

Students

2017 Oakland University Climate Survey: Responses to Open-ended Questions

Responses to Open-end Question

The questionnaire included several questions inviting open-ended comments from respondents. In this section, we present the results for three such questions: (i) a question asking for suggestions for improving the climate, (ii) a question asking respondents to mention relevant issues of climate or demographic information not covered in the questionnaire, and (iii) a question asking respondents what Oakland University could do to increase their confidence in being able to file a complaint without negative consequences.

For all questions, we categorized the responses into commonly occurring themes in the responses provided. Each respondent's comments could be classified into a single theme if it mentioned only one or into multiple themes if the comment touched upon more than one. Therefore, when the number of mentions listed for each theme are summed up across themes, it will total to more than the number of respondents answering the question.

There were 785 students who answered the question about suggestions for improving the climate. Table I1 summarizes these themes and the number of mentions for each.

Table I1. Suggestions for improving climate

Themes	Number of mentions
Diversity issues, Respect for differences	140
Student life, social activities	101
Financial Aid/Financial	95
Curriculum, Academics	90
Faculty quality, relationship with faculty	90
Parking	78
Physical facilities	71
Commuter, resident related issues	63
Other positive	58
Dining	44
Advising	39
Support, helpfulness of faculty or staff	38
Non-traditional student issues	37
Relationship, communication with administration	37
Accessibility	32
Politics	31
Safety/security	24
Graduate students	17

Table I1. Continued

Themes	Number of mentions
Nature/outside/environment	17
University pride	16
Student feedback, student input	15
Religion	14
Market, advertising	13
Miscellaneous suggestions	12
Class schedule	8
Tutoring, mentoring	8
Wi-Fi	6
Student quality	5
Survey comments	5
Smoking ban	4
Belongingness, sense of community, friendliness	3
Bureaucracy, coordination between units	2
Clock tower	2
Other comments	34
No answer, No comment	73

Two hundred and fifty-eight students provided a response to the question about issues of climate or demographic information not covered in this questionnaire. Table I2 summarizes the themes evident in these responses and the number of mentions for each.

Table I2. Issues of climate or demographic questions not covered by the questionnaire

Themes	Number of mentions
Religion	38
Diversity/Tolerance	32
Gender, marital status, race, sexual orientation	20
Physical infrastructure, services	17
Activities/Social/student life	17
Health and Well-being issues	11
Curriculum	10
Faculty related issues	8
Dining/Food	7
Sexual harrassment and violence	7
Financial Aid	4

Table I2. continued

Themes	Number of mentions
Commuter issues	2
Mature student	1
Advising	1
Other	19
Nothing	85

Table I3 summarizes the themes and the number of mentions evident in the open ended responses to the question asking what Oakland University can do to increase confidence that one can file a complaint without negative consequences for treatment that is not fair and equitable. Note that this question was asked only to the 369 student respondents who indicated that they were *not at all* or *not very confident* that they could file a complaint without negative consequences for treatment that is not fair and equitable, of which 231 provided a response.

Table I3. What can OU do to increase confidence in filing complaint without negative consequences?

Themes	Number of mentions
Information about reporting and options	64
Confidentiality, privacy	40
Protect against retaliation	29
Faculty and staff issues and relations	20
Objectivity of/confidence in office/individuals handling issues	16
Tolerance/acceptance of various viewpoints	16
Taking concerns seriously	13
Encourage students, be open	13
Taking action	13
Comments about specific treatment	9
Policy, process	8
N/A, unsure, nothing	25