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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION:	Senate	DATE:	August 22, 2022
FROM:	Zareen Naqvi, Institutional Research and Planning (IRP)	PAGES:	1 of 1
RE:	IRP Reports for Information		

At a meeting of Senate held on March 7, 2011, Senator Paul Percival requested that relevant IRP reports, such as the annual Grades Report, be brought to Senate for information.

Attached are two reports for information:

- **2021/22 Grades Report:** This report is prepared once a year and it summarizes course grades at the University over a ten-year period. The 2021/22 Grades Report covers the period from 2012/13 to 2021/22. Attached is the Summary Report. More detailed information is available on IRP's website: <https://www.sfu.ca/irp/students/grades-report.html>
- **2021 Undergraduate Student Survey (UGSS) Report:** The UGSS survey is conducted every fall term. The attached Highlights Report presents a summary of key findings from the Fall 2021 survey. Topics covered are selected in consultation with faculties, Student Services and other administrative units of the University. This year's topics included: course availability, credential completion times, teaching and curriculum, services, and university culture and environment. The full report is located at: <https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/irp/surveys/ugss/2021%20UGSS%20Report.pdf>

If you have trouble accessing files on IRP's website, please contact askIRP@sfu.ca.

Enclosure

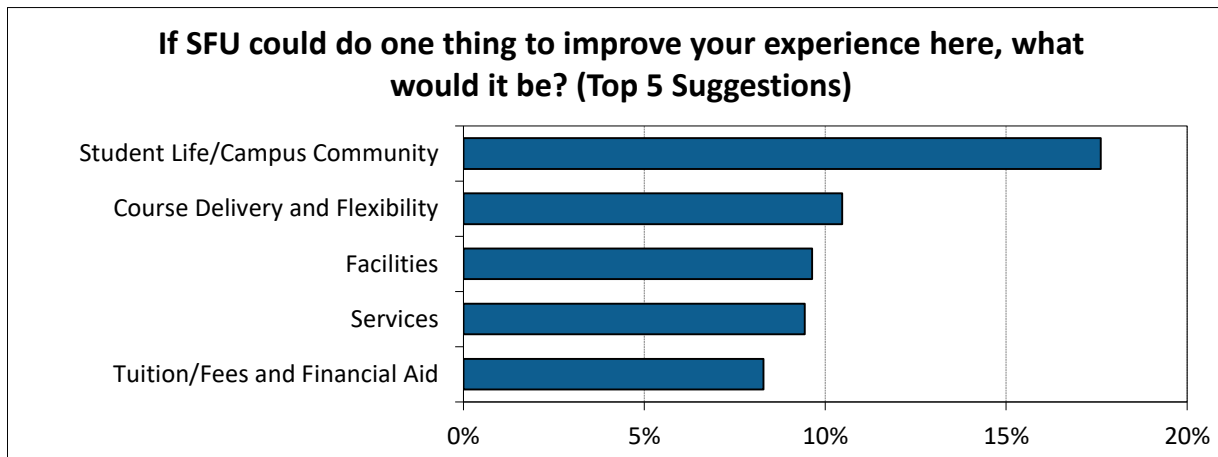
Fall 2021 Undergraduate Student Survey: Highlights

The Undergraduate Student Survey has been conducted at Simon Fraser University every Fall semester since 1992¹ (except in 2002). This annual survey provides essential feedback on the academic experiences and concerns of our undergraduate students. Every year, the survey asks students about their experiences with course availability and credential completion at SFU, as well as a range of other topics that change from year to year. This year’s topics included teaching and curriculum, services, and university culture and environment.

A total of 8,937 students participated in this year’s survey, yielding an overall response rate of 34.9%. Highlights of the survey results are presented here. Statistics provided in this summary and in the full report are estimates based on survey respondents. Assuming that the sample is representative, proportions calculated on all respondents are accurate within $\pm 0.9\%$ ², 19 times out of 20. The full report is available on the Institutional Research and Planning website: <http://www.sfu.ca/irp>

General Experience

- 85% of respondents are satisfied³ with their general SFU experience.
- When students were asked what single thing SFU could do to improve their experience here, the most common responses were:
 - student life/campus community,
 - course delivery and flexibility,
 - facilities, and
 - services.



