

FISK UNIVERSITY
SENIOR SURVEY – SPRING 2008
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH

Fisk University
Senior Survey – Spring 2008

I. Introduction

1. This report presents the results of the annual senior survey, which is typically given to graduating seniors before commencement each spring term. The purpose of this survey is to gather data both on the opinions the seniors have about their four-year college experience, and on the plans they have for work or further schooling after graduation. Since 2006 Fisk has offered graduation dates at the end of the Summer and Fall terms, as well as the much larger Spring commencement. Graduating seniors for these other terms are also requested to complete the survey, but the returned questionnaires are combined with the Spring term results in one report.

There were 76 surveys returned by potentially graduating seniors before the Spring 2008 commencement. 105 undergraduates completed their degrees during the 2008 academic year. Some of the surveys were returned by seniors who did not actually finish by summer 2008, but these were included in the results. Since students are encouraged but not required to include their names on the surveys, it is not possible to get an exact percentage of surveys returned by seniors who actually graduated, but it is believed the response rate was in excess of 70%.

2. The results of the survey given below are divided up into a section of questions for which the responses were limited to a fixed selection and to free-text responses. The first section is further divided into demographic questions (e.g., “Are you male or female?”), and a part that asked for opinions or attitudes about the perceived quality of the educational and administrative services that the students had received.

II. Data

Demographics						
		1	2	3	4	5
2	Select the category that describes your gender.	Male (30%)	Female (70%)			
3	What was your residence classification at the time you <u>first</u> enrolled at Fisk (current degree program)?	In-state student (26%)	Out-of-state student (58%)	International student (13%)	International – Perm. Resident (3%)	
4	What was your student classification when you first enrolled at Fisk (for your current degree program)?	Freshman (79%)	Transfer (18%)	Grad Student (3%)		
5	If you are receiving a Bachelor's Degree, how many <u>semesters</u> have you attended Fisk?	8 or fewer (89%)	9 to 10 (7%)	11 to 12 (1%)	More than 12 (0%)	
6	In which academic division(s) do you have a major (check both if joint major)?	Business Administration (15%)	Humanities and Fine Arts (11%)	Nat. Sciences & Mathematics (41%)	Social Sciences (32%)	General studies (1%)
7	What GPA do you estimate you will have after graduation from Fisk?	3.6 - 4.0 (23%)	3.0 - 3.5 (45%)	2.5 - 2.9 (26%)	2.0 - 2.4 (3%)	Unsure (3%)
8	What is the overall GPA you have received in your major(s)?	3.6 - 4.0 (23%)	3.0 - 3.5 (43%)	2.5 - 2.9 (17%)	2.0 - 2.4 (3%)	Unsure (14%)
Questions/Opinions						
9	Would you recommend Fisk University to prospective students?	Yes (66%)	No (6%)	Unsure (27%)		
10	Overall, how satisfied have you been with your undergraduate education at Fisk?	Very satisfied (24%)	Generally Satisfied (55%)	Neutral (17%)	Generally dissatisfied (1%)	Very dissatisfied (3%)
11	Did either of your parents attend Fisk University?	Yes (8%)	No (92%)	I am unsure (0%)		
12	What is the highest degree you plan to achieve in any <u>future</u> educational program?	Second Bachelors (0%)	Masters (34%)	Doctorate (34%)	Professional (law, medical) (27%)	None, or I am unsure (5%)
13	If you were to begin your education again, would you still choose to attend Fisk?	Definitely yes (35%)	Probably yes (39%)	Probably not (24%)	Definitely not (3%)	
14	Is Fisk University a good value for the education that students receive?	Yes (81%)	No (8%)	Not sure (12%)		
17	Please indicate the effectiveness of our education at Fisk in helping you to broaden your intellectual interests.	Very effective (0%)	Effective (42%)	Neutral (39%)	Ineffective (16%)	Very ineffective (4%)
18	Please indicate the effectiveness of your education at Fisk in allowing you to develop your leadership skills.	Very effective (0%)	Effective (29%)	Neutral (58%)	Ineffective (13%)	Very ineffective (0%)

19	Please indicate the effectiveness of your education in teaching you to respect different points of view.	Very effective (0%)	Effective (44%)	Neutral (40%)	Ineffective (16%)	Very ineffective (0%)
20	Indicate your level of satisfaction with the academic advising you received at Fisk.	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (34%)	Neutral (38%)	Dissatisfied (17%)	Very dissatisfied (9%)
21	How satisfied were you with the classroom facilities at Fisk?	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (8%)	Neutral (44%)	Dissatisfied (26%)	Very dissatisfied (17%)
22	Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the courses in our Core Curriculum.	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (21%)	Neutral (47%)	Dissatisfied (26%)	Very dissatisfied (5%)
23	Indicate your satisfaction with our athletic programs, both collegiate and intramural.	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (8%)	Neutral (12%)	Dissatisfied (47%)	Very dissatisfied (21%)
24	In general, rate your satisfaction with the academic computer facilities and services at Fisk.	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (11%)	Neutral (30%)	Dissatisfied (34%)	Very dissatisfied (22%)
25	What was your level of satisfaction with the financial aid services at Fisk?	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (9%)	Neutral (31%)	Dissatisfied (43%)	Very dissatisfied (11%)
26	Indicate your level of satisfaction with the dining services at Fisk	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (3%)	Neutral (11%)	Dissatisfied (33%)	Very dissatisfied (32%)
27	Considering both the book holdings, journal and magazine subscriptions, and online access to research materials, please rate your level of satisfaction with the Fisk Franklin Library.	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (14%)	Neutral (45%)	Dissatisfied (28%)	Very dissatisfied (28%)
28	How would you rate the overall level of service that you have received from the Office of Student Affairs?	Very good (0%)	Good (12%)	Adequate (45%)	Poor (29%)	Very poor (13%)
29	Indicate your level of satisfaction with the services you received over the past year from the Office of the Registrar.	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (38%)	Neutral (48%)	Dissatisfied (13%)	Very dissatisfied (3%)
30	If you have lived in a residence hall, how would you rate your level of satisfaction with both the facilities and the service?	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (10%)	Neutral (33%)	Dissatisfied (32%)	Very dissatisfied (10%)
31	Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the service you received from the Business Office over the past year.	Very satisfied (0%)	Satisfied (12%)	Neutral (39%)	Dissatisfied (32%)	Very dissatisfied (14%)
32	Which response most closely represents your plans for the next 12 months? If you wish to add additional information, please use the comment block.	I really am not sure what I will be doing after graduation. (0%)	I have a job offer that I plan to accept. (8%)	I expect to receive a job offer in the near future. (12%)	I plan to attend graduate or professional school this fall (16%)	I will be entering the military. (64%)

