

Summary of Diversity-focused Results of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Campus Climate Survey

Participants were 2630 respondents, or 29.7% of student population, during the Fall 2004 semester. The vast majority (95%) identified as white, and 74% were women. This survey was modeled after the Faculty Staff Campus Climate Survey and complements the National Student Survey on Engagement. This on-line survey included both forced choice responses, such as 5-point Likert scaled items and yes/no questions, as well as open ended questions to which about 17% of participants responded.

Experiences of historically-disadvantaged populations:*

UWL is perceived as **less inclusive** by respondents who identified as non-heterosexual or preferred not to identify ; a person of color ; transgendered, intersex, or preferred not to identify; having a disability. Basically these groups also saw a greater need for emphasis on diversity and were more likely to have considered leaving UWL. Students who identify as having a disability were more likely than other groups to have found themselves in a dangerous situation off campus. Of those who experienced an off campus incident (10-15% of respondents), 54% believed it was based on their sex; 37% on their appearance; 23% on their age; 19% on body size; 12% on politics; 10% on race/ethnicity/skin color.

Respondents who identified as - persons of color; gay, lesbian, bisexual, or queer; having a disability - were more likely to have been a target of discrimination, harassment, or insensitivity both on and off campus. UWL is viewed as less hospitable these same groups.

More students report having a disability that impacts their ability to function than report documenting their disability with Disability Resource Services. This is a particularly a concern for students with "hidden disabilities", such as mental health issues and learning disabilities.

Affective responses to diverse group**

Most respondents reported either no change in their comfort level or feeling more comfortable each "diversity group". Some respondents (10%) reported feeling less comfortable with socially conservative people ; 11% with rich people.

The university's record on diversity

Only 9% strongly agreed; another 29% either disagreed, were unsure, or unable to judge in response to "The university is "committed to educating students for a diverse society and workplace."

56% agreed or strongly agreed that "The university should increase access for persons with disabilities"

54% agreed or strongly agreed that "The university should have more art, music and cultural events that recognize distinctive cultures."

54% agreed or strongly agreed that The university should make a greater effort to increase the numbers of minority students, staff, and faculty,"

43% agreed or strongly agreed that "The university should allocate more resources toward addressing diversity issues."

Diversity content in courses

Many respondents replied "not at all" with regard to class content about diversity topics.

19% - race; 47% - on the elderly and aging ; 46% - disability issues; 44% - views of non-Christians ; 42% - sexual orientation

20% disagreed or strongly disagreed that "UWL's curriculum adequately reflects the lives, perceptions, and contributions of diverse peoples,"

36% agreed or strongly agreed that "UWL should add additional diversity course requirements."

Selected comments

Educate the white heterosexual majority that there are other people in the world except them. * More open minded administration *_Unbiased professors_* Address campus crusade as a harassing organization * Have more activities that are God honoring besides campus crusade and intervarsity.* I think having a more diverse student population would greatly help. * More required diversity classes that do not push the ideas on to people, rather allow people to come to conclusions on their own. * I think the administration needs to stop talking about diversity and actually take steps to increase the diversity. * I believe in awareness through education. * The more we advocate diversity the better this campus will be.

This summary is based on University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Student Campus Climate Survey Reports by Dr. Deb Hoskins and Ms. Sharie Brunk

* based on ANOVA among subgroups performed by Dr. Carmen Wilson

** based on descriptive statistics prepared by System Market Research