Background
The Spring 2004 Leadership web-based survey was implemented to benchmark students’ opinions of leadership, perceptions of their personal development in specific skills associated with leadership, and in what context their development was occurring. The survey was intended to be part of a series of leadership skills assessments. Out of the initial sample, 19%, or 283 students, agreed to participate in the survey.

Results

Organizational Involvement

To how many Texas A&M University student organizations do you currently belong?
- 77% of students currently belonged to at least one student organization.

Do you currently hold a leadership position in any Texas A&M University student organization (as defined by the organization’s constitution)?
- 29% of students said yes

Have you ever held a leadership position in a Texas A&M student organization (as defined by the organization’s constitution)?
- 47% students said yes

Leadership Statements
- 91% of students agreed that “leaders must have a commitment to serve the needs of others.”
- 87% of students agreed that they “developed leadership skills through extra-curricular experiences before enrolling at Texas A&M University.”
- 83% of students agreed with the statement “I am a leader.”
- 80% of students agreed that they “developed leadership skills through academic experiences before enrolling at Texas A&M University.”
- 71% of students agreed that “before you can lead, you must follow.”

Leadership Skills
- 20% of students agreed that “leaders are born, not made.”
- 1% of students agreed that “only those people in elected or selected positions are leaders.”

Top 5 skills in terms of development—
- Integrity
- Commitment
- Building Rapport
- Interpersonal Skills
- Listening

Personal Experience with Leadership

What single experience at Texas A&M has helped you develop as a leader (considering the skills listed in this survey)?
- 60 comments addressed participation in student organizations on campus with 42 comments citing specific leadership positions the students held.
- 26 comments highlighted academic experiences with participation in group projects being the most frequently cited.
- 21 comments cited work experiences, 11 of which described on-campus positions such as research assistant and resident advisor.

Prepared on: April 30, 2004
For a complete report, please visit the Student Life Studies web page.