Free-Text Responses – A sample of responses is presented which indicate the range of answers which were given to the questions. The responses to questions 35 and 36 are not relevant for this report and are not provided.

33	If you know where you will be employed following graduation, please list the name of your firm or organization.	<p>Self employed Big Pawn, Inc. Vanderbilt University Medical Center Metro Health Department Hand Across Memphis Enrichment Summer Program City of Charlotte North Carolina Crime Scene Investigator Poe Boy Entertainment Asurion</p>
34	If you plan to attend graduate or professional school next fall or this spring, please comment on the school or university you expect to attend and the type of program.	<p>(Note: These are student responses to the survey, not confirmed data.) Meharry Medical School Fisk University Vanderbilt Divinity School Georgia State University Morehouse School of Medicine Vanderbilt University Bachelor's in Engineering University of Missouri Kansas City Education Program University of Louisville counseling, University of Maryland, environmental studies & public policy New York Institute of Technology MBA program University of Chicago Law APSU or TSU pharmacy school Case Western Medical School TSU or Alabama A&C Secondary Education w/concentration in Biology Masters of Healthcare Administration Mercer University Vanderbilt PhD Interdisciplinary Materials Science University of San Francisco, Holy Nanes University, New Teacher Training Institute Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Vanderbilt School of Nursing Graduate Program Howard University Case Western University MFA Vanderbilt University School of Nursing Women's Health/Adult Nurse Practitioner Meharry MSPH Program or TSU Masters in Biology Georgia State University Lipscomb Pharmacy / Meharry Grad Research</p>

		<p>Morgan State, Emory University Industrial/organizational psychology program University of North Carolina BA/MA Forensic Science UT Chattanooga or Belmont for Sports Medicine Vanderbilt MBA, Belmont MBA Emory Law School</p>
15	<p>If you could change one thing about Fisk University, what would that be?</p>	<p>(Note: Frequency of similar responses are indicated by the numbers in parentheses.)</p> <p>Improve science facilities (2) Better communication among departments the administration and with students (2) Student life activities (25) Fisk University's financial situation (9) Having a wider variety of faculty to choose from in a major Upgraded buildings Student morale Organization of the school's departments The professionalism of the faculty The level of academic challenge (2) Course catalog More funding, more student life Technical abilities such as more advanced technology The dire financial situation Facilities and supplies - essential I would like the University to be more organized More funding for athletic dept & more spring break service opportunities Business Office organization (3) Quality of fund raising efforts Fiscal management, Curriculum development Student resources (2) Healthier café food Organization More chances for assistantships in majors Security (2) On campus living conditions (3) The financial burden (2) Small selection of courses</p>

III. Comparison with 2004 Data

In the table below we have selected several similar questions from the Spring 2004 Senior Survey and compared the responses to the current 2008 survey. There may be slight differences in the wording of some questions, and the 2004 survey did not have a response comparable to “Neutral” which is in the 2008 survey. Nevertheless, a comparison of the results may be of interest. The complete 2004 survey report can be found on the Institutional Assessment and Research website.

9	Would you recommend Fisk University to prospective students?	2004	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes or Maybe	Probably Not		Definitely Not
			23%	56%	8%	10%	
2008		2008	Yes	Unsure	No		
			66%	27%	6%		
		Year	Very satisfied	Generally satisfied	Neutral/No Response/No Opinion*	Generally dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
10	Overall, how satisfied have you been with your undergraduate education at Fisk?	2004	19%	63%	3%	9%	6%
		2008	24%	55%	17%	1%	3%
20	Indicate your level of satisfaction with the academic advising you received at Fisk.	2004	27%	47%	1%	15%	6%
		2008	0%	34%	38%	17%	9%
25	What was your level of satisfaction with the financial aid services at Fisk?	2004	6%	47%	6%	38%	12%
		2008	0%	9%	31%	43%	11%
29	Indicate your level of satisfaction with the services you received over the past year from the Office of the Registrar.	2004	7%	35%	0%	27%	27%
		2008	0%	38%	48%	13%	3%

*In the 2004 survey, there was no “Neutral or No Opinion” response available. The value indicated here for 2004 is the percentage of students who did not respond to the question.