

Student Satisfaction Survey

Penn State students rate...

TEACHING QUALITY: 31.9%

COURSE AVAILABILITY: 68.2%

OUT OF CLASS EXPERIENCE: 69.3%
(clubs / sports)

SENSE OF BELONGING AT PSU: 79.0%

FACULTY AVAILABILITY: 33.1%
(Opportunity to meet with faculty outside of class)

Source: 2010 Student Satisfaction Summary Report

Jaelyn McKay/Collegian

Survey reflects satisfied students

By Micah Wintner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State students are satisfied with their college experience in Happy Valley, according to the 2010 student satisfaction survey.

Nearly 30,000 University Park and Commonwealth Campus students were e-mailed the survey, which asked students to rate factors such as their sense of belonging at Penn State and the overall quality of campus security.



Harper

Betty Harper, director of Student Affairs Research and Assessment, said the results are sent to the deans of each college and to representatives from all of Penn State's campuses.

According to the survey, 80.2 percent of University Park students surveyed in 2002 said they would choose to attend Penn State if they had to start college again. That number increased to 91.6 percent in the 2010 survey.

Despite decreases in satisfaction in some areas, Harper said they were minimal.

"If you look at the numbers it was a very minor decrease. It doesn't overwhelmingly concern me," she said.

For example, overall satisfaction with the campus bookstore decreased by .2 percent, and resources for minority students decreased by .5 percent.

But these decreases didn't overshadow the high percentage of student satisfaction in most other areas.

According to the survey, 81.9

"It was a very minor decrease. It doesn't overwhelmingly concern me."

Betty Harper
Student Affairs Research and Assessment director

percent of students reported that they were happy with the quality of their classroom facilities, and 83.4 percent said they were satisfied with the level of academic integrity.

Only 68.8 percent of students said they were satisfied with academic advising, according to the survey, a low percentage compared to the results in other categories. Linda Higginson, assistant dean for advising, said the response rate among division of undergraduate studies students was "unhealthy."

"Less than 100 students responded, which is very disappointing when you consider how large DUS is," Higginson said.

Overall response rate to the survey was only 17 percent, a number both Higginson and Harper said they would like to see increase in future surveys.

Harper said the survey's length — eight pages — could be a deterrent when students consider filling it out.

"Every time we do a survey that's one of the things we look at. Can we shorten it?" Harper said.

The results did show an increase in satisfaction in campus sports facilities, health care services and counseling and psychological services.

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No plans to recolonize chapter

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Phi Delta Theta's alumni Board of Directors say there are no plans in the works to recolonize the chapter at Penn State.

Its national headquarters disbanded the fraternity in 2008 for violating the chapter's alcohol policies, former Phi Delta Theta president Kevin Haslam said.

The same alcohol policy is hindering the board of directors from recolonizing, board member Sandy Deveney said. The current alcohol policy caused the demise of the Penn State chapter, he said.

"Until headquarters comes up with a more acceptable alcohol policy, we have no plans ... to recolonize at Penn State," Deveney said.

He said the Phi Delta Theta alumni Board of Directors will discuss what they will do with their money at a December meeting.

"We're basically standing on the sidelines right now," he said. "We have the money to get another house if we wanted it, but at this point in time there's no point throwing ourselves back in the hole if we don't agree with our national chapter."

After legal disputes, Penn State purchased the property of the former Phi Delta Theta house in May 2010 for \$ 1.75 million.

Interfraternity Council (IFC)



Bryan Wade Heritage/Collegian

Construction workers demolish the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house in August. There are no current plans to recolonize a Penn State chapter.

President Max Wendkos said the IFC never expelled Phi Delta Theta from the IFC. Wendkos (senior-psychology and marketing) said he believes former brothers have joined with Tau Delta Phi, another fraternity.

But before they recolonized with Tau Delta Phi, the former brothers attempted to re-emerge as a local fraternity called the Phi Society, Haslam, Class of 2010, said.

The attempt was unsuccessful because Penn State does not allow local fraternities, and the two other chapters of the Phi Society declined to form a national chapter, he said.

"At that point, Tau Delta Phi approached the former brothers and said they wanted to take us on because the brothers had a lot of 'character,'" Haslam said.

Haslam said it is possible that students who were pledging Phi Delta Theta — who were encouraged to join other fraternities but declined to do so — are still living in fraternity houses now. But all former brothers of Phi Delta Theta have graduated, he said.

The property, 243 N. Burrowes Rd., is currently undergoing construction to be converted into a green space.

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LGBTQA seeks input for coordinator

By Matt Scorzafave
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally (LGBTQA) Student Resource Center is searching for a programming coordinator and hoping for student input.

Brian Patchcoski, the assistant director of the LGBTQA Student Resource Center, said the newly created position will be funded by the Division of Student Affairs through June 30, 2012. At that time the university will evaluate its financial standing and whether the position has proven to be beneficial, he said.

"We're being held accountable, which is good," Patchcoski said.

According to an email sent out by the LGBTQA Student Resource Center, the person filling the position will "be responsible for the design and implementation of educational programming and outreach to LGBTQA under-served

populations on campus."

