

Student Evaluation of Teaching and Units: Summer Semester 2004

About the survey

Student evaluation of teaching and units for the summer semester took place in March 2004. This was the first time the survey was conducted for a summer semester. On this occasion, the survey was conducted entirely using paper-based survey forms. The forms were sent to enrolled students by standard mail in late February 2004, and responses were accepted up to the end of March 2004.

About the survey questions and scale

The survey for the summer semester contained 18 questions. For each question, students were asked to choose a response on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), or to choose NA if they believed that the question did not apply to them in that unit.

Table 1: Survey questions

Questions related to teaching	
1.	The teaching staff of this unit stimulated my interest in further learning.
2.	The teaching staff of this unit motivated me to do my best work.
3.	The teaching staff gave me helpful feedback on how I was going.
4.	The teaching staff gave me helpful feedback on how I was going.
5.	This unit was well taught.
6.	I had a clear idea of what was expected of me in this unit.
7.	Course materials in this unit were of a high quality.
Questions related to the unit	
8.	This unit developed my analytical skills.
9.	This unit developed my problem-solving skills.
10.	This unit developed my written communication skills.
11.	This unit developed my ability to work as a team member.
12.	I consider what I learned in this unit valuable for my future.
13.	The library learning resources were appropriate for my needs in this unit.
14.	My experience in this unit encouraged me to value perspectives of people from different cultures.
15.	The amount of work required in this unit has been appropriate.
16.	Requirements for completing assessment tasks in this unit have been clear and specific.
17.	I would recommend this unit to other students.
18.	The use of on-line technologies in this unit enhanced my learning experience.

Questions 5, 17 and 18 are used in the Council Performance Indicators. These questions are highlighted in **bold type** in the figures and tables in this report. Figure 3 shows the mean response for these three questions for all students and at the faculty level.

The results reported for this survey are for **valid** responses for each question, in which the student has chosen a response from 1 to 5. Because 'NA' and 'did not answer' responses are excluded from the results, the number of responses reported for a question may vary from the overall number of responses and from the number of responses for other questions.

The **mean response** for each question has been calculated by adding the numerical value (on the scale 1 to 5) of each valid response and dividing by the number of valid responses for that question.

Percentage agreement for each question is determined from the number of responses 4 (agree) or 5 (strongly agree) as a percentage of all valid responses to that question.

Response rates

Approximately 750 responses were received from 2900 unit enrolments, giving an overall response rate of 26%. This is significantly lower than both semester 1 (response rate 43%) and semester 2 (response rate 38%) in 2003.

The overall response rates for each faculty, campus, mode of attendance, offshore status and gender are shown alongside the detailed results for these categories in Table 3.

Limitations

There are a number of factors which impose limitations on the analysis of the results of this survey or on comparisons with results from the previous surveys.

Sample size

The number of enrolled students in the summer semester was much smaller than the number in either semester 1 or semester 2 in 2003 (around 4% of semester 2 enrolments), as was the number of responses.

Population characteristics

The summer semester student population was notably different in a number of characteristics from the population in semesters 1 and 2, and these differences can be expected to have an effect on the overall mean and percentage figures. For example, over 75% of summer semester unit enrolments were off-campus, compared to under 50% in semesters 1 and 2. Similarly, while around 20% of unit enrolments in summer semester were to offshore students, the corresponding figure in semester 2 was less than 5%, and offshore students were not included in the survey in semester 1, 2003.

Results

Despite the limitations mentioned above, the mean responses to each question for all students were notably similar to the semester 1 and semester 2, 2003 results, with the mean response varying from the previous surveys by less than 0.2 for each question.

Questions 12 ('I consider what I learned in this unit valuable for my future') and 17 ('I would recommend this unit to other students') were once again the highest scoring questions in mean response and in percentage agreement, as shown in Table 2 and Figures 1 and 2.

