

COSA 2011 Evaluation

Brief description of program:

ASUU's 7th annual Conference on Social Awareness (COSA) was held on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at the University of Utah's J. Willard Marriott Library. This year's conference theme was "Creating Equity Through Opportunity." Undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, faculty, and community members were invited to participate in this conference. The central purpose of COSA is to create conversations and support continued dialogue regarding overcoming historic inequalities on campus and within our society.

Who was asked to complete survey (e.g., "students who attended..."):

Conference attendees included undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff from the University of Utah and surrounding institutions of higher education (e.g., Westminster College, Utah Valley University, and Salt Lake Community College).

Response rate: 30.5% (29 of 95)

Administration Type: StudentVoice e-mail

Summary of Key Findings:

Perhaps one of the most encouraging finding was the increased awareness on issues of social justice expressed by participants. 76% of conference participants indicated that they strongly or moderately agreed that COSA inspired them to participate in future efforts to ensure social justice. Additionally, social justice awareness increased for participants. Specifically, 24% of participants identified as being extremely aware of social justice issues prior to attending COSA. 40% of participants indicated feeling extremely aware of social justice issues after attending COSA. Aside from the developmental goals of COSA, we received valuable feedback from participants that showed strong support for continuing COSA on a Saturday early in the spring semester. In addition, participants shared several valuable ideas on conference structure and possible topics of interest for COSA 2012.

Actions Taken:

The data indicated a fairly significant desire to increase the length of both the conference and the allotted time for breakout sessions. A large number of participants indicated a desire to address immigration and disability topics at future conferences. A final action items indicated by the data seems to be exploring the need to involve undergraduate and graduate faculty in both the planning and promoting of this event. Several participants indicated they heard about the conference through a faculty and were also required to attend as part of a class assignment. All of these findings and suggestions will be included in COSA transition material to the 2011-2012 Diversity Board Director and the COSA planning committee. COSA has been scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 4, 2012 in the Student Union Building.

Which department and/or program goals does this survey align with?

Both Student Affairs and ASUU are committed to examine the effectiveness of programs and activities in an effort to better meet the changing needs of the student body.

Which Student Affairs goals (http://www.sa.utah.edu/assessment/pdf/StrategicPlanBrochure-lettersize_000.pdf) does this survey align with?

1. Develop students as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the body, mind and spirit.
2. Provide education that ensures all staff is properly trained to provide professional and competent service.
3. Promote diversity on campus through effective programming
5. Partner with faculty, staff and external constituencies to foster student development and enhance the greater community.
6. Utilize a coordinated assessment, evaluation and research approach to promote data driven decision-making.