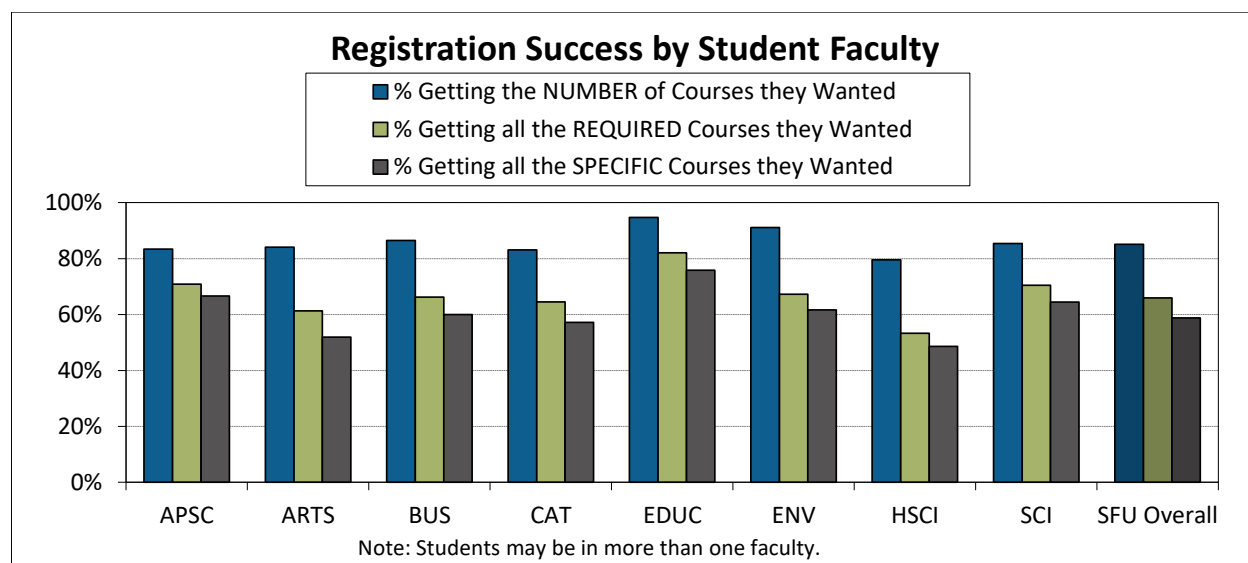
¹ It should be noted that a change in methodology, from in-class paper survey to online survey, was instituted in 2006. The paper surveys, administered to a random sample of classes, resulted in a “captive audience” and high response rates. In contrast, the online surveys, usually administered to the entire SFU undergraduate student population, result in larger samples but lower response rates, which could make the results less generalizable. Measures were taken to reduce potential biases resulting from a lower response rate.

² Note that this margin of error does not control for multiple comparisons. Survey research should be considered exploratory, and definitive conclusions must be drawn with caution.

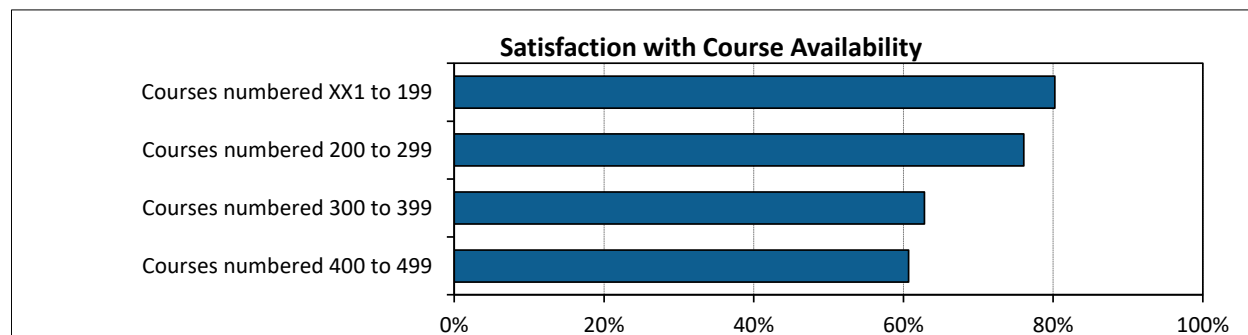
³ For the purposes of this report, the categories of “Very Satisfied” and “Somewhat Satisfied” have been combined and will be referred to as “satisfied.”

