

California State University | Stanislaus

**Student Success Committee
Spring 2009**

Graduate and Alumni Surveys

A Report by the Sub Group:

Debbie Covino

Warren Jacobs

Melanie Martin

Susan Neufeld

Ronald Noble

Roger Pugh

Pauline Telya (convenor)

Committee Charge: To read the four surveys and make observations and develop additional questions for consideration.

Observations of:

- Undergraduate Alumni Survey
- Graduating Senior Survey
- Graduate School Exit Survey
- Graduate School Alumni Survey

Undergraduate Alumni Survey

- Online survey that is administered to alumni *three* years after their graduation date.
- A total of 304 alumni completed the survey, 125 from 2002/2003 and 179 from 2003/2004. That is less than 4% of our total student population.
- The sample size consisted of a majority of Caucasian students (59.7%) which is not reflective of our campus demographics.
- Questions were geared towards quality of instruction, alumni viewpoints of the university, employment, preparation for employment, additional education, and preparation for graduate/professional school. Most student response ratings averaged between (3) Good and (4) Excellent.
- It is important to refrain from making generalizations based on this survey since it is not representative of our campus as a whole.
- Limitations of data due to low response rate.

Graduating Senior Survey

- Survey consists of 9 parts; general education experiences, major department, personal development, classroom and social climate, library services, student support services, additional education plans, employment, and overall evaluation of CSU Stanislaus.
- Survey is administered each academic year to all seniors that have met their graduation requirements. These students are contacted via a mailed letter inviting them to participate in the survey.
- The total number of graduating seniors for the 2006-2007 academic year was 1,459. Seniors who completed the survey during that year numbered 226, for a response rate of only 15%.
- This type of assessment would be beneficial to the university since it covers a broad range of seniors' educational experiences and satisfaction. However, with such a small sample size it is difficult to formulate conclusions for the entire university.
- In terms of the library hours, the provision of services is directly related to budget available to hire sufficient staff and student assistants. Without additional funding, it is unlikely that there will be an increase in the hours of service provided.
- If students do not know that there are library resources and services available to facilitate their research, a need exists for information literacy instruction to be provided to each student on a coordinated basis.
- Develop incentives to increase response rate, i.e. extra credit.
- Consider administering the survey as part of Senior Seminar courses to increase response rate.

Graduate School Exit Survey

- The purpose of this survey is to assess students' perceptions of the quality of its graduate student learning program effectiveness. Administered annually to graduate students that have earned their master's degree during the previous academic year.
- A total of 212 graduate students received an invitation to participate in the survey during the 2006-2007 academic year. A total of 31 students completed the survey, but only 22 of those graduate students had earned a master's for a total response rate of 10.4%.
- It would be very helpful to have access to student comments for clarification as to why 9% of the graduate students were dissatisfied with the quality of library resources.
- The next time this survey is given, it would be helpful to include a measurement of electronic resources.
- In order to remedy any dissatisfaction regarding the provision of library materials for all of the new and existing degree programs, the library's collections budget will require a strong commitment of ongoing financial support.
- Limitations of the data, again, are due to low response rates.

Graduate School Alumni Survey

- Survey that is administered to graduate school alumni *three* years after their graduation date.
- The 36 question survey has multiple topics, including educational experiences at CSU Stanislaus, learning goal accomplishment, overall program effectiveness, employment, and additional education.
- A sample of 83 alumni completed the survey, 29 from 2002/03 and 54 from 2003/04. The results are based on the surveys completed during both academic years.
- The sample size consisted of a majority of Caucasian students (61.4%) which is not reflective of our campus demographics.
- With such a small sample size, it is difficult to assume that the results from this survey reflect all graduate school alumni.
- The data does not provide the university much value or a driving force for change.

We get the most value and information from the Graduating Senior and Undergraduate Alumni surveys. These surveys have great information that point to improvements that can be made. However, the response rates need to dramatically increase for the data to be statistically sound.