Quality of Life Survey

Student Affairs Committee

October 25th, 2013

Akshay Shah
Co-Chair, Student Affairs Committee
University Senator
Quality of Life

What?
- University-wide survey designed to measure student quality of life on a qualitative and quantitative level.
  - Recommendations derived from data will drive short-, mid-, and long-term projects to improve student quality of life.

Why?
- There has never been a comprehensive, campus-wide data-collection mechanism to assess the Quality of Life of Columbia students.
  - Several schools and departments administer student satisfaction surveys for specific immediate needs, but results in one-off incremental projects.
  - Governing bodies need data to implement policies, determine their impact objectively and methodically, and measure their success and sustainability resulted in the creation of the Quality of Life survey.
Quality of Life

How?

- **13 Categories:**
  - Funding, Housing, Academics, Social Life, Transportation, Safety, Libraries, Space, Career Preparation, Administration, Technology, Health

- **Four parts in each category:**
  - Satisfaction
  - Specific satisfaction questions per category
  - Importance
  - Satisfaction * Importance = Impact
  - Open-ended recommendation question per category

- **Randomized order of categories**

- **Wide variety of variables:**
  - 16 Demographic Variables
  - 84 Satisfaction Variables
  - 13 Importance Variables
  - 55 Personality Variables
Quality of Life — Timeline

- Fall 2012: Survey Design and Development
  - Behavioral Research Lab at the Columbia Business School
- February 2013: Pilot to selected students
- February – April 2013: Engaged stakeholders and Improved Survey
- April 2013: Launched Survey
- 2013-2014: Analysis and Recommendations
Number of Responses

Emailed to 36,000 students

In 20 different schools

Over 8,650 surveys started

Over 6,250 completed responses

Overall Response Rate of 17.29%
Diversity of Responses

**Gender**
- Male: 60.6%
- Female: 39.1%
- Transgender/Genderqueer: 0.4%

**LGBTQ Identified**
- Yes: 10.0%
- No: 90.0%

**Marital Status**
- Single: 86.5%
- Married: 12.1%
- Divorced: 1.2%
- Widowed: 0.2%

**English First Language**
- Yes: 23.5%
- No: 76.5%

**Ethnicity**
- White: 59.8%
- Asian-Pacific: 21.2%
- Hispanic: 10.8%
- African-American: 7.0%
- South Asian: 5.7%
- Other: 4.6%
- Native American: 1.1%
- Pacific Islander: 0.4%

**International Student**
- Yes: 19.7%
- No: 80.3%
Overall Results

Satisfaction Across Categories

Satisfaction is on a scale of -3 to 3, with -3 being “very dissatisfied,” 0 being “neutral,” and 3 being “very satisfied.”
Overall Results

Overall Satisfaction vs. Importance

More Satisfied, Less Important
- Transportation
- Library
- Technology
- Social Life
- Overall
- Others’
- Space Quality
- Space Availability
- Fitness
- Administration

Less Satisfied, Less Important

Less Satisfied, More Important
- Housing
- Safety
- Career Preparation
- Health
- Funding

Adjusted Satisfaction (mean=0.71)

Adjusted Importance (mean=0.52)
Satisfaction is on a scale of -3 to 3, with -3 being “very dissatisfied,” 0 being “neutral,” and 3 being “very satisfied.”
Graduate Non-PhD Students Satisfaction

Satisfaction is on a scale of -3 to 3, with -3 being “very dissatisfied,” 0 being “neutral,” and 3 being “very satisfied.”
Satisfaction is on a scale of -3 to 3, with -3 being “very dissatisfied,” 0 being “neutral,” and 3 being “very satisfied.”
Data Analysis and Recommendations

• Analyze data by category
• Test hypothesis using survey data
• Meet with key administrators to discuss results and jointly develop recommendations
Comparing Satisfaction Across Schools

Safety Satisfaction vs. Importance

- More Satisfied, Less Important
- More Satisfied, More Important
- Less Satisfied, Less Important
- Less Satisfied, More Important

Adjusted Satisfaction (mean=1.563)
Adjusted Importance (mean=1.67)

Schools:
- Journalism
- College
- SEAS, Undergrad
- SEAS, Graduate
- GS
- SIPA
- SCE
- Business
- GSAPP
- Barnard
- TC
- JTS
- Social Work
- Public Health
- Nursing
- Dental
- Law
- Arts
- GSAS
- Nursing
- Dental
- Law
- Arts
- GSAS

Columbia University
In the City of New York
## Likelihood to Donate

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<th>School</th>
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<td>School of Arts</td>
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Next Steps

- Establish a data protocol for open access and transparent discussion.
- Develop recommendations jointly with key stakeholders.
- Circulate the Quality of Life Report among Senate Committees, Offices of the President and the Provost.
- Publish the finalized Quality of Life Report in November 2013.
- Institutionalize the survey so that it’s conducted every two years through a possible Senate resolution.
Acknowledgements

Quality of Life survey would not have been possible without the help of:

• The Behavioral Research Lab at the Columbia Business School – Professor Katherine Phillips, Professor Akinola Modupe, Alia Crum and Ashley Martin.
• The Office of the Provost – Roxie Smith, Lucy Drotning and Stephen Rittenberg
• The Office of the President
• The Board of Trustees
• Department of Statistics
• Senators Aly Jiwani and Adil Ahamed
• Student Councils
• Senate Staffers – Amna Pervez, Ramis Wadood, Hector Polanco, Zander Daniel, Saaketh Pradhan and Ben Spener
• Zan Gilani
Thank You

Questions

- Akshay Shah, SEAS ‘14: ars2212@columbia.edu
- Matthew Chou, CC ‘14: mc3429@columbia.edu