Winter Assessment of the Student Experience
Executive Summary

March 2008
Requests for additional or custom reporting of survey findings can be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs Survey Administration. Some findings and analysis is restricted to university personnel. All findings are subject to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) reporting restrictions and requirements.
Survey Profile

In January 2008, a web-based survey was administered to enrolled UW Tacoma students to measure their general attitudes and satisfaction with UW Tacoma. Invitations to participate in the survey were sent via email to 2628 students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In total, 363 responses (14%) were received with 301 undergraduates (83%) and 62 graduate students (17%) responding.

Female respondents numbered 255 (72%), males 99 (28%), with 9 unidentified. The ethnicity breakouts were as follows: 68% Caucasian, 9% Asian, 5% Hispanic, 3% African American, 3% Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander, 2% American Indian, and 6% self-reported as multiracial while 6% were not indicated. Twenty-five percent of the respondents are primary care givers for one or more children. Sixty-four percent of respondents said their parent/guardian’s highest level of education is less than a four-year degree.

Student Satisfaction

In general, students expressed high levels of satisfaction with their experience at UW Tacoma with 93% of students meeting their educational objectives, 94% agreeing or strongly agreeing that UW Tacoma has a positive environment for students, and 93% stating they would be very likely or likely to recommend UW Tacoma to someone.

Sixty-three percent of the respondents felt the coursework at UW Tacoma is more challenging than their previous institution, however, 82% felt they were completely prepared or prepared for the overall academic work at UW Tacoma. Research and library skills, study habits, and mathematics were the areas in which roughly 10% of students felt under-prepared. Twenty-one percent of students hope to obtain a doctorate or professional degree.

Students also rated faculty highly with 96% agreeing their professors have expert knowledge in their subject area and 87% agreeing their professor’s teaching methods are effective for their learning style. However, 15% of respondents disagreed that grading and classroom policies are clear and comprehensive. On the question of the names of majors, 53% said they prefer traditionally named majors over non-traditional, and 39% said it does not matter.

The overwhelming majority of students (93%) preferred classes two days a week for five credit courses. On the question of potential new majors at UW Tacoma, programs selected as “I will major in this if offered” included: 37 students each in Human Rights and Foreign Languages, 29 students in Nonprofit Management, and 24 students each in Creative/ Professional Writing and Sustainable Urban Development.
Students were largely satisfied (80% or more) with the admissions process, classroom technology, class size, computer services, library facilities and library resources, quality of instruction, buildings and grounds, and the UW Tacoma website.

Survey items with the highest not satisfied ratings were parking (73%), bookstore prices (62%), class availability (53%), course variety (48%), scholarship availability (32%), bookstore inventory (29%), bookstore hours (27%), fitness center (27%), academic advising (25%), and Tacoma Light Rail Link hours (24%).

**Interests and Concerns**

More students preferred to utilize services in the afternoon than at other times. Seventy-five students or 42% stated they would be interested in performing or participating in an acting company and 54 (30%) said they would be interested in a vocal music assemble/chorus. Roughly 40% of students said they do not leave campus until after 5PM Monday through Thursday, and approximately 73% of students drive alone to campus.

Twenty-nine percent of students said that distance to campus has a negative impact on their attendance, 53% said both traffic congestion and gas prices have a negative impact on attendance, while 61% said parking has a negative impact. Twenty-eight percent said the Tacoma light rail link has a positive impact on their attendance.