

Revision of the UMC Survey

Updated
November 30, 2009

Bob Snyder, Georgia Tech
Rudy Buchheit, Ohio State
Peter Davies, University of Pennsylvania

Background

- The UMC survey has been a central self-assessment tool for the community for nearly twenty years.
- A revision subcommittee was formed in June 2009 to look at the need for changes and to make recommendations.
 - some minor changes were implemented in the 2009 survey instrument based on feedback from the June 2009 UMC meeting.
 - we are entertaining requests from MRS on new questions related to gender equity.
- Expect a fully revised survey instrument and methods for the 2009-2010 reporting cycle.

Principles guiding survey revision.

- Keep the survey focused needs of the community.
- Keep the survey as simple and straightforward as possible.
- Minimize opportunities for interpretation in the survey instrument.
- Make the raw and synthesized data accessible electronically.

New additions to the survey.

- Added request for name of degrees offered.
- Added request for the value start-up packages offered by rank.
- Added details in request on research expenditures (separated faculty rank).
- Requested information on whether departments engaged an Associate Chair on a paid basis.
- Other minor clarifications and corrections.

On-going issues.

- Institution-to-institution variations in time period used for reporting.
- Much interpretation still needed in the survey.
- Some data collected but not rolled up and reported back.
- Electronic accessibility of raw data.
- Report formatting and error checking.