Student Involvement Survey—Part I
November 2002
Highlights

Background
In their review of twenty years of research on the impact of college, Pascarella and Terenzini (1991) state that “one of the most inescapable and unequivocal conclusions we can make is that the impact of college is largely determined by the individual’s quality of effort and level of involvement in both academic and nonacademic activities” (p. 610).

Two of the specific factors they found to be strong contributors to the impact of college on students were interpersonal involvement and co-curricular involvement.

The November Aggie R-r-ring telephone survey on student involvement was initiated in order to collect benchmarking information on Texas A&M students’ co-curricular involvement. Questions covered topics such as whether or not they are involved in activities, how they discover involvement opportunities, and why they decide to become involved outside of the classroom. A representative sample of the undergraduate student population on campus (671 students) was obtained for the survey.

Results
How successful is A&M in providing/supporting a wide range of extra curricular activities and events on campus?
?? 95% of students say A&M is successful.

How important do you think it is to be involved in university-sponsored activities outside of class?
?? 87% of students say it is important.

How do you learn about out of class activities and events?
?? The most frequent method was friends (69%).

Are you as involved as much as you’d like to be?
?? 56% of students say they are involved as much as they would like to be.

Are you a member of a recognized student club or organization on campus?
?? 72% of students say they are members of clubs or organizations on campus. The average number of organizations students were involved in is 2.

Does involvement in university-sponsored activities help you meet students from diverse backgrounds?
?? 88% of students say involvement does help them meet students from diverse backgrounds.

For what reasons do you become involved in out of class activities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason for becoming involved</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interaction With Others</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience/Skill Building</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Satisfaction</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Value/Commitment</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resume Entry</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Involvement</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change of Pace</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who, if anyone, encourages you to attend activities outside the classroom?
?? 53% of students say friends encourage them.
?? 29% of non-white students say no one encourages them while 18% of white students say the same.

Please indicate how important certain factors are to you when considering whether or not to attend a university-sponsored event.
?? 92% of students say that conflicts with their academic priorities are an important factor in determining whether or not they attend university-sponsored events.
?? 82% of students say that alcohol is not at all important in determining whether or not they attend events.

Think of the university-sponsored activities you engage in most frequently. To what extent does your involvement contribute to the following factors?
?? 71% of students say that their involvement has an above average or very strong contribution to their overall college experience.
?? 27% of non-white students say that their involvement has an above average or very strong contribution on their writing skills as compared to 17% of white students.
?? 39% of non-white students reported that involvement had an above average or very strong contribution to their analytical skills as compared to 29% of white students.

Prepared on: March 18, 2003
For a complete report, please contact Student Life Studies.