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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION:	Senate	DATE:	August 22, 2023
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:

- **2022/23 Grades Report:** This report is prepared once a year and it summarizes course grades at the University over a ten-year period. The 2022/23 Grades Report covers the period from 2013/14 to 2022/23. Attached is the Summary Report. More detailed information is available on IRP's website: <https://www.sfu.ca/irp/students/grades-report.html>
- **2022 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 2022 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: <http://www.sfu.ca/irp/surveys/ugss.html>

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

Enclosure

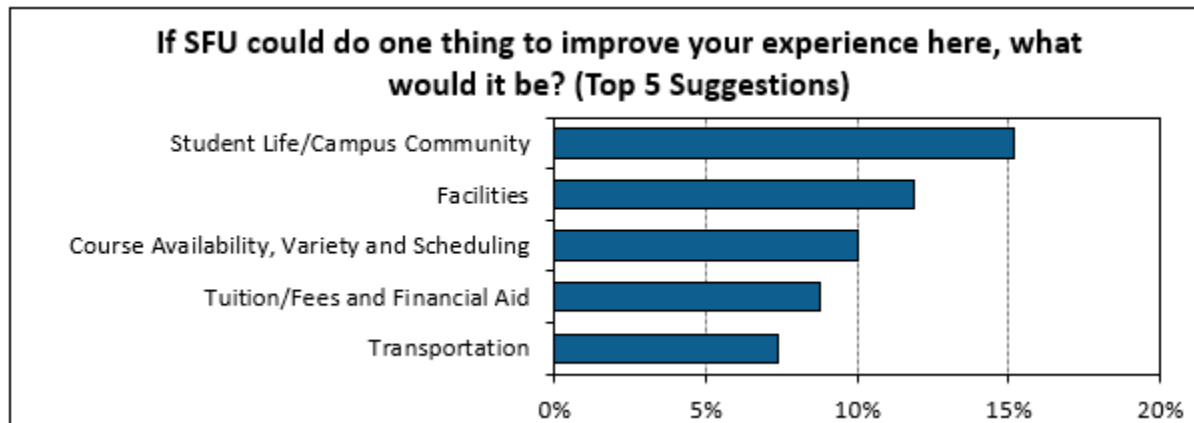
Fall 2022 Undergraduate Student Survey: Highlights

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 6,204 students participated in this year’s survey, yielding an overall response rate of 24.2%, which is lower than last year’s response rate. 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 $\pm 1.1\%$ ², 19 times out of 20. The full report is available on the Institutional Research and Planning website: <http://www.sfu.ca/irp/surveys/ugss.html>

General Experience

- 87% 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,
 - facilities, and
 - course availability, variety and scheduling.



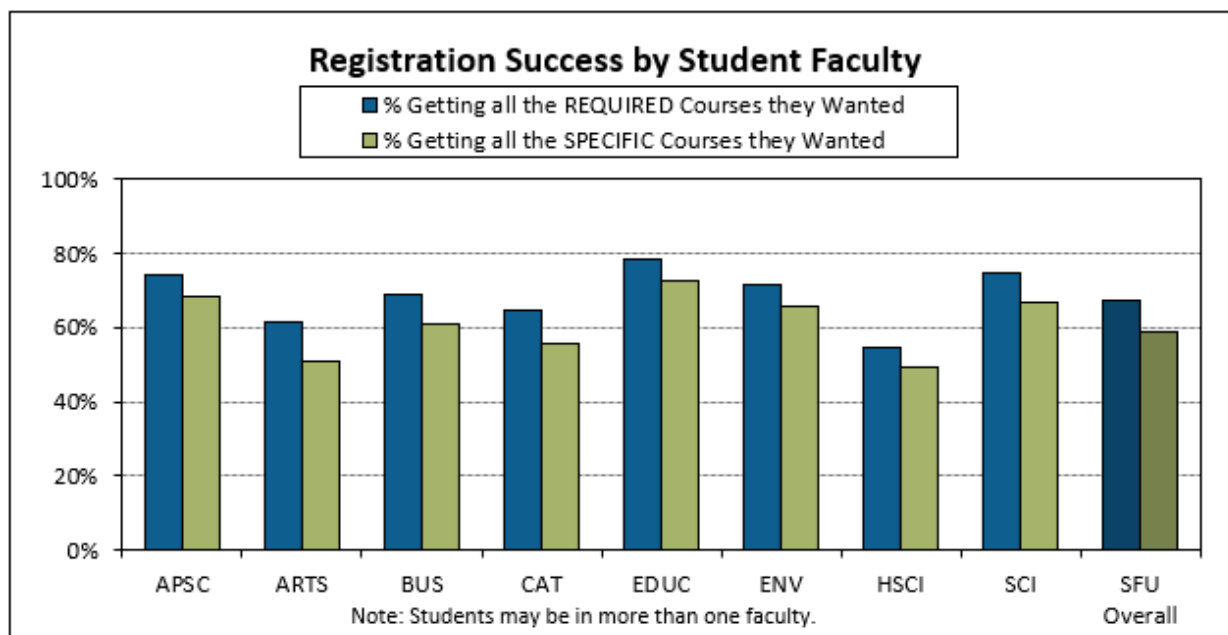
¹ It should be noted that a change in methodology, from in-class paper survey to online survey, was instituted in 2006. The paper surveys, administered to a random sample of classes, resulted in a “captive audience” and high response rates. By contrast, the online surveys, usually administered to the entire SFU undergraduate student population, result in larger samples but lower response rates.

