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Investigating the Impacts of COVID-19 and social/political activism on College of Science Students

How do College of Science Students feel about returning to campus?

- I feel unstable and uncertain about how events will pass during Fall Semester 2020.
- I am uncomfortable with the level of uncertainty surrounding the Fall Semester.
- I look forward to returning to campus in the Fall.

Results

We are in the early stages of analyzing data, but so far we have collected a sample of quantitative answers that help paint a picture of where College of Science students stand. Out of 137 responses:

1. Students tend to feel that coming to campus presents health/safety risks, but they learn better with in-person courses.
2. 64% of students have been engaging in activism this summer, and 54% plan to spend at least a moderate amount of time engaging in activism after Fall Semester 2020 begins.
3. Only 25.6% of students prefer an all in-person experience in the fall.
4. The majority (54%) of student responses indicated a preference for asynchronous courses.

Conclusions

While we have begun analyzing the quantitative data received, this is merely the beginning of understanding the survey responses from each individual. Our qualitative questions ask how we can solve the problems at hand, and many students have given well-thought-out responses. It will take time to process and translate the answers into data that we are able to present. For the time being, we have a clue as to what problems need solving.

What Problems Need Solving?

- Mental health balancing
- Community strength
- Certainty in academic year schedule plans

What Do Students Want?

- Discussions implemented in the curriculum of intersections between science and social issues
- Heavy safety precautions for COVID-19

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