

Evaluation of PECRUM Surveys

2003 PECRUM

The results of a survey of 2003 PECRUM attendees and a transcription of informal comments by PECRUM attendees are attached to this document. These results indicate that many of the PECRUM objectives were accomplished. 92% of the survey respondents reported an increase in their level of awareness of research being done in the Chemistry department and 89% of the responses qualified PECRUM as a suitable forum for practice of scientific presentation skills.

However, only 68% of the responses qualified PECRUM as a facilitator of scientific discussion with members of the department outside of the respondent's research group. Even more eye opening was that 37% of the responses claimed that PECRUM did not increase their sense of scientific community within the department and their connection within that community. These results along with some of the informal comments received seem to indicate that there is an expectation of increased attendance on the part of faculty and students.

The format of 2003 PECRUM received most of the criticism. The length of the day as a whole did not seem reasonable to 45% of survey respondents. The fact that 82% of the responses considered the length of individual talks appropriate but only 60% thought the poster session's format and length was reasonable indicates that the design of the poster session needs to be reworked. A few comments also pointed out that the breaks built in the program were too many and too long. There were suggestion to hold PECRUM on a Friday or to split it in different days.

68% of the respondents showed increased interest in PECRUM as a result of having an out of department speaker. Interestingly, a significant fraction (29%) of responses showed the opposite trend!

Finally, all (100%) respondents showed less interest in attending a future PECRUM if held off campus; the majority of respondents (77%) were not interested in attending an event on campus but outside the Chemistry building.

2004 PECRUM

We have attached the results of a survey of 2004 PECRUM attendees along with a transcription of informal comments placed on the survey. Paralleling the results from the previous year 88% of responses declared that PECRUM had accomplished the goals stated in section **A** of this report. Also, a large portion of those returning surveys acknowledged an increased awareness of research done in the department (81%). About the same portion of survey respondents as last year recognized PECRUM as a facilitator of scientific discussion outside the research group setting (73%). Despite the presence of several posters describing research rotation work, less than half of the answers to the survey (46%) conceive PECRUM as a suitable forum for presenting this material.

The shortening of the scientific program in 2004 PECRUM seems to have yielded the desired results: 88% of responses approved the length of the scientific program. The length of the individual talks appears correct based on the percentage of positive responses (92%). Also, the format of the poster session meets the approval of 77% of respondents: quite an improvement from last year's 60% positive responses. The amount of positive feedback regarding the scientific program indicates we have met a balance between program diversity and the length of PECRUM.

Mirroring last year's data, only 62% of the respondents declared an increase in their interest in PECRUM as a result of the presence of an outside speaker. Also, the results of the survey overwhelmingly state that PECRUM should happen once a year in the May-August time frame.