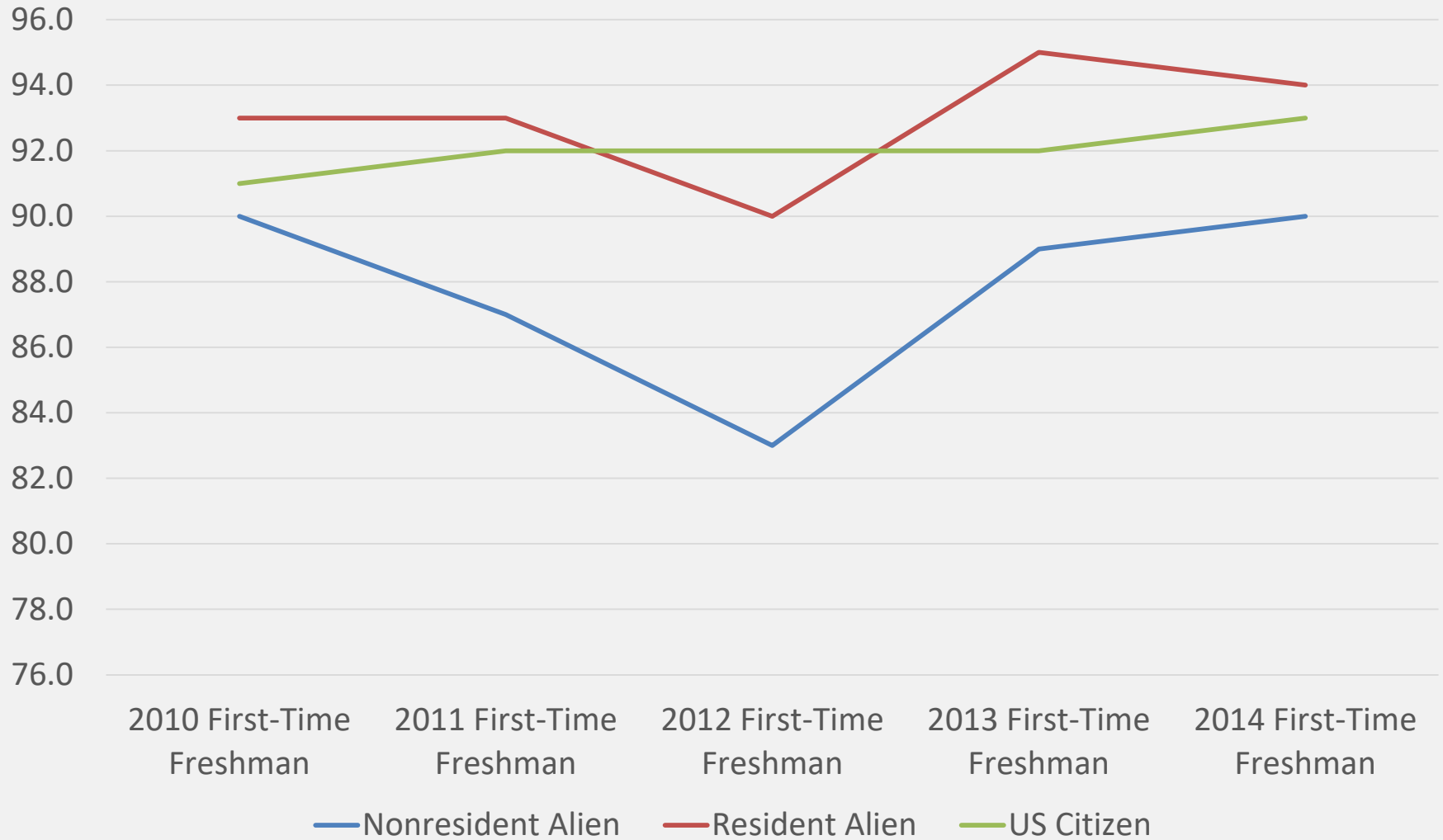
"Rutgers is renowned for the diversity of its student body ... [and] strives for a culture of inclusiveness." [RU Strategic Plan 2014] Critical to this effort is the provision of effective support for international students.

Students and scholars paint a **grim picture** ... [of international students] with limited resources in a new country, while navigating a maze of bureaucracy with imperfect language skills. Faculty, administrators, and staff see the same picture, but augment it with an additional academic dimension. This group cites critical issues of language assessment, student conduct and academic integrity, with the latter alternately attributed to lack of English skills, cultural differences, and desperation. Internships and job placement upon graduation for international students and scholars were seen by both survey groups as a very serious problem. ... The University must **take the long view**. As one respondent noted, “Positive experiences and the resulting word of mouth among international students, current and future, will then help to build the RU programs.”

