Committee on Educational Policy #E1

University of California
Undergraduate Experience Survey
(UCUES) Update

Vice President Judy Sakaki
July 19, 2007
Development of UCUES

- A collaborative research effort
- Collects data on the educational and personal impact of attending UC as well as non-academic dimensions of our students’ lives
About UCUES

• A biennial online survey of all UC undergraduates

• 38% response rate systemwide in Spring 2006 (58,047 respondents)

• The UCUES response rate exceeds the reported response rate for large, public research universities when compared to other national and multi-institutional student surveys, for example:
  – National Survey of Student Engagement (33%)
  – Higher Education Research Institute follow-up surveys (25-30%)
UCUES Survey Content

- Evaluation of academic experience and student services
- Student behaviors
- Student attitudes, beliefs, and goals
- Additional demographic data
Uses of UCUES Data

**Internal**
- Regents’ Committees
- Academic Program Review
- Student Services Evaluation
- Investigations of Campus Climate and Diversity
- Academic Senate Committees

**External**
- Campus Accreditation
- National Accountability
- Media and Community Relations

**Academic**
- Symposia
- Individual Research Papers
Highlights of UCUES Findings
Representing California’s Unique Population

• 23% of students were born outside of the U.S.

• An additional 37% are second generation Americans (i.e., have at least one parent born outside the U.S.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Skill</th>
<th>As Freshmen</th>
<th>As Seniors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of a Specific Field of Study</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical and Critical Thinking</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading and Comprehending Academic Material</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Effectively</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding International Perspectives</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Are the Pros and Cons of Attending a Research University?

- 82% reported that attending a university with world-class researchers is important to them.
- 55% feel that the emphasis on research detracts from the quality of teaching.
- 77% participated in research as part of their coursework.
- 78% of upper-division students plan to earn a graduate or professional degree.
What Motivates Our Students?

• 79% identified “intellectual curiosity” as a reason for choosing a major

• 86% cited “obtaining knowledge and skills for their chosen profession” as one of their goals for their UC experience

• 75% believe that an individual can change society
How Do Our Students Spend Their Time?

• 59% participated in campus clubs or organizations
• 44% participated in community service
• 56% are employed either on- or off-campus. Employed students work an average of 14.6 hours per week
• On average, students spend 13.1 hours per week on coursework outside the classroom, 11.1 hours on non-academic Internet use, and 5.7 hours watching television
• 55% reported using the Internet as their primary news information source
Do Our Students Have a Sense of Belonging at UC?

- 83% feel that they belong at their campus and, knowing what they know now, they would still enroll there.

- 79% say that students are respected at UC regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs, race/ethnicity, or economic or social class.
How Satisfied Are Our Students?

- 71% are satisfied with the value of their education for the cost
- 82% are satisfied with their UC academic experience
- 75% are satisfied with their social experience at UC
- 87% of students are satisfied with the quality of faculty instruction they have received at UC
- 63% of upper-division students are satisfied with the availability of small classes
More about UCUES and the results from the 2006 survey may be viewed now at:

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/studentsurvey/

A report, A New Generation: Ethnicity, Socioeconomic Status, Immigration and the Undergraduate Experience in the University of California will be available in August