Campus Climate Assessment Project (CCAP)

Faculty Senate Report

February 4, 2014

What

- College of Charleston: Climate Assessment for Learning, Living, and Working
- Designed to measure current attitudes, behaviors, and practices of faculty, staff and students.

Purpose

- We want the College to be the kind of place where anyone would want to work, learn and live.
- To assess and improve the environment for learning, living, and working on campus.

Background & Team

- A committee was charged by the President’s Commission on Diversity to research, design, manage, administer, and report findings from a campus-wide climate survey. The committee, chaired by Jim Posey (Assoc. VP Institutional Research, Planning, and Information Management), has wide representation from faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students.
- The College hired Rankin & Associates (http://www.rankin-consulting.com), Susan (Sue) Rankin, Principal, to work with the committee to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the campus climate for learning, working and living. Rankin & Associates has worked with more than 100 campuses and organizations across the country - including research and liberal arts institutions, law schools, technology institutions, community colleges and non-profit organizations to conduct similar climate studies.

Methods

- Rankin & Associates uses focus groups, interviews and a comprehensive survey to identify strengths and challenges. They will analyze and synthesize the data collected, and provide reports and presentations.
- Rankin & Associates conducted focus groups and interviews last fall at the College. Seventy-seven students, faculty and staff participated in 13 focus groups. The results were used to inform questions for the campus-wide survey design.
• The Committee has spent the last six months working with Rankin to develop the questions for the comprehensive survey which will be sent to all members of the campus community.

• The survey has been approved by the College’s Institutional Review Board.

• The survey instrument will be hosted by Rankin & Associates. In order to preserve confidentiality and anonymity, data comes to Rankin with all identifiers stripped. MyCharleston will serve as the portal through which faculty, staff and students will access the survey. However, once you click on the survey button, you will leave the College of Charleston site and the survey itself is not linked to the MyCharleston login. Using MyCharleston will make the survey visible throughout the survey period to help drive a higher response rate.

• Data will be analyzed by Rankin & Associates from March - May. A report of the results will be developed June - August. The data belongs to the College of Charleston. Once the data has been collected, summarized, and reported on, Rankin will send the data to Institutional Research (Jim Posey) with no identifiers attached.

Projected Outcomes

• The College of Charleston will add to our knowledge base with regard to how constituent groups currently feel about their particular campus climate and how the community responds to them (e.g., pedagogy, curricular issues, professional development, inter-group/intra-group relations, respect issues).

• The College will use the results of the assessment to inform our incoming President of the current and on-going climate.

• The long-term plan is to use this survey as the baseline study of the College climate and to re-administer it in five years to assess the effectiveness of strategies that might be put in place as a result of the survey results.

The survey will begin on Wednesday, March 12, and remain open for several weeks.

• In order to get the best, most useful and comprehensive data, we need all members of the campus community to take the survey.

• We seek the help of Faculty Senators to:
  • encourage participation by colleagues with their departments.
  • ask faculty colleagues to announce and promote the survey to students within their courses to increase student participation on the survey.