Quality of Life Initiative

Student Affairs Committee, University Senate

Prepared by:

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University Senate Student Affairs Committee

- Comprised of all the student University Senators across Columbia
- Represents 28,000 students across 20 schools and affiliated institutions
- Uniquely positioned and mandated to improve student life
Governing bodies need data to implement policies, determine their impact objectively and methodically, and measure their success and sustainability

Several schools and departments administer student satisfaction surveys of their own, or variations of such surveys for specific one-off needs, but there is no comprehensive, campus-wide data-collection mechanism to assess quality of life of Columbia students

Consequently, our efforts have been one-off, incremental improvement projects, based on immediate needs rather a comprehensive, well-strategized approach grounded in real feedback
Purpose

Quality of Life Survey

- University-wide survey designed to capture student quality of life through qualitative and quantitative elements
- Ensuing recommendations will drive short-, medium-, and long-term projects designed to improve student quality of life
Implementation

Plan

- Baseline 2013 data of student quality of life on a range of topics
- Implemented every two years for longitudinal analysis
- Will not seek to evaluate the performance of individual Columbia services, but focus on common themes that affect all Columbia students in some way
- Minimum actionable data to warrant further investigations
Survey Design

- Four parts in each category:
  - Satisfaction
  - Importance
  - Applicability and satisfaction on specific aspects of category
  - Open ended recommendations for category
- Randomized order of categories
- Overall quality of life scales
- Policy questions in addendum (will change from cycle to cycle)
Implementation

Partners

- Survey design partner: Behavioral Research Lab (Columbia Business School)
- Data analysis partner: Statistics Consulting Service (Statistics Department)
- Local student councils
- Ownership of data: Student Affairs Committee and Office of the Senate
Implementation

Timeline

- Fall 2012: Survey design and development
- February 2013: Pilot to selected students
- February – April, 2013: Engage stakeholders; Improve Survey
- April 2013: Launch
- 2013-2014: Analysis and recommendations
Thank You

Questions

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