Course Availability

- **NUMBER of Courses:** 85% were able to register in the number of courses they wanted to take this term. This is the same as the last time this question was asked in 2019.
- **SPECIFIC Courses:** 59% were able to register in all of the specific courses they wanted to take this term. This is statistically significantly lower than last year’s rate of 69%.
- **REQUIRED Courses:** 66% were able to register in all of the required courses they wanted this term. This is statistically lower than last year’s rate of 75%.
 - Registration difficulty in required courses was most often due to:
 - full classes,
 - reserved spaces in classes,
 - scheduling conflicts, and
 - courses not being offered this term.



- **Satisfaction with Course Availability:**
 - Satisfaction decreases as course level increases, ranging from 80% satisfaction for courses numbered XX1 to 199, down to 61% for courses numbered 400 to 499.
 - Overall satisfaction levels are similar to the last time this question was asked, in 2019, for all course levels except for courses numbered 300 to 399 (63% this year vs. 66% in 2019). This is a statistically significant difference.

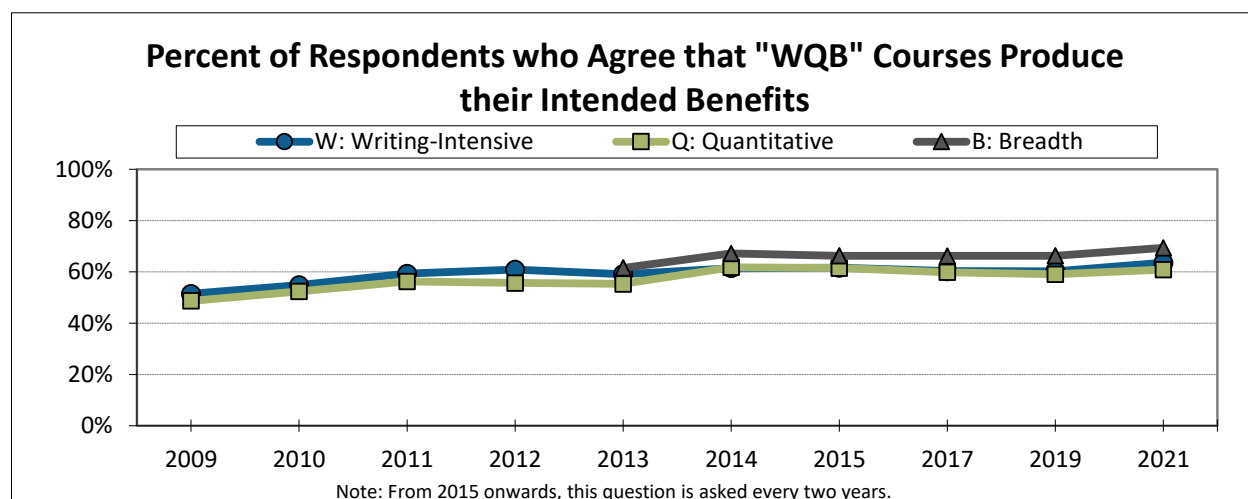


Credential Completion Times

- **Delayed Credential Completion:** 65% of respondents reported that they are taking longer than expected to complete their credential, which is slightly higher than last year's rate of 63%, but not statistically significant.
 - Commonly cited reasons for taking longer include:
 - course availability issues (51%),
 - students taking a reduced course load (46%),
 - participation in co-op (37%), and
 - working in a job, outside of co-op (36%).

Teaching and Curriculum

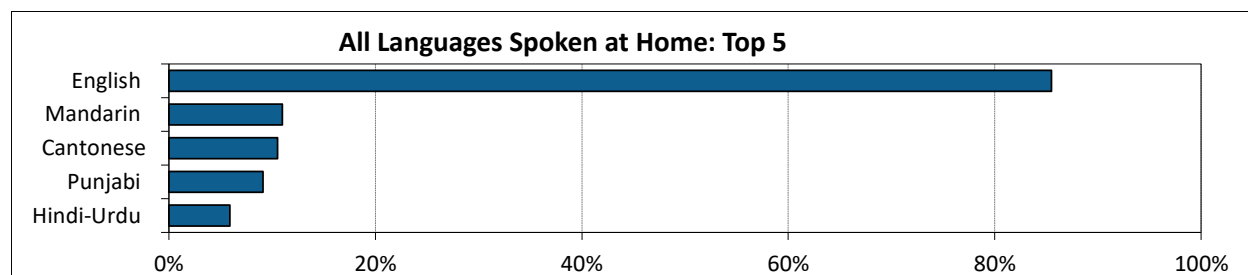
- **Quality of Teaching:** 82% of respondents are satisfied with the overall quality of teaching at SFU (statistically higher than last fall's 80%).
- **WQB Courses:** Over half of this year's respondents agree that these courses produce the benefits for which they were designed (64% agreement for "W" courses, 61% for "Q" courses, and 69% for "B" courses).



