

California State University, Stanislaus
**Distribution of University-Wide Assessment Methods and Findings 2007-2008
Graduate Council Review and Response**

In 2007-2008, the Office of Institutional Research disseminated assessment information to various governance committees and individuals for review and feedback. As part of the process, a request was sent out for responses to the questions below. Responses were forwarded to the Office of Institutional Research where they were reviewed and then sent to the Office of Assessment and Quality Assurance for archival and tracking purposes.

Questions

1. **Is this information helpful for assessing and improving student learning? If no, in what ways may the assessment method be improved to provide meaningful information?**
2. **What recommendations, if any, does the committee have for improving the presentation of the assessment information?**
3. **What actions/recommendations for addressing issues contained in the assessment information resulted from the committee's review?**
4. **Is the committee interested in receiving this assessment report – or others - in the future?**

Over the course of the 2007-2008 academic year, the Graduate Council considered these questions and made recommendations based on a review of University-Wide Assessment Methods reports. The following provides a chronology of review and a summary of findings and recommendations.

Assessment Findings, Recommendations and Actions

1. Graduate Alumni Survey (3yr)

Date(s) of Review: January 29, 2009 Graduate Council meeting.

Findings: The Graduate Council recommends that the Graduate School and Institutional Research continue work to increase the response rate; contacting the individual departments for comprehensive alumni contact information may be one approach. The Graduate Council suggested that a subcommittee be formed to review the instrument and provide feedback on survey redesign. This subcommittee will report back to the Graduate Council.

2. Graduate Assessment Evaluation by Dr. Mary Allen

Date(s) of Review: November 15, 2007; January 17, 2008. March 20, 2008 Graduate Council meeting.

Findings: In 2007-08, as recommended in Dr. Mary Allen's review, the University-Wide Graduate Assessment Plan was updated to include timelines, implementation plans, and review of current assessment findings in Spring 2008. The Graduate Council completed the review of the Graduate Assessment Plan and Report at the Jan.15, 2009 meeting.

3. Graduate School Exit Surveys

Date(s) of Review May 8, 2008 Graduate Council meeting.

Findings:

Upon review, the Graduate Council noted that the sample size was too small to warrant definitive actions. The Graduate Council recommends that the Graduate School and Institutional Research consider ways to increase response rate for next administration as this information would be invaluable.

Based on limited information, the Council recommends seeking fully funded graduate assistantships to facilitate a graduate culture of more full-time graduate students on campus. For the September 2008 meeting, two Council members will bring a proposal that can be lead to working with University Advancement to increase support for teaching/research assistantships.

4. Graduate National Survey of Student Engagement

Date(s) of Review: April 17, 2008. Graduate Council meeting.

Findings: Upon review, the Graduate Council noted that the sample size was too small to warrant definitive actions. The Council recommended that the Office of Institutional Research work to increase response rate for the next administration as this information would be invaluable.

5. Graduate Faculty Survey of Student Engagement

Date(s) of Review: April 17, 2008. Graduate Council meeting.

Findings: Upon review, the Graduate Council noted that the sample size was too small to warrant definitive actions. The Council recommended that the Office of Institutional Research work to increase response rate for the next administration as this information would be invaluable.

6. Graduate IDEA Student Evaluation of Courses

Date(s) of Review: May 8, 2008. Graduate Council meeting.

Findings: The Graduate Council found the information provided in the report to be excellent, though somewhat overwhelming to sort through. The Graduate Council has requested the creation of a separate report that extracts out graduate studies data.

In Fall 2008, a pilot was conducted to see if the Graduate IDEA Group Summary is cost effective and sufficiently informative in comparison to the extensive local aggregated data analyses conducted by the Office of Institutional Research. In winter 2009, the piloting programs, Criminal Justice, Education Administration, Psychology, and Social Work, reported their findings:

- The Criminal Justice program thought the report was of very limited use. Only six of the thirty-five classes taught during the five year time period were covered in this dataset. Based on this limited data it is difficult to distinguish how students experience the entire program.
- Social Work program felt the IDEA program report was very useful. Ten out of twelve objectives were direct indicators of program assessment.
- The Psychology program did not feel like the report was useful. The report includes only courses for which the instructor requested an evaluation and there is no way to know which courses were used. Due to this, there could be major gaps in the data providing no way to draw any meaningful conclusions about the program as a whole.