

Community Engagement Survey

Key Findings:

The general support for incorporating an engagement experience into the curriculum was quite high (55.5% indicated they were “extremely” or “very” supportive; another 25.13% were “moderately” supportive). This was particularly interesting because the survey was distributed after a fairly inaccurate article about the engagement requirement proposal was published in the campus newspaper.

In addition, the survey’s qualitative data provided a number of options for activities related to engagement that had not been considered in the original proposal. For example, one student indicated that he had spent the past 10 years working as a police officer in the community, an example of what many of the nontraditional students can bring to the university experience as already being actively engaged in the community.

Actions Taken:

The combination of qualitative and quantitative data from the survey was used to substantially improve the scope and definitions in the initiative’s proposal. The survey was used to gain a clear and accurate measure of the level of student community engagement at the University, to subsequently show support for the initiative, and to inform ASUU’s legislative branch of student opinions before they voted on whether or not to support the proposal for a new academic requirement. The results of the survey were also shared with the Student Commission (a committee of students, faculty, and administrators that discuss policy and procedures that directly impact the student experience), the Undergraduate Council, the ASUU Executive Cabinet, the Bennion Center, and the Vice President of Student Affairs. The final initiative was shared with even more people campus-wide.

Despite the decision to not proceed with the requirement given the current economic climate, the data from the survey indicate that the University should re-visit this proposal in the near future.