- **Research with Faculty Members:** 15% of respondents considered to be in fourth year or higher (based on credits completed and basis of admission) said that they have worked within a faculty member's research team, outside of coursework. This is the same as last year.

Language Skills

- 85% of respondents speak some English at home, with 40% speaking only English at home.
- 60% speak at least one non-English language at home, and 15% speak no English at home.
- 48% speak more than one language at home.
- 60% said that English was the first language they learned as a child and still use regularly.
- 89% speak English most often with their friends.



Services

- **Library (other than SLC):** 87% of respondents are satisfied with the SFU Library.
- **Academic Advising:** 76% of respondents are satisfied.
- **Student Learning Commons (SLC):** 64% are satisfied.
- **Career Related Events, Activities, and Supports:** 51-63% are satisfied.
- **Work Integrated Learning:** 60% are satisfied.
- **Financial Aid and Awards:** 60% are satisfied.
- **English-Language Support Services:** 50% are satisfied.

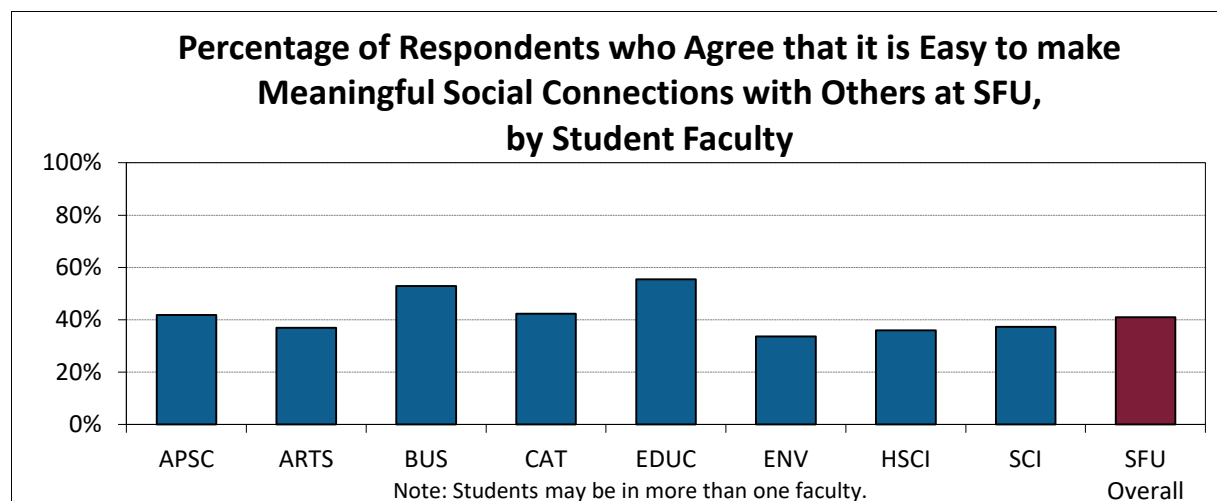
Health Resources

- **Physical Health Supports (i.e. doctors and nurses):** 84% of respondents who used these supports are satisfied with them.
- **Mental Health Supports (i.e. counselling and drop-in programs):** 71% of respondents who used these supports are satisfied with them.

University Culture and Environment

- 51% of respondents agree that SFU is a place that positively impacts their well-being.
- 47% of respondents feel that they are thriving⁴ as university students this term. This is significantly higher than last year's 37%.
- 47% of respondents feel part of a caring community at SFU. This is similar to last year.
- 41% of respondents agree that it is easy to make meaningful social connections with others at SFU.

⁴ Thriving was defined in the question as "getting the most out of your university experience, so that you are intellectually, socially, and psychologically engaged and enjoying the university experience."

