UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

Synopsis
What does the Spring 1999 UHM Survey of Graduating Seniors tell us?

*Trends:*
- Continued steady increases in the percentage who intend to work on the mainland or neighbor islands.
- Most general education credits are taken at Mānoa.
- Continued steady increases in the percentage who got to know three or more faculty well.
- Students are decreasing the amount of time they spend on campus outside the classroom.
- A large, increasing percentage reporting a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- The majority (over half) of graduating seniors pursue further higher education.
- Students are graduating in a more timely manner (from five or more to five or less).

*Doing well:*
- Most (76%) felt the value of their degree was well worth the investment.
- General education core was very helpful in developing writing skills.
- Most were satisfied with the knowledge gained, quality of instruction, adequacy of related library collection, and variety of general education courses.
- Most were satisfied with overall quality of academic experience.
- Most used and were satisfied with admissions/registration procedures, and the services and operations of the Cashier's Office, Library, and Bookstore.

*Getting better:*
- There was a significant increase (+5.8%) in the percentage who felt that their actual experiences were about what they expected, and conversely, a decrease (-3.7%) in those who felt it was worse than expected.

*Needs attention, improvement and/or change:*
- Many expressed the need to increase course availability and review/change core requirements, especially foreign language.
- Nearly 60% encountered barriers while transferring to Mānoa.
- A relatively high percentage indicated the general education core did not help at all in developing computer skills (22%).
- Less than half (40%) rated the quality of their academic experience to improve mathematical ability as good or excellent.

*Needs further research:*
- The issue of grade inflation.

*Other:*
- Keeping in mind that this graduating class experienced two double-digit tuition increases, they were somewhat evenly split between the cost of tuition being about right (fair/reasonable) or too high.
- Most felt tuition should be charged as a flat rate for 12 or more credits rather than per credit.
- There was a large increase in the proportion of students living at home (+9%; from 52% in 1996 to 61% in 1999).
- The majority (67%) perceived their degree as being of average quality.
- A large percentage (39%) attended and transferred credits from a UH Community College.
- Although instructors, departments/programs, facilities/equipment, and counselors/advisors were most frequently mentioned as factors contributing most to their educational gains, instructors and counselors/advisors were also frequently mentioned as areas of dissatisfaction and in need of change.
- The student-teacher relationship continues to emerge as a critical factor affecting the quality of the undergraduate experience.
- Change in major was the most important reason for taking more than four years to graduate.