

M E M O R A N D U M

# JCCC

---

Johnson County Community College  
Office of Institutional Research - COM 305  
12345 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, Kansas 66210-1299  
(913) 469-8500

DATE: October, 2011  
TO: Kim Criner  
FROM: Gina Brewer  
SUBJECT: FACULTY SURVEY OF SUSTAINABILITY—FALL 2011

The Office of Institutional Research was recently asked to survey JCCC faculty members to gain insight into their perceptions of and interest in sustainability. The survey was administered electronically via email to 1,012 current faculty members; one follow-up email was sent as a reminder to those who had not responded. In total, 423 surveys were submitted, resulting in a response rate of 42%.

Survey respondents were 42% male and 58% female. Respondents' ages ranged from 24 to 82 years old with an average age of 51. Ninety-four percent of those responding were Caucasian. Forty-five percent were full-time faculty members; 55% were adjunct faculty members.

Results are highlighted in the following bulleted points and detailed tables.

- Twenty-five percent of respondents indicated they understand the term 'sustainability' very well; 41% indicated they understand it well.
- More than two-thirds of respondents associated the following words with the term 'sustainability': renewable, recycling, future generations, daily habits, green, responsibility, and ecosystems.
- Although 77% of those responding agreed or strongly agreed that sustainability should be an important part of education, only 55% agreed that they try to promote an understanding of sustainability among their students.
- Twenty-two percent of respondents are not interested in adding content concerning sustainability to their courses. However, 37% would consider integrating sustainability into their curriculum if they had examples of successful course outlines or assignments from elsewhere, and 30% would if they had information about online or print resources.
- Thirty-eight percent of respondents perceive not enough time in the semester as a barrier to integrating sustainability into their course; 28% indicated they are not familiar enough with the topic to address it thoroughly.

Table 1  
How Well Do You Believe You Understand the Meaning of the Term “Sustainability”?

	Frequency	Percent
Very Well	103	24.5%
Well	174	41.4
Average	119	28.3
Poorly	22	5.2
Very Poorly	2	.5
Total Respondents	420	100%

Table 2  
Please Indicate Your Level of Agreement with Each of the Following Statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Mean	N
I try to promote an understanding of sustainability among my students.	18.1%	36.9%	34.0%	8.3%	2.6%	3.60	420
Sustainability should be an important part of education today.	30.4	46.3	19.5	2.4	1.4	4.02	415
I understand how sustainability relates to my discipline.	23.9	39.5	26.0	8.0	2.7	3.74	415

Table 3  
Which of the Following Words Do You Associate with the Term ‘Sustainability’?

	Frequency	Percentage
Renewable	356	84.2%
Recycling	349	82.5
Future Generations	330	78.0
Daily Habits	306	72.3
Green	303	71.6
Responsibility	302	71.4
Ecosystems	288	68.1
Efficiency	273	64.5
Waste	265	62.6
Pollution	238	56.3
Nature	234	55.3
Farming	232	54.8
Important	224	53.0
Economics	224	53.0
Urban Planning	213	50.4
Fossil Fuels	212	50.1
Population Growth	201	47.5
Climate Change	191	45.2
Globalization	182	43.0
Public Health	181	42.8
Water Rights	172	40.7
Politics	148	35.0
Social Justice	141	33.3
Extinction	132	31.2
Poverty	114	27.0
Profitable	93	22.0
Expensive	50	11.8
Over-regulation	46	10.9
Externalities	42	9.9
Hippies	28	6.6
Fad	27	6.4
Other	30	7.1
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>423</b>	

Note: Multiple responses allowed; therefore, percents total more than 100%.

Table 4  
I Would Consider Integrating Sustainability into My Curriculum if I Had:

	Frequency	Percentage
NA – I am not interested in adding content concerning sustainability to my course(s).	95	22.5%
NA- I currently address sustainability in my course(s) and do not need additional resources.	77	18.2
Information about online or print resources.	128	30.3
Examples of successful course outlines or assignments from elsewhere.	157	37.1
Information about seminars and conferences.	67	15.8
Incentives.	58	13.7
Other	40	9.5
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>423</b>	

Note: Multiple responses allowed; therefore, percents total more than 100%.

Table 5  
Which of the Following Do You Perceive as Barriers to Integrating Sustainability into Your Course(s)?

	Frequency	Percentage
NA- I currently address sustainability and have not encountered any barriers.	85	20.1%
Lack of student interest.	47	11.1
Not enough time in the semester to add additional material.	161	38.1
I'm not familiar enough with the topic to address it thoroughly.	120	28.4
It does not relate to my course.	102	24.1
Other	47	11.1
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>423</b>	

Note: Multiple responses allowed; therefore, percents total more than 100%.