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SCSU Survey

Winter 1986

SCSU Student Political Socialization Survey [Winter 1986]

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SUMMARY OF METHODOLOGY SCSU STUDENT POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION SURVEY 2/86

Under the direction of Dr. Steve Frank (SCSU Associate Professor of Political Science) about 60 students in two of his introductory classes of American National Government conducted a telephone survey of currently enrolled SCSU students from February 2-6, 1986. Class members had the option of participating in the survey or doing another project. A majority chose the survey option. Last year Frank's students conducted two less rigorous telephone surveys that were used as pretests for this study.

The purpose of the survey was to examine some aspects of the political tolerance of SCSU students and their political socialization. Most questions were adopted from previously administered national and local studies. Several steps were taken to ensure that the telephone survey sample was a true scientific random sample of SCSU students who were enrolled winter quarter 1985/1986. Administrative Services randomly drew the names of students with telephones who were currently enrolled. Graduate, special and part-time students were included. 714 numbers were drawn. The disposition of the numbers was:

465 completed interviews
 44 students contacted and refused
 92 could not be reached (In order to reach hard-to get students each number was called up to four times over different days. Long distance numbers were included. Appointments were made when necessary.)
 58 no answers
 9 other
 26 out of area such as in England
 3 not attending SCSU
 17 not working numbers

 714

In samples of 465 completed interviews the overall error due to sampling and other random effects is estimated at approximately plus/minus 5% at the 95% level of confidence. For subsamples, such as males and females the sample error is larger. The characteristics of the sample matched the characteristics of the larger population so well that no weighting procedure was employed. The completion rate for the survey was 91.5%. Completion rate is defined as once a student was contacted he or she agreed or refused to participate in the survey.

The following is a breakdown of the demographic characteristics compared to population characteristics supplied by the SCSU Office of Institutional Studies.

	Sample	SCSU Population
Males	46%	48%
Females	54	52

Class Standing (There are some minor differences between the survey's classification of students, such as special students, and the procedure used by Inst. Studies)

Freshmen	24%	27%
Sophomores	23	22
Juniors	21	20
Seniors	20	18
Fifth Year & Special	3	4
Graduate Students	9%	9%

Student Major By College (The survey only classified one major while Inst. Studies counts double majors. Also the survey counted intended majors within a college while Inst. Studies is more likely to count these as undecided.)

College of Business	31%	25%
Education	18	18
Fine Arts & Human.	11	12
Science & Tech.	16	18
Social Sciences	9	9
None/Other	15%	18

Residence

Live in Dorms	26%	25%
Walking Distance of Campus	38	n. a.
Commute	35	n. a.
Other	<1%	n. a.

Religion (No university information available for the following.)

Catholic	49%
Lutheran	23
Baptist	3
Presbyterian	3
Methodist	5
Episcopalian	<1
Other Prot.	3
None	9
Other	4%

Born Again

Yes	15%
No	85%

Rough Measure of Political Party Affiliation

Republican	26%
Democrat	22
Independent	37
Something else	9
Don't know/other	6%

Rough Measure of Student's Self-Described Political Ideology

Very conservative	4%
Somewhat conservative	18
Moderate	40
Somewhat liberal	30
Very liberal	6
Don't know/other	2%

The total survey consisted of 54 questions. Further material on the survey's methodology and findings are available by contacting Dr. Steve Frank.

DR. STEVE FRANK IS A MEMBER OF THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH (M.A.P.O.R.) AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH AND SUBSCRIBES TO THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE A.A.P.O.R.