Over the past several semesters the Criminal Justice Department has distributed senior surveys to graduating seniors. The return rate was rather low so the surveys were distributed in CJ Seminar class and now we have 100% return rate. The results are based on the returns of 127 surveys.

Currently whites are the predominate race of graduating seniors. Only 5 (4%) identified themselves as other than white. Criminal justice majors may minor in any discipline but are not required to. Eighty -four (66%) chose a minor with 39 students selecting psychology as the most frequent minor (46%). Sociology (12%) and Spanish (11%) were the next two most frequent minors.

When asked why they chose criminal justice as a major over half (51%) selected personal interest as the main reason they chose criminal justice as a major. Over 40 percent selected multiple reasons for becoming criminal justice majors.

Another question on the survey asked students about their career interests. Forty four percent chose law enforcement, 10 percent selected probation and parole, almost 8 percent were interested in retail loss/ insurance investigations, while 5 percent selected law school and another 2 percent were interested in graduate school. Overwhelming most of our students are interested in starting a criminal justice career after graduation.

One section of the survey asked about the program and faculty. When asked how well they know their academic advisor- over half (55%) indicated very well, 34 percent said somewhat well, while only about 10 percent said not very well or not at all. It should be that way since all criminal justice majors are assigned a criminal justice faculty member as an academic advisor.

When asked how satisfied they were with their criminal justice education – 38 percent were extremely satisfied and 55 percent were very well satisfied. Only 7 percent were somewhat well satisfied or not satisfied with the program. As a result when asked if they would chose a criminal justice major again the vast majority of students (88%) would in fact do it again. As for employment in the cj system 10 students (8%) had accepted a full time position after graduation while 6 (5%) had accepted a part time position in the criminal justice field.

The final question of the survey asked students to rate how well the Criminal Justice Department through its curriculum did in meeting the mission and objectives of the Department.

Eleven mission/objectives were listed out. Responses could be; NA; not very well, adequately well, very well or extremely well (for several questions not at all was also an option).

1. The department fulfills its mission to provide its majors with the best possible education in cj by through providing with a critical understanding of the total cj system. Only 2 students responded not very well or NA (1.6%). Seventy -one (56%) responded very well and 41 (32%) stated extremely well.
2. The department provides opportunities to examine critically the broad question of how justice is administered in American Society. Only one student responded not very well, while 13 (10%) responded adequately well, 71 (56) every well and 41 (32%) responded extremely well.

3. The department interacts with cj and social service agencies in the realm of applied research, training, and planned change to meet social and technological challenges. Nine students (7.3%) responded NA or not very well, 20% adequately, 44% very well and 28% said extremely well.

4. I understand the fundamental concepts related to the interrelationship of various components within the criminal justice system (i.e., law enforcement, courts, and corrections). Only 1 student relied not very well to this statement. Seven said adequately well, while 55 (43%) said very well and 61 (48%) said extremely well.

5. I can apply criminological theories in explaining criminal behavior and the criminal justice process. Four students responded not very well to this, 29 said adequately, 56 very well and 36 said extremely well. This one is interesting since all cj majors must that a theory course.

6. I have demonstrated my ability to formulate a problem/topic, assemble relevant research and resources, and synthesize the data in a manner to constitute a formal proposal or research paper. For this only 1 said not very well. 82% responded very well or extremely well for this objective.

7. I can analyze and evaluate social, cultural, and technological change and its impact on the criminal justice system. This one is a little more problematic. 34 said not very well or only adequately well. This is one we need to work on.

8. I understand, can analyze, and critically evaluate social research. For this one not at all was included as a possible response. One replied not at all, and 3 said not very well. 36 said adequately, 57 said very and 28 replied extremely well. For this one I think we are doing OK as all cj majors have to take a research course either in cj, sociology or psychology.

9. I understand and can display a working knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods. The numbers for this one are almost identical to the previous objective.

10. I am able to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of substantive areas within the discipline of criminal justice. For this one, 1 student said not at all, one said not very well and 17 said adequately. On the other hand almost 40% (49) replied extremely well. So I guess we are getting the point across to most students.

11. I have the educational foundation to apply my knowledge toward further study and careers. For this one the responses were NA, adequately well, very well, extremely well. Only 9 of 126 respondents replied NA or adequately well. Seventy – seven (61%) replied extremely well.

Overall I think our student are satisfied with their criminal justice education. Number 7 is the objective we need to work on – analyze and evaluate social, cultural and technological change and its impact on the cj system.

Respectively submitted by
Tom Caywood, Chairman