Table 2: Summary of responses (all students)

	No. of responses	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Percentage agreement	Mean responses		
								Summer 2004	Sem 1 2003	Sem 2 2003
Teaching										
1	693	6%	10%	32%	27%	25%	52%	3.5	3.6	3.5
2	701	6%	12%	30%	30%	22%	52%	3.5	3.5	3.5
3	686	9%	13%	29%	30%	19%	49%	3.4	3.3	3.3
4	649	7%	14%	31%	26%	23%	49%	3.4	3.4	3.4
5	683	7%	14%	27%	29%	23%	52%	3.5	3.7	3.6
6	728	7%	13%	27%	31%	21%	52%	3.5	3.6	3.6
7	724	6%	12%	31%	31%	20%	51%	3.5	3.6	3.6
Units										
8	728	4%	10%	34%	37%	15%	52%	3.5	3.5	3.5
9	718	3%	10%	36%	35%	16%	51%	3.5	3.4	3.4
10	716	4%	12%	38%	33%	13%	46%	3.4	3.4	3.4
11	597	9%	16%	30%	27%	19%	45%	3.3	3.2	3.3
12	739	4%	7%	21%	36%	32%	68%	3.8	3.9	3.8
13	596	8%	16%	39%	25%	12%	37%	3.2	3.2	3.3
14	601	6%	12%	38%	29%	15%	44%	3.4	3.2	3.3
15	739	4%	9%	32%	39%	16%	55%	3.5	3.7	3.6
16	738	8%	10%	26%	36%	20%	56%	3.5	3.6	3.6
17	725	7%	8%	26%	31%	29%	59%	3.7	3.7	3.6
18	580	10%	15%	35%	26%	14%	40%	3.2	3.2	3.3

A number of questions yielded low results, in particular question 13 ('The library learning resources were appropriate for my needs in this unit') and question 18 ('The use of on-line technologies in this unit enhanced my learning experience'). For both of these questions, the mean response of 3.2 (see Figure 1) was barely above the neutral level (3), and under 40% of students agreed or strongly agreed with these two statements (see Figure 2). As with the highest scoring questions, questions 5 and 18 were the lowest scoring questions in the semester 1 and semester 2 surveys in 2003 and received very similar scores for both mean response and percentage agreement.

Other questions which yielded a percentage agreement of under 50% were questions 3, 4, 10, 11 and 14.

Figure 1: Mean responses to each question (all students)

