

Student Employment Taskforce
Of
The
University of Montana - Western

Student Survey Report Spring 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AURORA EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

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Survey prompted by perception of campus supervisors that there was a change in the availability of student labor required to complete campus functions and tasks.

- Student Employment Task Force established Fall Semester.
- Survey Administered at end of Block 6 and beginning of Block 7.
- Sample and volunteers completed surveys.
- Group responses not different so combined.
- Responses obtained from 143 students.

Observations/Conclusions/Recommendations

- There is significant support for the block schedule from the student and staff point of view.
- Staff efforts to place student in jobs eight times rather than two each year should be appreciated.
- Also, the students are positive and more supportive in general of the schedule as it now runs although some comments suggest that teachers are still making adjustments in course delivery, and homework.
- Maturity or experience working in the block schedule arena will help resolve these issues for all concerned.
- A random sample would be more difficult to obtain than the energy and other resources committed to this project allowed.
- 95% +/- 8% due to reduced sample size.
- Data must be viewed with the level of accuracy obtained.
- Respondents expressed a need to work to pay for their schooling and related expenses and had found work to help meet those needs.
- Approximately 80% of the respondents want to work
- About 78% actually have jobs, some more than one.
- Course schedules must be examined to see if opportunities for small adjustments can pay dividends.
- Supervisors have been making an effort to adjust work schedules to meet the needs of students and still meet the need for labor.

- Students had to change work schedules due to academics but most found it easy or not too difficult to make the changes.
- Schedule changes are a reality and must be addressed in planning for labor as well as academics.
- Recommend that there be an examination of the course schedule used with the block system to minimize schedule changes.
- Adjusting one or both block schedules (morning and afternoon) could make noon work more likely
- About 100 students did not know what jobs were available on campus or in the community and how to apply for them.
- Need to make jobs more readily available although 700-800 students already work.
- Solutions could be brainstormed by the campus supervisors and marketing campaigns established or other additional efforts made to attract labor to help meet the student and campus needs.
- Community supervisors who are not able to meet labor quotas could also be on the look out for more ways to reach the labor force.
- Financial aid is an economic engine within the campus community as about 70% of the students receive some level of financial aid.
- Volume of work required to meet the financial aid needs of these students is amazing.
- Staff in this area appear to be extraordinary in their effectiveness in helping students and their parents complete the forms and processes required to qualify.
- Scholarships are also part of the funding equation.
- There may be few 'full rides', there is a significant amount of funds available from this source as well.
- Data produced by the survey were generally confirmed by reports from the knowledge base of the people who formed the Student Employment Task Force.

- Data appear to be consistent with expectations and experiences across campus according to informal reports and comments received during Student Employment Task Force meetings and report review sessions.
- Data for student sources of income are also consistent with expectations or experience levels of the members of the Student Employment Task Force.
- Data meet the tests of credibility and are, within the calculated accuracy levels, worthy of consideration and use.