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.

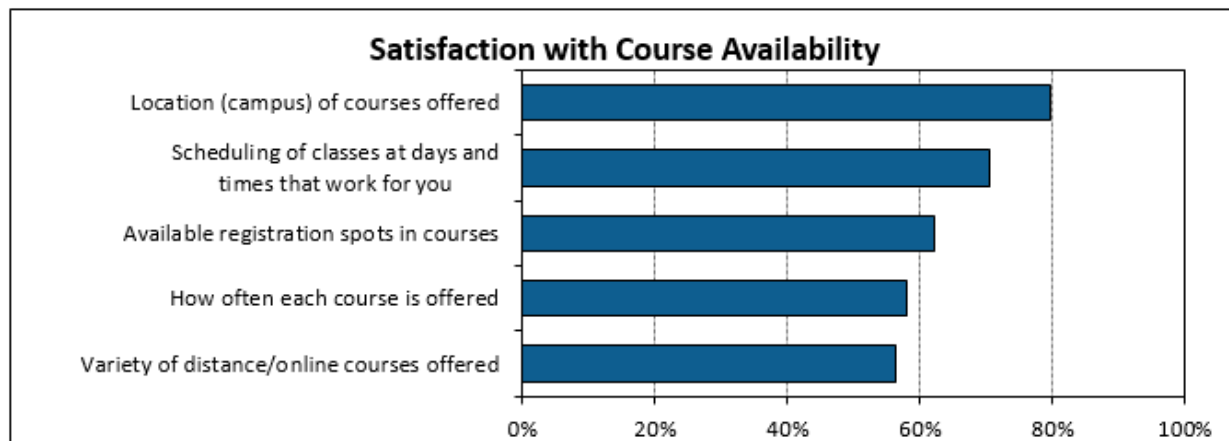
³ For the purposes of this report, the categories of “Very Satisfied” and “Somewhat Satisfied” have been combined and will be referred to as “satisfied.”

Course Availability

- **SPECIFIC Courses:** 59% were able to register in all of the specific courses they wanted to take this term, same as last year.
- **REQUIRED Courses:** 67% were able to register in all of the required courses they wanted this term, similar to last year.
 - 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:**
 - Respondent satisfaction was highest for:
 - location (campus) of courses offered (80% satisfied) and
 - scheduling of classes (70%).
 - Satisfaction was lowest for other aspects of course availability:
 - available registration spots in courses (62%),
 - course frequency (how often each course is offered; 58%), and
 - variety of distance/online courses offered (56%).



Credential Completion Times

- **Delayed Credential Completion:** 64% of respondents reported that they are taking longer than expected to complete their credential, similar to last year.
 - Commonly cited reasons for taking longer include:
 - course availability issues (53%),
 - students taking a reduced course load (44%),
 - participation in co-op (36%), and
 - working in a job, outside of co-op (36%).

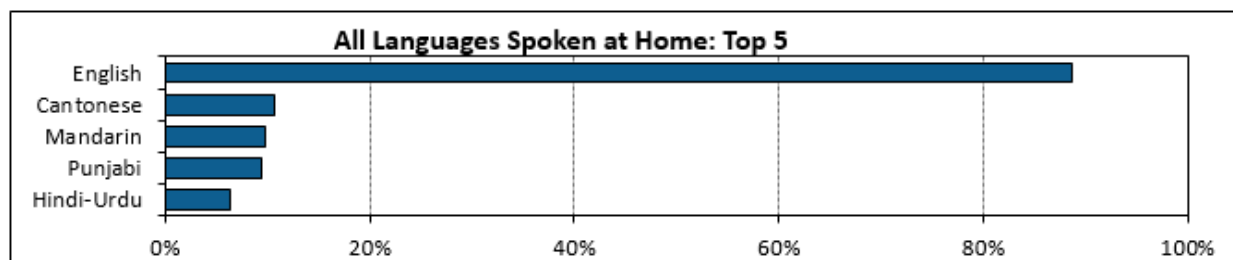
Teaching and Curriculum

- **Quality of Teaching:** 82% of respondents are satisfied with the overall quality of teaching at SFU, same as last year.
- **Student Learning Outcomes:** Students were asked to select the top three qualities, skills, or experiences they think an SFU graduate should have. Respondents indicated that the most important qualities/skills/experiences are:
 - critical thinking skills (45%),
 - the ability to apply knowledge/methods learned in life and at work (40%),
 - have participated in “learning through experience” such as co-op, field school, practicum, etc. (35%), and
 - a solid foundation in their specific academic discipline (33%).
- **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 rate as last year.

