Campus Climate survey falls short of ideal response rate

By Lexie Shezifi

San Jose State surveyed students, faculty and staff about issues related to race, sexual harassment and intimidation, but received a low response rate.

The SJSU Campus Climate and Belonging Committee collaborated with the consulting firm Rankin & Associates to conduct the survey during Spring semester about what the campus climate was like over the past year for different groups. The campus climate survey has been conducted intermittently over the past 14 years and the research firm's ideal response rate is at least 30% of the campus community. Researchers believe the lack of responses this year was because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The survey was originally supposed to be conducted last fall, but was extended to May 8 because response rates slowed because of the pandemic.

Dan Merson, executive associate and senior research associate for the consulting firm, said the researchers were committed to protecting the confidentiality of those who submitted responses.

Data was not directly reported from individuals who could be identified by race or gender, which Merson said was important to encourage people to participate and complete the survey.

The Campus Climate survey had an overall 12% response rate, with 4,298 total surveys submitted.

Merson said that while the consulting firm hoped this number would be higher, it’s still important to listen to the feedback that was recorded.

“People were motivated to click the link and answer questions,” Merson said. “It is important to honor these stories and perspectives and its valuable by all means.

Chief Diversity Officer Kathleen Wong(Lau) shared her thoughts on the climate change survey.

“These concerns are regarding loud and clear,” said Wong(Lau). “The survey is a good basic start but we may want to use methods that are more amenable to getting student feedback.”

SJSU President Mary Papazian said during Friday’s Town Hall that she was proud of what the university has done so far regarding inclusivity, but there was still work to be done.

The results of the survey are important to both present and future San Jose State and I truly appreciate the members of the Campus Climate and Belonging Committee,” Papazian said. “We are committed to making an environment that provides openness, fairness and equal access to all students and faculty.”

She said future Town Hall meetings will focus on responding to the results of the survey in order to ensure that all students, faculty members and staff feel comfortable in the SJSU community.

The Campus Climate and Belonging Committee set multiple variables to analyze survey respondents, 762 people, said that they had experienced some form of sexual harassment.

The four forms of sexual harassment include relationship violence, gender-based milking, unwanted sexual interaction and unwanted sexual contact.

Wong(Lau) commented on the survey’s importance during a remote semester.

“She said that with online classes, the university is actively looking for ways to help students, faculty members and staff to maintain a sense of community in any way possible.

“People have expressed a yearning to connect like they used to on campus and we are trying to put together online Zoom rooms for students, faculty and staff to connect so we can feel that sense of belonging,” Wong(Lau) said. “It is our radar and we welcome any feedback and suggestions.”

Spartans continue historic start

By Jesus Tellitud & Olivia Gerber

Las Vegas in its 34-17 win Saturday night at CEFCU Stadium.

Running back Tyler Nevens scores a touchdown for SJSU’s football team in its 34-17 win over the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Saturday night at CEF CU Stadium.

Santa Clara County moves into purple COVID-19 tier

Follow us @SpartanDaily for live updates

Vibe check on SJSU

4,298 responses were submitted – an overall 12% response rate.

71% of respondents felt comfortable with the overall climate at SJSU.

18% said that they had experienced intimidating, offensive or hostile conduct.

10% said they experienced some form of sexual harassment.

Respondent Demographics

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According to the survey results, 71% of respondents felt comfortable with the overall climate at SJSU.

The survey indicated that 18% of respondents, 762 people, said that they had experienced intimidating, offensive or hostile conduct.

A total of 621 respondents, about 10%, said they experienced some form of sexual harassment at SJSU.

Dan Merson, executive associate and senior research associate for Parrish & Associates consulting firm, said the researchers were committed to protecting the confidentiality of those who submitted responses.

When it came to reporting the incidents, 46% said they told someone, 18% avoided the person or venue, 32% told a family member and 29% did nothing.

Wong(Lau) said the number of respondents for this year’s survey and the 2015 survey is about the same, and the amount of hostile conduct experienced in lower based on 2020 survey responses.

The survey also examined individuals who experienced small harassment or misconduct.

“[The issue of sexual harassment] is an important conversation to have and we are having it more here on campus campuses nationally,” Merson said.

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Follow Lexie on Twitter @lexie4real

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Grub Burger Bar’s warm environment, hand-crafted drinks and friendly servers all make it a welcoming hangout spot. The restaurant and bar opened its Santa Clara location two years ago in August 2018. Grub Burger Bar has two other California locations in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The restaurant is nestled within Lawrence Station Shopping Center, about five minute down Interstate 280 in Downtown San Jose and has plenty of outdoor seating.

Myself and two friends were pleasantly surprised by the delicious burgers and drink variety when we went two weeks ago.

Customers order at the front counter or the bar immediately after entering the restaurant and are given a table number to where they would like to sit. Outdoor socially distanced seating is available and pathways are clearly marked inside the restaurant, directing customers to sit and eat through different doors. I ordered at the bar while my friends ordered at the front counter. Jesse Hernandez, a bartender who has worked at Grub Burger Bar since its opening, attended to us quickly by pointing out popular drinks and suggesting which drinks to try.

I ordered the Golden Gate Sourdough sandwich with onion rings and a Patron Mango Rita. This sandwich was loaded with toppings such as avocado, pepper barbecue sauce, a sweet, dark sauce oozing with the restaurant’s homemade Dr. Pepper barbecue sauce and a large knife.

I ordered a Golden Gate Sourdough burger and was surprised to see the culture’s influence in our food. My favorite was the cool mango and lime juice on my Citrónge Mango, which is a mango liqueur.

Our food arrived after about 10 minutes and we sat down. Our table soon descended into a calm, quiet atmosphere that is only brought on by a slow, methodical pace.

