

	FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS	
RESEARCH IN STUDENT AFFAIRS		
Fall 2006 President's Retreat Evaluation Summary		

Purpose

- To summarize the results of the evaluation from the 2006 President's Retreat.
- To provide suggestions for future improvement.

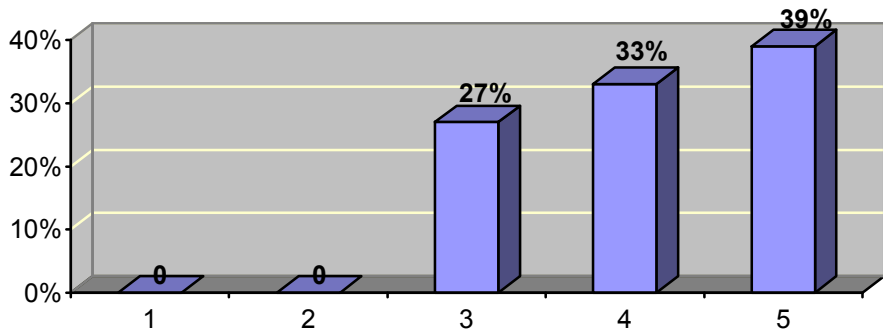
Methodology

The planning and evaluation sub-committee of the President's Retreat committee designed a survey instrument to evaluate the event. The questions and breakdown of responses are included in this summary. The evaluation survey consisted of 6 questions, using a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). In addition, respondents were also asked to provide written comments regarding suggestions for future President's Retreats, as well as suggest future retreat attendees. The evaluation was provided in the registration packets for attendees. Thirty-eight (38) evaluations were returned.

Results

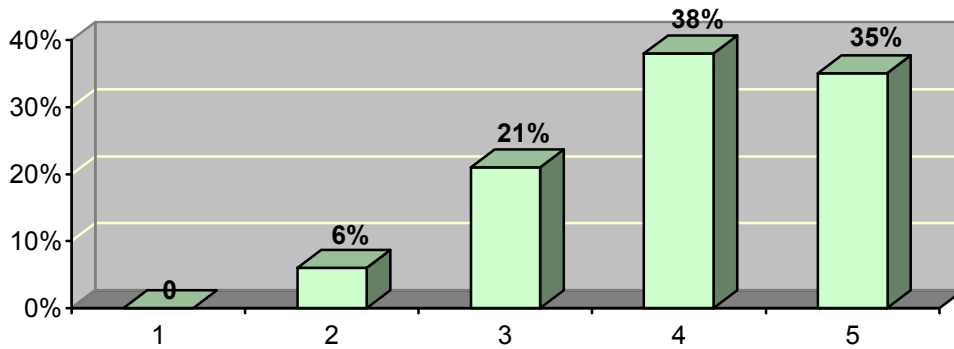
The majority (72%) of respondents highly rated the opening session (with a score of 4 or 5). [See Figure 1]

Figure 1. Opening Session



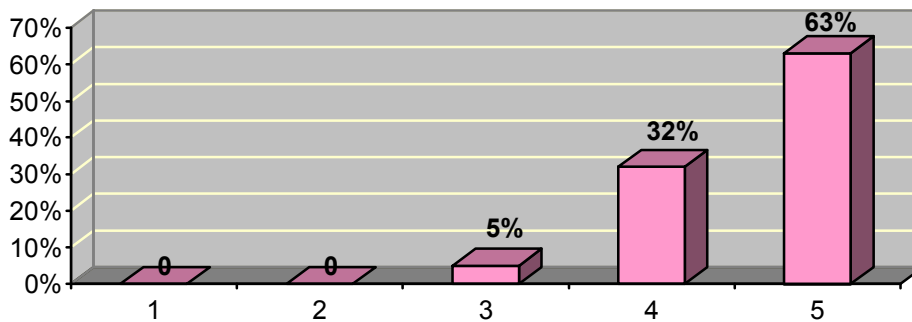
The panel presentation received similar high ratings. More than half of the respondents (73%) rated the panel presentation as 4 or 5. [See Figure 2]