Language Skills

- 89% of respondents speak some English at home, with 39% speaking only English at home.
- 61% speak at least one non-English language at home, and 11% speak no English at home.
- 52% speak more than one language at home.
- 61% said that English was the first language they learned as a child and still use regularly.

- 90% speak English most often with their friends.



Services

- **Registrar & Information Services:** 80% of respondents are satisfied.
- **Food services on campus:** 70% of respondents are satisfied.
- **Technology services on campus:** 69% are satisfied.
- **Recreation services:** 68% are satisfied.
- **International Services for Students:** 42% are satisfied.

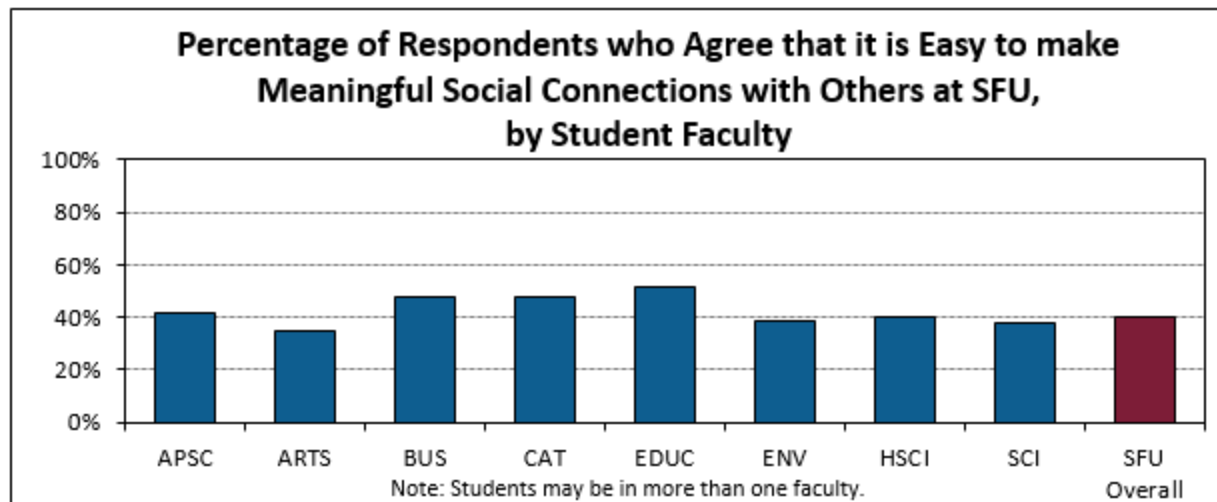
Health Resources

- **Physical Health Supports (i.e. doctors and nurses):** 85% of respondents who used these supports are satisfied with them.
- **Mental Health Supports (i.e. counselling and drop-in programs):** 70% of respondents who used these supports are satisfied with them.
- **My SSP:** 60% of respondents who used this support are satisfied with it.
- **Health and well-being outreach events and/or programs:** 79% are satisfied.

University Culture and Environment

- 51% of respondents feel that they are thriving⁴ as university students this term, representing a statistically significant increase over last year's rate of 47%.
- 48% of respondents feel part of a caring community at SFU, similar to last year.
- 40% of respondents agree that it is easy to make meaningful social connections with others at SFU, similar to last year.

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."



- 40% of respondents agree that SFU provides them with a supportive environment that reduces unnecessary personal and academic stress.
- 61% agree that their faculty provides them with a supportive environment that enhances their well-being.

General

- **Employment:**
 - 55% of respondents are currently employed or self-employed. Among these:
 - 8% work 30 hours or more per week in a paid job,
 - 66% work 10–29 hours per week, and
 - 26% 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:
 - 39% have participated in an SFU club with an additional 29% planning to participate, and
 - 33% participated in a department, program, or faculty event, with an additional 27% planning to participate.

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:
 - expanding the seating and study spaces available,
 - increasing campus vibrancy and the maintenance of its facilities, and
 - improving the climate control systems within the university.

- **Course Availability, Variety and Scheduling:** This year, course variety and scheduling are main concerns for students, with some respondents wanting classes to be offered at more campuses. 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:
 - improve accessibility and quality of academic advising,
 - improve communication with students regarding engagement opportunities,
 - increase online and hybrid course availability,
 - improve campus accessibility,
 - increase affordability and variety of food on-campus,
 - improve the teaching skills and accessibility of instructors and TAs,
 - improve wifi quality and coverage,
 - increase parking availability and affordability,
 - improve the enrollment process and exam scheduling,
 - freezing or lowering tuition and additional fees, and
 - continue to improve campus way-finding.