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# Aspects of Student Initiative and Engagement

Assessing Campus Experiences Subgroup (ACES)  
June 2007 Forum

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# ACES Committee



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➤ Presenting today:

Adrienne Hamcke  
Wicker, Chair

Erin Rooney-Eckel

Julie Kromkowski

Martha Wilmes

➤ Additional members:

Robert Crane      Jen Meyers

Chip Denman      Jessica Mislevy

Patricia Hunt      Sean Simone

Sharon La Voy      Terry Zacker

With much support from  
Eowyn Ellison, IRPA

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# University of Maryland Student Survey (UMSS)

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- Annual spring survey since 1998
- Administered to Juniors and Seniors in Professional Writing
- Gathers data on upper-division undergraduates' experiences at and perceptions of UM

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# UMSS 2006



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- 84% return rate (1731 of 2070 students enrolled in Professional Writing)
  
- Topic areas
  - Attitudes about UM
  - **Academic advising experiences**
  - Financial issues
  - Academic involvement
  - Information technology issues
  - **Special undergraduate experiences**
  - **Energy conservation**

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# Academic Advising: Behaviors of a Well-Prepared Advisee

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- Three-quarters of respondents “always”
  - Pay attention to required prerequisites
  - Seek out information on major requirements
  - Prepare class schedules that fulfill academic requirements
  - Are knowledgeable about graduation requirements

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# Academic Advising: Behaviors of a Well-Prepared Advisee

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- Two-thirds of respondents “always”
  - Consult campus resources for information on university policies/regulations
  - Are aware of registration dates and related deadlines
  - Understand academic policies/procedures
  - Take initiative to contact their advisor

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# Academic Advising: Behaviors of a Well-Prepared Advisee

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- Half of respondents “always”
  - Prepare for advising in advance
  - Know where to go to resolve academic or administrative problems

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# Academic Advising: Significant Differences by Sex

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- Women more likely to “always”
  - Pay attention to required prerequisites
  - Seek out information on major requirements
  - Prepare class schedules that fulfill academic requirements
  - Be knowledgeable about graduation requirements
  - Be aware of registration dates and related deadlines
  - Prepare for advising in advance



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# Questions to Consider



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- What are some ways we can promote student initiative around academic planning?
- How can we encourage men to be more actively engaged in the advising process?

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# President's Promise Initiative



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“Every student who enters the University of Maryland shall have the chance to engage in at least one special experience that complements the academic curriculum and offers the opportunity for extraordinary personal growth.”

- Dr. C.D. Mote, Jr., President

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# President's Promise Initiative



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- Experiences included:
  - Community Service-Learning
  - International Experiences
  - Internships
  - Leadership Development
  - Learning Communities
  - Living-Learning Programs
  - Research

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# President's Promise Initiative: Community Service Participation

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- 60% of respondents engaged in community service
  
- Where do students connect with community service opportunities?
  - Greek organization
  - Another campus organization
  - Non-UM affiliation

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# President's Promise Initiative: International Experiences

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- 85% of respondents spent some time outside of their home country
- Travelers were more likely to assess their skills as “strong” for:
  - Adapting successfully to cultural expectations
  - Demonstrating knowledge of another country’s culture
  - Articulating differences between respondent’s culture and that of another country
  - Demonstrating proficiency in a language other than their native language

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# President's Promise Initiative: Internship Participation

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- 74% of respondents reported having not yet participated in an internship while at UM

## Reported obstacles:

- Must concentrate on my grades
- Haven't found an internship that appeals to me
- Have to work when not studying or in class
- Not sure how/where to find an internship
- Have lots of extra-curricular activities

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# Questions to Consider



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- How do we encourage non-participating students to engage in special undergraduate experiences?
- Once students have participated, how do we help them to make meaning of the experience in relation to their education?



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# Sustainability on Campus

It's Not Just Recycling!  
Sustainability on Campus



[www.sustainability.umd.edu](http://www.sustainability.umd.edu)



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# Sustainability on Campus: Reducing Greenhouse Gases

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“...President Mote has signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which pledges the University of Maryland -- currently one of the biggest contributors of greenhouse gases in the region -- to eventually become climate neutral (net zero GHG emissions)!!!”

-Mark Stewart, May 22, 2007

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# Sustainability on Campus: Funding Alternative Energy

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- Half of respondents “strongly agree” or “agree” that they support UM paying a premium to include renewable energy sources (such as wind and solar power) in its mix of energy sources

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# Sustainability on Campus: Recycling

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- 30% of students “rarely” or “never” recycle
- At the end of the Recyclemania 2007 competition, Maryland was recycling an average of 56,101 pounds per week
- [www.environment.umd.edu](http://www.environment.umd.edu)

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# Sustainability on Campus: Student Consumption Behaviors

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- About 40% “always” or “sometimes” open the window while heat/AC is running and take showers longer than 15 minutes
- 17% of students “rarely” or “never” turn off lights and appliances when leaving a room

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# Question to Consider



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- How do we help students understand their role in conservation and change their daily habits?

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# Discussion



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- What are some ways we can promote student initiative around academic planning?
- How can we encourage men to be more actively engaged in the advising process?
- How do we encourage non-participating students to engage in special undergraduate experiences?
- Once students have participated, how do we help them to make meaning of the experience in relation to their education?
- How do we help students understand their role in conservation and change their daily habits?



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The University of Maryland Student Survey 2006  
report is available at

[www.umd.edu/cawg](http://www.umd.edu/cawg)