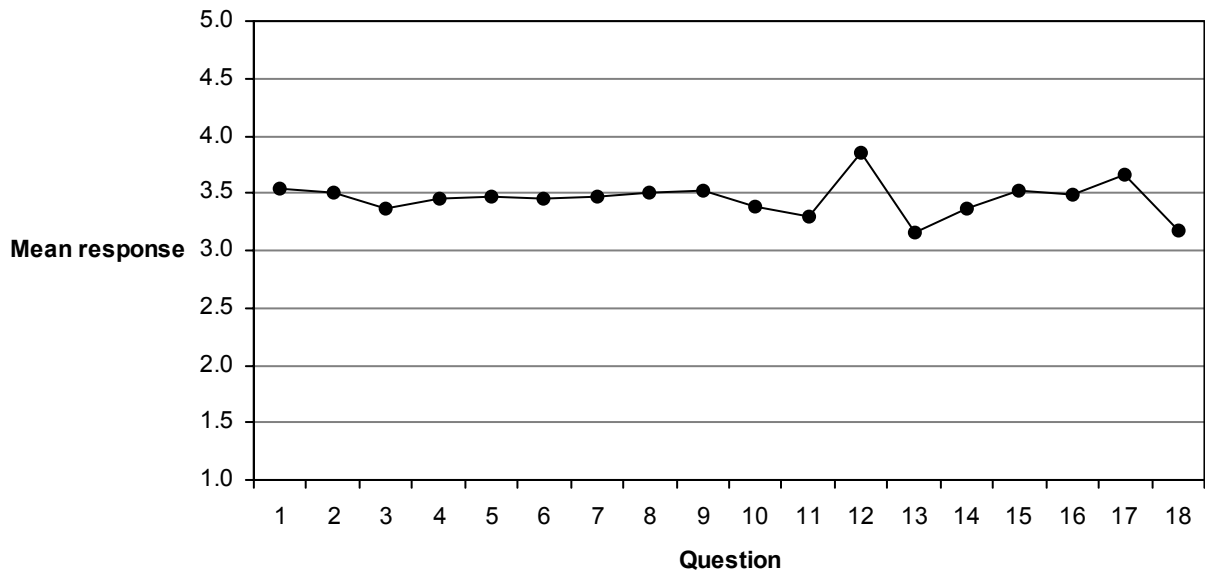
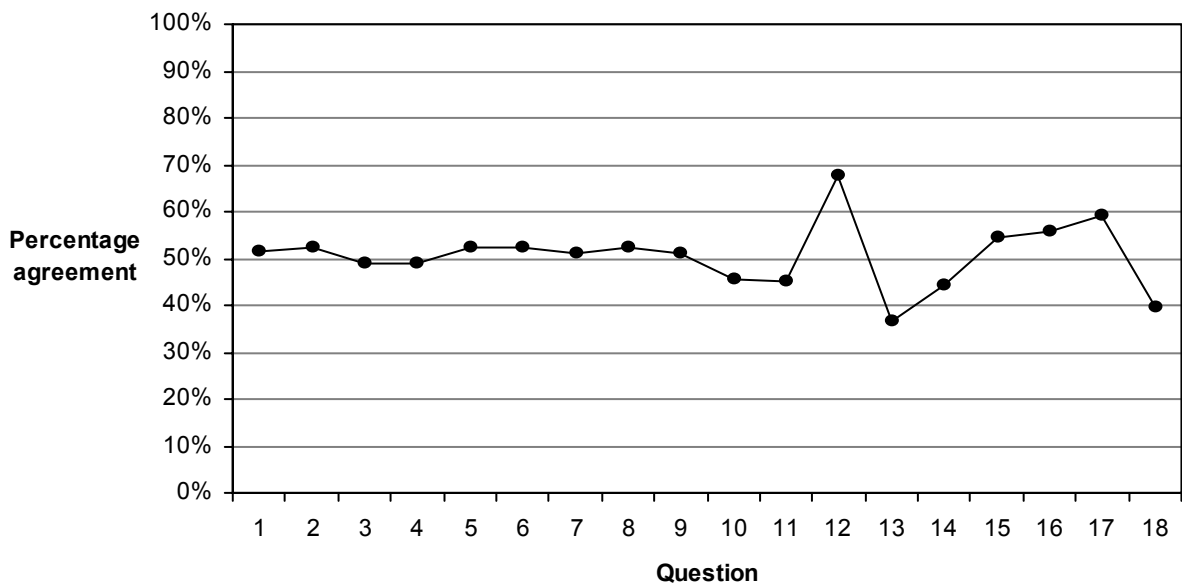


Figure 2: Percentage agreement for each question (all students)



Tables 3 and 4 below show the mean responses for each question by faculty, campus, citizenship and gender. In these tables, offshore students have been displayed separately at the campus level. Note also that although the Faculty of Education and the Waurn Ponds, Waterfront and Warrnambool campuses show generally very high results, the number of responses in each of these categories is very low, and care must be taken in drawing conclusions about these results.

