Campus Climate Survey: Taking a Deeper Look at your Campus Landscape

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Small Groups

1) What questions and concerns do you have about conducting climate surveys?
Why are climate surveys important?

- Gauges the “temperature” of a campus for all and can measure it for specific populations
- Provides evidence to inform policy and practice regarding issues of diversity, including gender
- Often a standard part of resolution agreements between OCR and colleges with Title IX compliance issues
Why are climate surveys important?

- Official statistics often underrepresent issues of harassment, personal safety, gender violence and surveys can capture attitudes and perceptions to assess problems and successes.

Survivors may feel more comfortable coming forward.
Why are climate surveys important?

- White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault recommends assessing campus climate, especially as it relates to gender violence.

However, the report does not give guidance on how best to assess.
Peterson and Spencer (1990):

(1) its primary emphasis on common participant views of a wide array of organizational phenomena that allow for comparison among groups or over time,

(2) its focus on current patterns of beliefs and behaviors, and

(3) its often ephemeral or malleable character. Climate is pervasive, potentially inclusive of a broad array of organizational phenomena, yet easily focused to fit the researcher’s or the administrator’s interest. (p. 8)
Questions to Consider

• Who should administer it?
• How do we know what is already happening?
• Who should participate?
• How do we report findings?
• Do we need IRB?
Questions to Consider

- How long should the survey or other data collection processes be?
- When should we administer it and over what period of time are we interested in measuring?
- How do we ensure confidentiality?
- How many should participate?
Recommendations from Research Analyzing Campus Climate Studies

1) Advantages/disadvantages of internal investigators

2) Utilizing a mixed-method approach

3) Consideration for the robustness of findings
5) Provide resources in event of distress

6) Transparency of methods and findings

7) Utilization of a conceptual framework(s)
Small Groups

1) From whom do you need buy-in and support on your campus to administer a climate study?

2) How can you get that support?
Questions/Discussion

What questions and concerns do you have about administering a climate study?
References