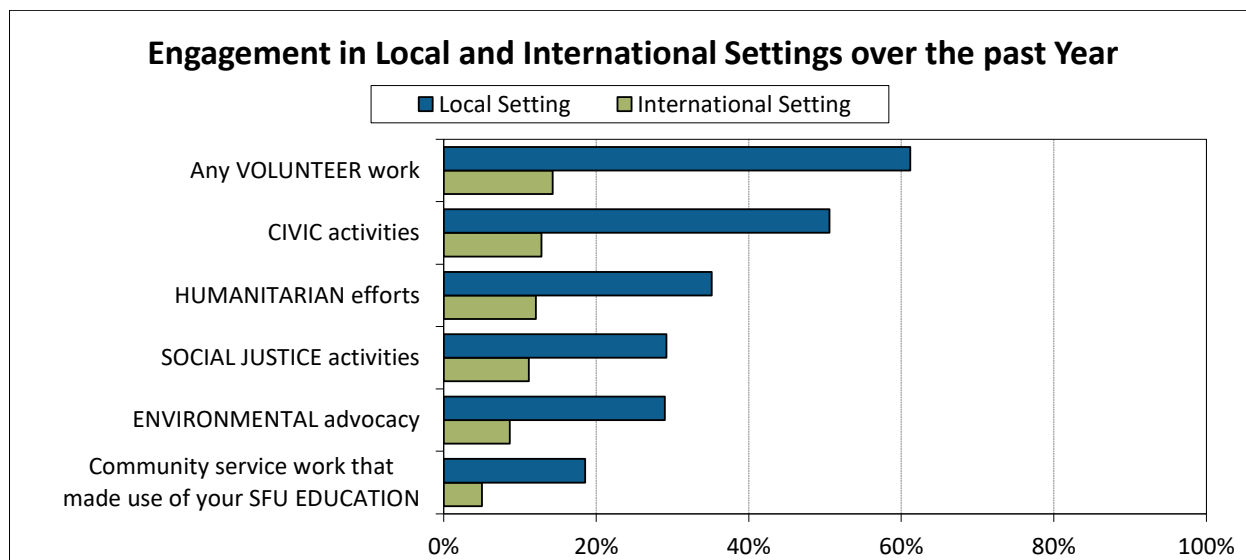


- 60% agree that their faculty provides them with a supportive environment that enhances their well-being.
- 39% agree that SFU provides them with a supportive environment that reduces unnecessary personal and academic stress.

General

- **Employment:**
 - 55% of respondents are currently employed or self-employed. Among these:
 - 11% work 30 hours or more per week in a paid job,
 - 67% work 10–29 hours per week, and
 - 22% work less than 10 hours per week.
- **Engagement at SFU:** Students were asked if they have participated in some activities at SFU over the course of their education here:
 - 17% have participated in an SFU volunteer program, with an additional 27% planning to participate, and
 - 13% participated in a class project involving a community or business organization, with an additional 18% planning to participate.
- **Engagement in the Community:**
 - **Local Community:**
 - In the last year:
 - 61% have done volunteer work,
 - 51% have engaged in civic activities,
 - 29-35% have engaged in humanitarian efforts, environmental activities, and social justice activities, and
 - 19% have engaged in community service work that made use of their SFU education.

- **International Setting:**
 - In the last year:
 - 13-14% have engaged in civic activities and volunteer work,
 - 9-12% have engaged in environmental advocacy, social justice activities, and humanitarian efforts, and
 - 5% have engaged in community service work that made use of their SFU education.



- **Attendance of Science Workshops/Events:** 15% of respondents had attended an on-campus Science workshop/event prior to applying to SFU, and 85% were satisfied with it.

Recommendations

- **Student Life/Campus Community:** Students continue to request improvements to student life and the campus community, such as holding more social events like parties and group activities.
- **Facilities:** Based on comments received, student satisfaction with facilities could be further improved by:
 - continuing to increase the number and quality of study areas,
 - adding more colour to the campus, and
 - fixing the heating/cooling systems on campus.
- **Course Availability and Flexibility:** This year, course delivery and flexibility are main concerns for students, with some respondents wanting classes to continue to be offered online, while others prefer to return to in-person classes with accommodations available for students who feel sick or uncomfortable attending in person. Student responses also suggest the need for continued effort to:
 - increase the frequency of courses, and
 - increase the number of course sections.
- **Policies and Services:** Some additional student suggestions over the last few years for improving their experience at SFU include:
 - improving campus way-finding
 - lowering tuition and fees, and improving financial aid,

- improving the quality of courses/education while lowering the workload,
- improving transportation service and parking availability,
- improving the teaching skills of instructors and TAs,
- improving communication with students,
- continuing to improve food quality while keeping prices low,
- improving access to wi-fi,
- continuing to improve the SFU website and enrollment system,
- improving and increasing counselling and medical services, and
- improving academic advising and providing more guidance with program/course pathways.