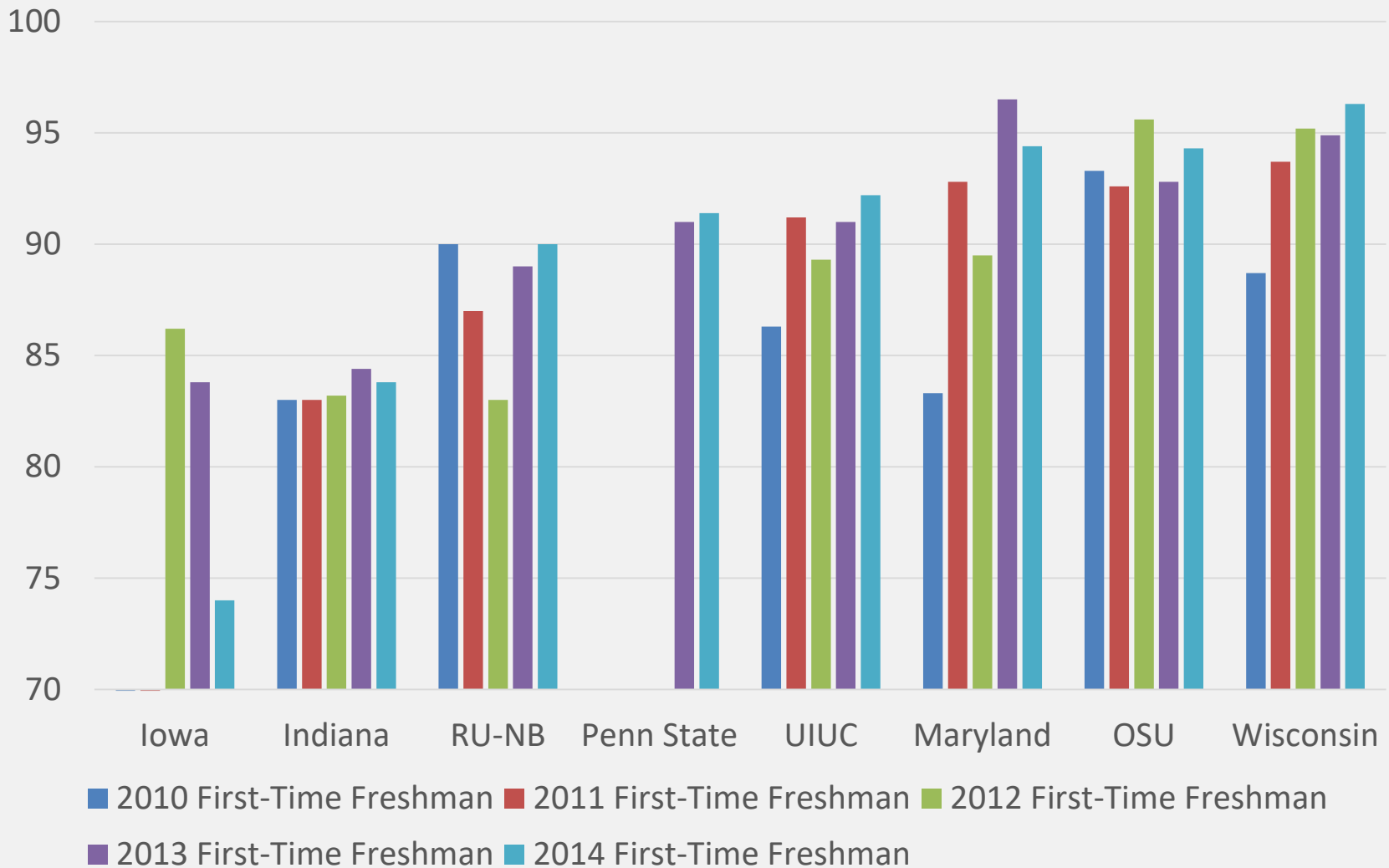
## RU-NB First-Year Freshman Accum GPA Average



## RU-NB First Year Freshman Retention Rate



## BIG10 First Year International Freshman Retention Rate



# International Academic Support Initiative

Goal: Institute a cohesive structure to provide effective academic support for international students

Gradual Approach:

- Phase I: RU-NB undergraduate international students (2016-18)
- Phase II: all RU undergraduate international students (2018-2020)
- Phase III (IV): RU-NB/all RU graduate international students (2018/19 – 2020/21)

# Key Stakeholders at RU-NB

<b>NB academic schools</b>	<b>Undergraduate Academic Affairs</b>
<b>Student Affairs</b>	<b>Office of Student Conduct</b>
<b>Office of the Ombudsperson for Students</b>	<b>University Career Services</b>
<b>Undergraduate Admission Office</b>	<b>Rutgers Health Service – Counseling Services</b>
<b>Program in American Language Studies</b>	<b>Writing Program</b>
<b>Library</b>	<b>GAIA and others</b>



# International Academic Support Initiative

## Phase I Steps:

- (1) examine and identify the unique challenges facing international students for academic success
- (2) identify the available sources of academic support for international students already in existence;
- (3) coordinate with academic service providers around campus to align their support efforts to meet the needs of international students;
- (4) engage existing programs and, where needed, new ones, such that international students can more completely and rapidly integrate into the general student body.

# International Academic Support Initiative

## Progress

- (1) Survey on all intl students done – 2015
- (2) Survey on Chinese students – 2016
- (3) Info gathering with key stakeholders almost completed
- (4) Initial funding from RU-NB Chancellor's Office for
  - (1) Office of International Academic Support under GAIA
  - (2) One Assistant Dean for Intl Academic Support created
  - (3) Three international career specialist positions created under University Career Services

# International Academic Support Initiative

Proposed Programs for Phase I:

- (1) First-Year Acculturation Seminars for Intl Students
- (2) Workshops on Finding Campus Jobs and Internships for Intl Students
- (3) Intl Internship and Job Placement Services
- (4) Head-Start Summer Program for Pre-Admitted Intl Students
- (5) Intl Learning Center/Writing Program
- (6) Leadership Development Programs for Intl Students
- (7) Intl Student Speakers Series
- (8) Intl Counseling and Psychological Services