



PEARL RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2019 Campus Climate Survey



CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY



2019 FAST FACTS

96%

Find campus safe

96%

Believe PRCC is fulfilling its mission.

96%

Are satisfied with student orientation services.



Location and low tuition along with financial aid availability draw students to Pearl River.

A majority of PRCC students are first-generation.

94% Student Satisfaction



Recommendation **94%** Rate

Introduction

The Campus Climate Survey is administered to Pearl River Community College (PRCC) students annually. PRCC accomplished a 24% participation rate for the 2019-2020 survey. Nationally, the average participation rate is 20%. Results from the Campus Climate Survey relay student experience, which is linked to learning outcomes and student retention.

The Campus Climate Focus Group, comprised of members of administration, faculty, and staff, reviews the survey results. Any survey area receiving a satisfaction rating of less than 70% will receive recommendations for improvement from the Focus Group. This standard relates to Goal 2: To provide quality student services. Internal Performance Indicator 1 states: At least 70% of students participating in an annual campus climate survey will indicate that they are satisfied with the campus climate. Internal Performance Indicator 3 states: At least 70% of students participating in an annual campus climate survey will indicate they are satisfied with the services provided by various offices on campus.

Members

Dr. Martha Smith

Ms. Candace Harper

Mr. Raymunda Barnes

Dr. Trevor Hunt

Ms. Karen Bond

Mr. Roger Knight

Dr. Jana Causey

Mr. Matt Logan

Ms. Melanie Davis

Mr. Jeffrey Long

Dr. Amy Townsend

Mr. Butch Raby

Minutes

Campus Climate Focus Group Meeting

February 12, 2020

In Attendance: Dr. Jana Causey, Ms. Melanie Davis, Ms. Candace Harper, Dr. Trevor Hunt, Ms. Maghan James, Mr. Roger Knight, Mr. Matt Logan, Mr. Jeff Long, Mr. Butch Raby, Dr. Martha Lou Smith, Dr. Amy Townsend

Unable to Attend, but will meet next week with comments and recommendations: Mr. Raymunda Barnes

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The Campus Climate Focus group meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Ms. Maghan James. She stated that Focus Group members whose recommendations were not complete should send those to Melanie within one week. Ms. James opened the discussion with parking. Her office worked harder this year to communicate to students appropriate/available parking areas. Dorm students were encouraged to walk. Work is currently being done to extend the parking area adjacent to the nursing building to increase that area all the way to the tree line.

Ms. James mentioned that students made many comments about boredom. She pointed out that we currently do not have a student life center. Jeff Long explained that conversations are underway to provide additional student life areas. He explained that space for student life needs to accommodate many interests. It must encompass more than basketball, which was the case when student life activities took place in Shivers Gym. The goal is to eventually repurpose an existing building. Ideally, a student center atmosphere will be available from supper until 10:00 p.m. Increased student gathering will produce a need for a greater police presence at night. The current “no loitering after 11:00 p.m.” may be extended until 12:00 a.m., thereby providing more outdoor visitation opportunities.

The desire for opposite gender visitation received many comments on the survey. There are no plans to change our current policy. A former Gulf Coast Community College Faculty member was consulted about opposite-gender dorm visitation. The allowance of such visitation had not worked well for that institution.

Dr. Martha Lou Smith pointed out that there were comments about the absence a mental health provider on campus. While the College does not employ a mental health provider, the College does refer people with mental-health needs to appropriate specialists. It was recommended that we increase communication about mental health to students from the beginning of the academic year. Dr. Amy Townsend suggested that workshops could be offered as well. Dr. Martha Lou Smith elaborated on the provider situation by explaining that she had spoken with the College's attorney who recommended we not hire someone in that capacity due to increased liability.

Ms. Melanie Davis explained that all satisfaction rates were well above the 70% benchmark which comes from our internal performance indicators. She pointed out that academic atmosphere, class size, instructor availability, and adequate technology received the highest satisfaction ratings. Conversely, for academic atmosphere, advising received the lowest satisfaction ratings. It was noted, however, that despite these ratings being the lowest, they were well above the benchmark. Dr. Amy Townsend questioned whether the comments were directed toward professional advisors from the Student Success Center or toward Faculty Advisors. Ms. Davis indicated that advising questions could be rewritten to more specifically address this in the future. Dr. Trevor Hunt pointed out that the ratings could be a result of students procrastinating, thereby not receiving appointments (and possibly schedules) to their liking.

Dr. Townsend then referenced the "boredom" comments from the survey. She recommended that a "What to do" in each community for each of our campuses could be included in the Passport to Success. Ms. Davis and Ms. Harper suggested that Chambers of Commerce could be included in this.

Some comments referenced difficulty for athletes getting to the cafeteria getting before it closes in the evening. Mr. Roger Knight pointed out that coaches can speak to Ms. Leah Woodward about extending cafeteria hours to meet the needs of our athletes.

Forrest County Center had many comments about lack of food availability. Those needs are already being addressed, but the comments highlighted the importance of food availability on campus.

Ms. James reminded everyone to email further recommendations within one week.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Recommendations

Focus Area	Recommendation	Action	Department Responsible	Timeline/Progress
Student Life	1) Appropriate space for student-life activities. 2) Delay “No Loitering” time for one hour. 3) Increase communication about community offerings.	1) Allocate indoor space in Crosby Hall until a more permanent area becomes available. 2) Extend outdoor “visitation” until 12:00 a.m. Increase police presence at night. 3) Provide a “What to Do” for each campus community in the Passport to Success Newsletter.	1) Student Services 2) Campus Police 3) Student Success Center or Counseling Center	Begin Fall, 2020 Begin Fall, 2020 Begin Fall, 2020
Student Services	1) Refer people with mental-health concerns to appropriate specialists.	1) Increase communication about mental health to students from the beginning of the academic year.	1) Student Services	Begin Fall, 2020

Advising	1) Reword advising questions to differentiate between “professional advisors” (from the Student Success Center) and faculty advisors.	1) The Campus Climate Survey will be edited before administration for the 2020-2021 academic year.	1) Institutional Research	September, 2020
Cafeteria	1) Extend evening hours as necessary.	1) Coaches should speak with the cafeteria manager as need arises for extending serving times in the evening.	1) Athletic Director	Begin Fall, 2020