Allison Jones, president of Rainbow Roundtable, said LGBTQA will be hosting a lunch and presentation today and next Thursday to introduce the potential candidates to students and get their input.

Patchcoski said the center began its search to fulfill the position late this past summer and had a large pool of candidates.

Patchcoski said he believes adding the position will be beneficial to students.

"We need to outreach and continue to expand in order to make sure we're meeting the needs of Penn State students, State College residents and students across the commonwealth," he said.

Students in the LGBTQA community said they were excited upon hearing of the new position.

"I think it's very necessary since Penn State's LGBTQA Student Resource Center runs

If you go

What: LGBTQA Programming Coordinator Interviews

When: 12 p.m. today

Where: 107 HUB

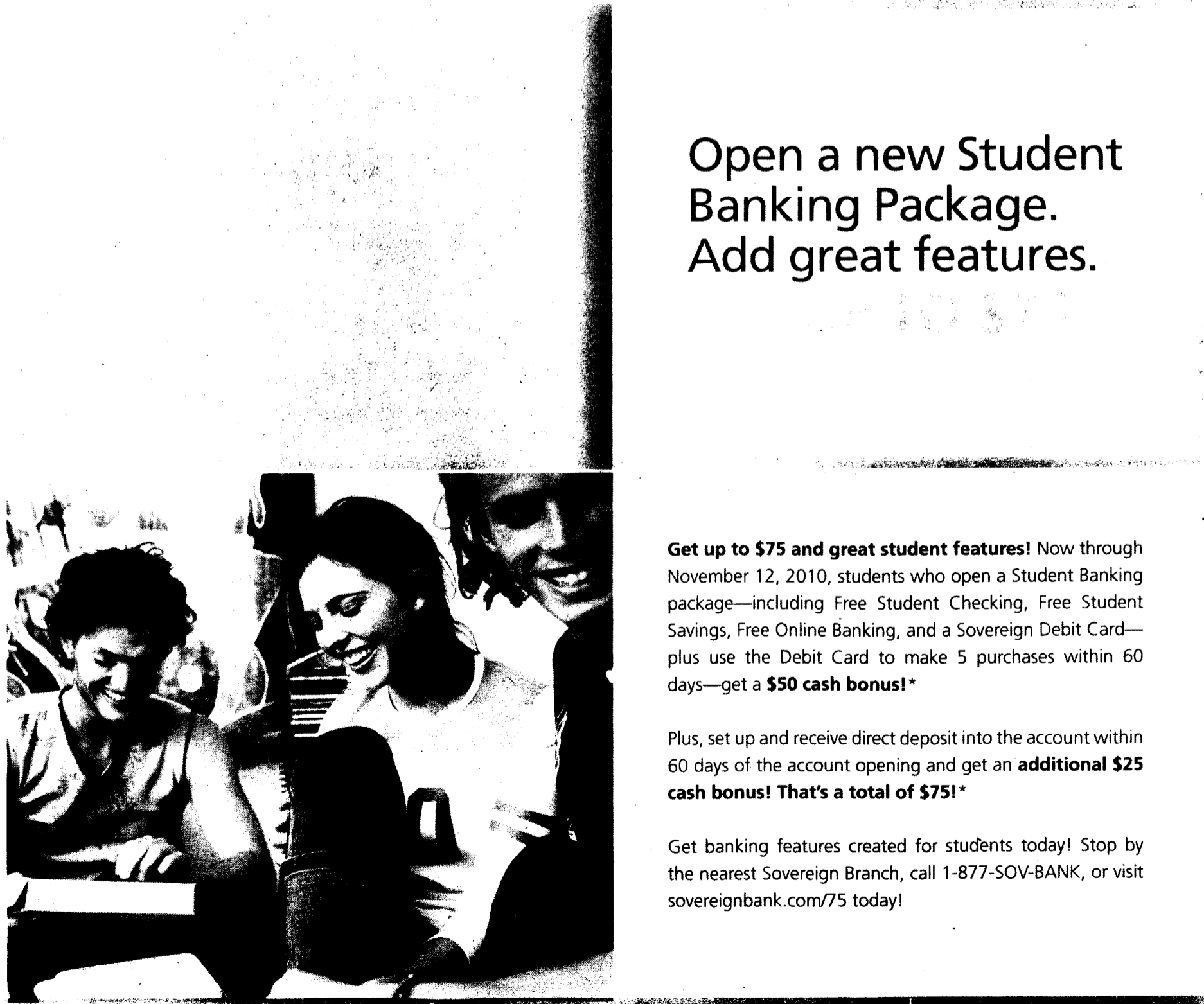
the most program resources in the nation," Julian Haas (junior-sociology) said.

Haas, an intern with the center, said he has been pleased with Penn State's attempts to reach out to the community.

Today's lunch and presentation will feature Edward Johns, a peer adviser from the University of Hawaii-Hilo, Jones (senior-nursing) said.

Patchcoski said he is excited to see what the future holds. "This is reiterating that we are doing our best work to reach all groups on campus," he said.

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