2004 CIRP Survey Results

National Norms

- Freshmen are more politically polarized, as a record number stated they were politically “far left” (3.4 percent) and “far right” (2.2 percent).

- Increasing numbers of students have labeled themselves as “liberal” (26.1 percent) or “conservative” (21.9 percent).

- An all-time high of 85.7 percent of respondents said they used a computer on a frequent basis in the past year, while in 1985, only 27.3 percent said they did.

- Over 90 percent of Asian American freshmen noted that they used personal computers “frequently”, whereas only about 75 percent of African Americans had the same response.

- The national results show that nearly 80 percent of the freshmen responding to the survey think that there is a possibility that they will get a job to help pay for educational expenses.

- More than 36 percent of females said they frequently feel overwhelmed, compared to just 16 percent of males.

- A record of 47.5 percent of respondents nationally reported earning “A” averages in high school.

- Freshmen who said they were “bored in class” during their last year of high school amounted to 42.8 percent.

- Of the freshmen responding in 2004, approximately 82 percent stated that they participated in volunteer work during their senior year in high school.

- Community service was a requirement for graduation for one third of the respondents.

- “Helping to promote racial understanding” was noted as an “essential” or “very important” personal goal for only 29.7 percent of freshmen in 2004, compared to 46.4 percent in 1992.
2004 CIRP Survey Results

Shippensburg Results
- A larger number of 2004 freshmen at Shippensburg agree “strongly” or “somewhat” that “wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now” compared to the 2004 National Average and 2002 freshmen at Shippensburg.

- Compared to the National Average in 2004, a considerably lower percentage of SU freshmen in 2004 reported they had an average high school grade of “A” or “A+”.

- Fewer Shippensburg University freshmen in 2004 said that chances are “very good” that they will “communicate regularly with (their) professors” than did the SU freshmen in 2002.

- A slightly higher percentage of 2004 freshmen at SU (close to 8%) stated that chances are “very good” that they will “transfer to another college before graduating” when compared to the 2004 National Average and 2002 freshmen at Shippensburg.

- In 2004, more students reported that the distance from their home to Shippensburg University is 101 to 500 miles than previously reported in 2002 and the National Average.

- While the results show that fewer SU students are expecting financial assistance from family members in 2004, more students are expecting $10,000 or more as compared to students in 2002.

- Over 50 percent of respondents at Shippensburg in 2004 stated that they did not expect “any aid which need not be repaid”.

- More than 55 percent of freshmen as SU in 2004 are planning to use their own savings to pay for some educational expenses.

- A higher percentage of Shippensburg freshmen in 2004, over 55 percent, expect to pay for educational expenses with “aid which must be repaid”.

- Objectives considered to be essential or very important by Shippensburg University freshmen in 2004 were “raising a family”, with over 80 percent of respondents, and “being very well off financially”, over 75 percent.

- The objectives considered to be essential or very important receiving the fewest responses were “becoming accomplished in one of the performing arts” and “making a theoretical contribution to science” with just over 10 percent each.
2004 CIRP Survey Results

Shippensburg Results (cont.)

• Nationwide in 2004, more students estimated their parents’ total income last year to be over $100,000 than was reported by students at Shippensburg.

• About 55 percent of Shippensburg University students in 2004 stated that “this college has a very good academic reputation” was a “very important” reason to attend SU.

• Nearly 80 percent of SU freshmen in 2004 said “to be able to get a better job” was a “very important” reason in deciding to go to college.

• Freshmen at Shippensburg (almost 70%) rated themselves as “above average” or in the “highest 10%” with regard to cooperativeness.

• According to the survey results in 2004, Shippensburg students spent more time in the past year doing household/childcare duties than students nationwide.

• Over 40 percent of SU freshmen in 2004 indicated that they spent no time in prayer or meditation during the last year.

• Results show that a smaller percentage of Shippensburg students read for pleasure than do students across the country, while a higher percentage of SU students watch TV.

• Shippensburg freshmen spent notably more time socializing with friends than the national average.

• Both nationally and at Shippensburg, over 95 percent of freshmen spent some time in exercise or sports during the past year.

• Compared to 2002, freshmen at SU in 2004 spent more time in student clubs and groups.

• Although 2004 results show that respondents at Shippensburg studied more than those in 2002, they continue to spend less time studying than the national average.

• Nearly 90 percent of SU freshmen in 2004 said that they spent some time talking with teachers outside of the class.

• While Shippensburg freshmen in 2004 reported spending more time playing video/computer games than the national average, more of them reported spending no time playing such games than SU freshmen in 2002.
Shippensburg Results (cont.)

- Results from the 2004 survey show an increase in involvement in volunteer work over 2002, but Shippensburg students remain less involved than students from other institutions.

- Fewer students nationwide reported spending time working for pay than Shippensburg students in 2004, although numbers decreased from 2002.