Table 3: Comparison of mean responses – Teaching questions

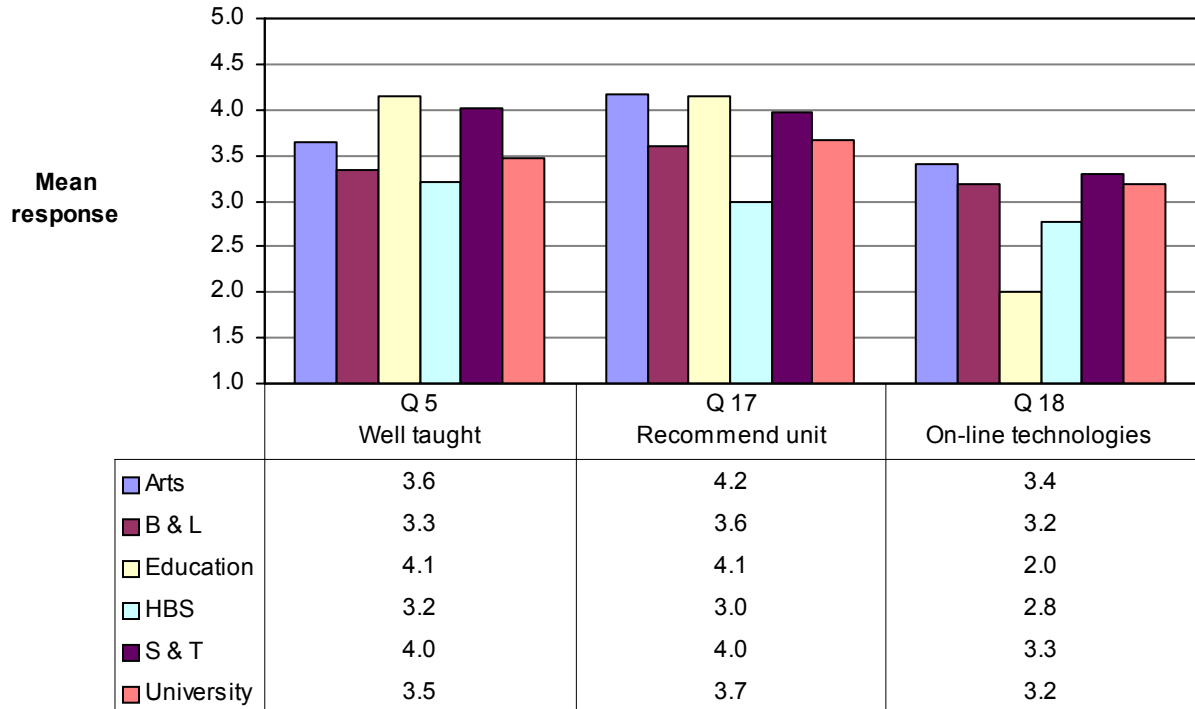
	Responses	Response							
		Rate	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7
All students	746	26%	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.5
Faculty									
Arts	42	29%	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.7
B & L	527	24%	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4
Education	7	21%	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.5	4.1	4.0	3.6
HBS	43	30%	3.6	3.4	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.7
S & T	127	34%	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.8
Campus									
Burwood	129	25%	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.4
Waurn Ponds	31	30%	4.4	4.4	4.0	4.3	4.5	3.9	4.1
Waterfront	20	53%	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0
Warrnambool	7	29%	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.2
Offshore	125	23%	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.3
Off-campus	434	27%	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4
Citizenship									
Domestic	428	32%	3.7	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.6
International	318	21%	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.3
Gender									
Female	421	27%	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Male	325	25%	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5

Table 4: Comparison of mean responses – Unit questions

	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18
All students	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.8	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.2
Faculty											
Arts	3.5	3.2	3.7	3.0	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.9	3.9	4.2	3.4
B & L	3.5	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.2
Education	3.1	3.9	3.4	4.4	4.3	2.8	2.6	4.3	3.7	4.1	2.0
HBS	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.5	2.9	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8
S & T	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.4	4.0	3.2	2.9	3.6	3.6	4.0	3.3
Gender											
Female	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.8	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.1
Male	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.2
Citizenship											
Domestic	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.4	4.0	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.2
International	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2
Campus											
Burwood	3.4	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.0
Geelong	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.3	3.6	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.5	3.5
Waterfront	3.7	3.8	2.9	2.8	4.1	2.7	3.2	3.9	4.2	4.3	3.8
Warrnambool	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.5	4.6	3.4	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.6	3.3
Offshore	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.7	2.9	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.3
Off-campus	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.9	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.1

The mean responses for the three questions which are used as Council Performance Indicators are shown in Figure 3 below for all students and at the faculty level. The Faculty of Education shows the strongest results for questions 5 and 17 and the weakest for question 18, although with only 7 responses from 34 summer enrolments, these results must be treated with caution. The Faculties of Arts and Science and Technology both scored consistently above the University average for all three of these questions.

Figure 3: Council Performance Indicator questions (all students and by faculty)



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