The food was warm and comforting and the towering burger sizes were difficult to eat.

The drinks were served in plastic takeaway cups with a strip of orange tape sealing the top at the bartender reminded us not to drink and drive. Fresh drinks were very friendly and sweet, which was a nice touch for a post- burger drink following our savory meal.

I had a fantastic experience devouring Grub Burger Bar’s delectable food and drinks that were served by a welcoming staff.

I 100% plan on returning to the restaurant to try more of the marvelous-washing burgers and hang out with friends while sipping some juicy cocktails.
Sony should moderate banter

Lexie Shezifl

STAFF WRITER

Sony’s new update for the PlayStation 4 is unnecessary and an invasion of privacy. The new update is something that might even turn players away from purchasing the newly launched PlayStation 5.

PS4 users now have to worry about their conversations held in party chat being recorded and sent to Sony for moderation purposes.

Party chat is a voice channel where users can invite friends and other players to chat. It differs from regular in-game chat where anyone can talk, not just those in your group.

Video game consoles usually have a feature to opt-out of the Voice Chat recording function because we want all users to feel safe when playing with others online, not just those we choose to enable it for. According to Catherine Jensen, Sony’s Consumer Experience vice president for global online, not just those who want to reign in toxic behavior.

On both Xbox One and PS4, users have the option to start a party, which is a voice channel where you choose to invite, usually from your list of friends. This isn’t an area of gaming where toxicity and bullying take place because conversations had in party chat always are friends and anything said isn’t serious or meant to cause harm.

Additionally, if bullying or harassment occurs in a party chat, users have the option to mute other players or leave the chat at any time. Recording and attempting to moderate this is a witch hunt and effort by Sony, which should be putting more focus on communication between random players who might send hateful messages or voice messages to each other online.

Besides, users should be put into moderating conversations between online interactions outside of party chat, like in-game chat where bullying is more likely to happen.

In general, the practice of recording and moderating conversations between friends who play video games amounts to a “First of its kind” action for gamers in the US. People who use Xbox One or other social apps used by PC gamers to talk while gaming, don’t have to deal with party chat moderation.

Sony had more explanations about the decision to implement the recording system in an Oct. 14 blog post on Polygon, an American video-game website.

The post explained that the new update would be notified that recordings in the party chat, which can choose to have the conversations reviewed for moderation. When PS4 users participate in party chats with PS5 users, those conversations may be recorded and sent to Sony to be reviewed.

Additionally, users have control over whether or not their comments will be recorded and submitted for review by other users, which is very concerning.

It’s easy to understand why Sony wants to crack down on prevalent toxic behavior within gaming culture. A June 30 post on Polygon, a government website about gaming, explained how cyberbullying can be a part of online gaming. According to the post, bullying can happen when a player isn’t performing well, and other players try to cause this pain or make negative comments. Cracking down on bullying is a positive step from Sony, however, the way it is being implemented poses serious problems.

In addition to being unnecessary, the new feature inundates the privacy of players who might not want anything they say to their friends or party to be recorded.

It’s entirely possible that comments made between friends could be taken out of context and sent as bullying rather than playful banter to a moderator.

Sony making the decision to crack down on toxic behavior online is a step in the right direction. However, recording users’ conversations isn’t the way to go about it and Sony should rethink the feature entirely.

Follow Lexie on Twitter @Lexie4Real
As an unemployment continues to be on the rise and the need for food banks is greater than ever, many worry they will have food on the table for this year’s fast approaching holiday season.

Everyone deserves to have basic necessities like food on the table, despite going through a global pandemic and being unemployed. Food is one element everyone needs to survive and should be readily available to all, especially during the holidays when food becomes a source for loved ones to pick up and share food with one another.

Local food banks such as Second Harvest and local non-profits of San Jose State have been hard at work since the start of the pandemic to give out food donations and alleviate those in our community who must need it. Now with the holidays around the corner, the organization is helping hand have gathered holiday meals such as turkey, gravy and mashed potatoes but it still needs help.

From following the election results have caused immense stress, especially amongst students that need it during the holidays.

The Presidential Election results have caused immense stress, especially amongst students, and many can agree that it has taken a toll on their mental health. Armonia and excited about voting, this left a little room for students to take a step back and focus on their own mental health. From following the election to the overall performance, it is more critical than ever to support a higher number of families that are currently living with food insecurity. By getting involved, students can help the increasingly higher demand for food this time of year.

Gladys Torres
Communications senior

The effects of the Presidential Election have on students and their mental health is as follows. With this being one of the fewest elections to be low-turnout elections, students can agree that this was the number one reason to go and vote.

With this being one of the most important students in U.S. history, it was almost impossible to ignore or not be involved. As a result, some teachers wanted to make it easier for their students by eating the worldwide amount of work and even encouraging them to take periodic breaks when needed. However, this was not the case and many students reported to me that the reason they fell behind.

With all the events that change catering towards students’ needs in the stressful work, others continued to play with friends and in hopes that this election would bring loved ones together.

This had a negative impact on the overall performance of students, as they simply did not have the capacity to do what needed to be done. Nonetheless, SJU knew what the election may have caused and have provided resources for students to take advantage of as needed.

I do wish that all professors understood the negative effects this election had on students and their mental health, and as a result, some professors began to cater towards students’ needs in the stressful work, others continued to play with friends and in hopes that this election would bring loved ones together.

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RUNNING BACK Kairee Robinson (32) leaps into the end zone at the end of his 12-yard touchdown run to give the Spartans a 21-17 lead in the third quarter.

Defensive lineman Vilami Fehoko (42) celebrates one of his sacks against UNLV quarterback Max Gilliam (6) for a loss of yardage on the play at CEFCU Stadium.