

A total of 1,381 undergraduate students recently completed the campus climate assessment survey, for an overall response rate of 29%; the total number from the College was 1,251, or 30.3%.

The College Diversity Roundtable (CDR), who sponsored the survey, deeply appreciates the time so many of our students took to provide us with this in-depth information.

The survey asked students to identify themselves in seventeen demographic categories, including class year, gender, current residence, ethnicity, age, religious identification, sexual identity, and parental level of education. Respondents represented the broad ranges of each demographic, which will allow for nuanced and careful analysis of the data gathered.

It's important to note that the College has not completed a campus climate assessment since 1982; this year's survey was meant to serve as a baseline snapshot of the current attitudes towards and experience with diversity of our undergraduates. Since the survey is a relatively new instrument, we will have only very limited comparative data from other institutions. However, we hope to use the survey over time to understand shifts in perceptions and experiences of our students.

Although a full report will not be available until the fall, some interesting results that have emerged from preliminary analysis include the following:

- the racial makeup of the respondents mirrors that of the student population overall
- more than half of respondents indicated that religion is important in their daily lives
- 50.2% of respondents identify themselves as liberal in political/social ideology, with 28% identifying as moderate and 9% as conservative
- 58.2% of respondents indicated that prior to entering the university, more than half of their friends, their schools, and the community in which they resided were similar to them in regards to race/ethnicity
- respondents indicated that at the UR it has been very easy to get to know people of different ethnicities (46.3%), political ideologies (60.8%), religious identifications (62.9%) and sexual orientations (48.6%)
- 156 individuals (12.6%) answered "yes" when asked if they "had ever felt harassed while attending this college/university." Of that total, 25 respondents indicated that the harassment was based on race; 43 on gender; 10 on sexual orientation; 14 on political or social ideology; 6 on religious identification, and 48 on "other." The majority of respondents who indicated that they had felt harassed indicated that this predominant source of harassment was other students (110), and that it occurred in the residence halls (49), classrooms (22); on the street (22), or in "other places" (21).
- respondents had an opportunity to provide additional information in response to the four open-ended questions on the survey, including additional information regarding any perceived harassment. Many students did so; because of the confidentiality of the survey, these answers will not be released publicly.

The CDR is working closely with the Dean's Office and with staff and administrators across the campus to more fully understand, and to address areas of concern that respondents identified.