Figure 2. Panel Presentation



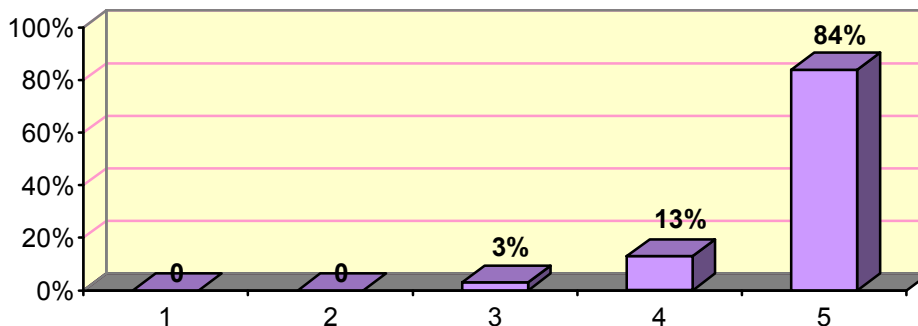
The small group sessions were designed to give retreat attendees an opportunity for in-depth discussion regarding the Retreat theme. This discussion, facilitated by group leaders provided the foundation for the entire retreat experience. Compared to the opening session and panel presentation, small group sessions had a higher rating (4 or 5) of satisfaction level (95%) from the participants. [See Figure 3]

Figure 3. Small Group Session



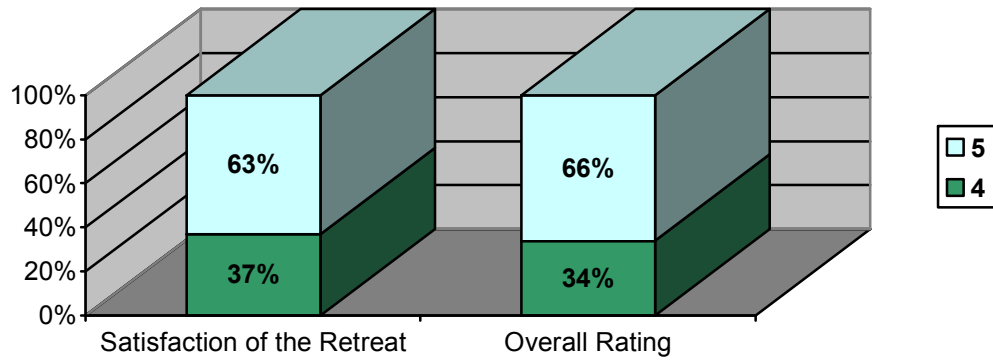
The attendees were asked to evaluate the retreat facilities as well. Eighty-four percent (84%) of them indicated that the Reservation reached their highest satisfaction. [See Figure 4]

Figure 4. Retreat Facilities



All of the respondents were highly satisfied with the retreat and the overall event. This is demonstrated in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Comprehensive Satisfaction



We asked the attendees to write their suggestions, such as topics and locations, for the future event. Most of the respondents preferred the Rez, one person suggested Wakulla Springs for future event location. Please see Appendix A for a complete list of topic suggestions and future improvements.

Appendix A

Suggestions for Future President's Retreats

Topics:

Residence life: how dorms affect the freshmen

Evaluation of the school's academics

Addressing how FSU's aspiration vs. actions can become more in line. Right now, FSU's treatment of graduate students is not competitive with other research institutions when it comes to health insurance and stipends. Addressing this will expedite acceptance into AAU.

Importance of learning leadership

Service is a way of life

Curriculum structure and advising

Recruitment and retention

Civic engagement, service learning and leadership

Future Improvements:

Think we need to go the next level with scholarship--we need a different way to interact on this--I don't quite know how yet...

I enjoyed the retreat. My own concern is when the panelists discussed 4 year colleges as not very research oriented. Just because they are not the large, 4-year university doesn't mean that research is not encouraged. On the contrary, some large 4-years do less teaching which can hurt students, whereas many smaller 4 year colleges do a good job teaching and educating undergraduates.

More focus on discussion so that tangents don't form, also facilitators bit more aggressive keeping on target.

Have groups discuss 1 question/provide recommendations on 1 question

Have the president meet all the students who participate in the retreat

The overall retreat was great. I just believe a little more information should be provided beforehand.

I liked the environment of the retreat. More time to process and discuss ideas for action in small group

The issue today would have been better served by having upper class undergrads involved as group participants. The 1st and 2nd year undergraduate students are unaware of many of the programs available to them in week 5; upper class students to remind of their early experiences, would be better informants.

Need opening icebreaker or team builder. Why is Student Affairs pushing the scholarship agenda? Where are the faculties?

More interactive opening session.

Involve students who are not already involved with everything. Have students who are not leaders, not service scholars, not about to leave FSU.

I liked the wrap up activities--it brought some closure

Reservation is good--convenient and pleasant setting even if space is a bit tight.

More varieties in food, but the food was good!

This report was prepared by Miao Yu in the Office of Research in the Division of Student Affairs.

Please contact ypsaga@admin.fsu.edu or 850-644-1180.

Reported September 2006.