

## Chapter VIII: STUDENT INTERVIEW PROJECT

### *Who takes it?*

A random sample from the class that is selected by the University Assessment Committee. Juniors were selected from 1992-93 to 1994-95 and from 1997-98 to 1999-2000. Freshmen were interviewed from 1995-96, 1996-97, and 2000-02.

### *When is it administered?*

At the beginning of the Spring Semester.

### *How long does it take for the student to complete the interview?*

About 30 minutes.

### *What office administers it?*

The University Assessment Committee plus additional volunteers from students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Each student interviewee is typically questioned by a pair (one of whom is a student and one of whom is a faculty member or administrator).

### *Who originates the questions?*

The University Assessment Committee.

### *When are results typically available?*

At the end of the summer.

### *What type of information is sought?*

The University Assessment Committee selects questions based on current curricular or co-curricular topics of interest to the university. For example, in 2000 we were interested in answering questions about students' reading practices and their experiences with diversity while attending Truman. In 2001 and 2002, we focused on retention.

### *From whom are the results available?*

From the University Assessment Committee or the Chair of the Interview Project (currently Dr. David Gillette from the Division of Social Science).

### *Are the results available by division or discipline?*

No. The sample size for the group interviewed (around 100) is too small.

### *Are the results comparable to data of other universities?*

No.

**INTERVIEW PROJECT COMPARISON REPORT 2001 -2002**  
**VICE PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT**

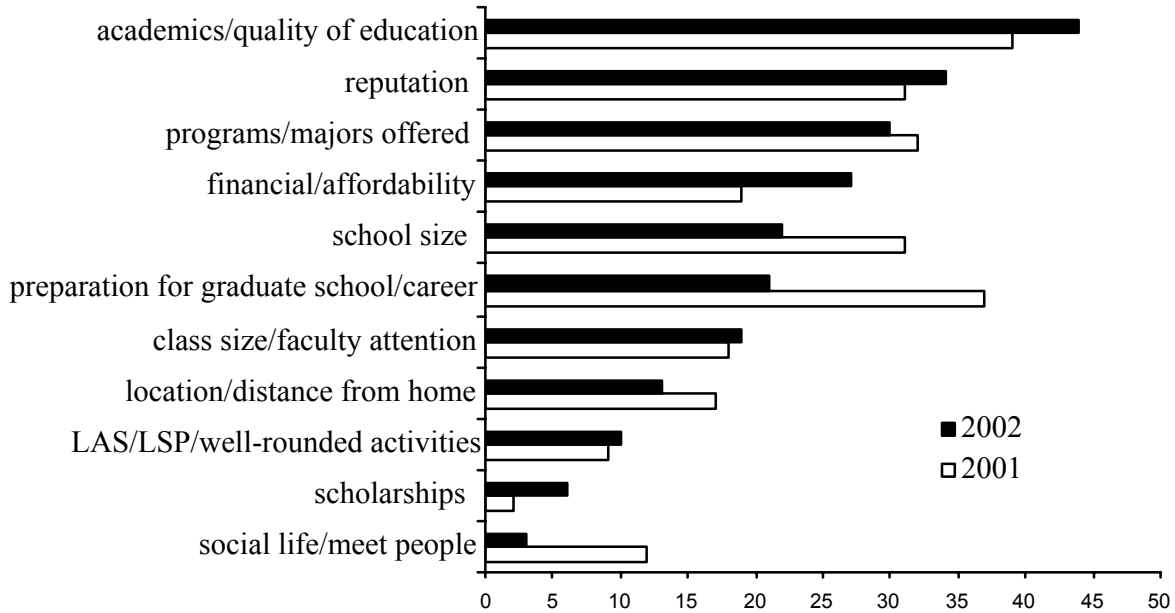
During the 2001 and 2002 Spring Semesters, the Vice President’s Advisory Committee on Assessment, assisted by members of the Truman State University community, including faculty, staff, and students, conducted the ninth and tenth annual interview projects. Each year 175 first year students were randomly drawn. In 2001, 160 had valid addresses and telephone numbers, of which 100 students were interviewed, for a response rate of sixty-three percent. In 2002, 93 of 164 students were interviewed for a response rate of fifty-seven percent. They entered Truman the two years with an average ACT score of 27 and 28 respectively, and both years were carrying an average of 14 credit hours, and had a cumulative high school GPA of 3.8 on a 4-point scale. Their fall, spring, and cumulative GPAs were 3.04, 3.28, 3.22 for 2001 and 3.34, 3.26, 3.34 for 2002. Sixty-two percent of those interviewed in 2001 and seventy percent of those in 2002 were female.

This document illustrates the differences between interview responses collected in 2001 and 2002. Please refer to Executive Summary 2001 and Executive Summary 2002 for a full report of project findings.

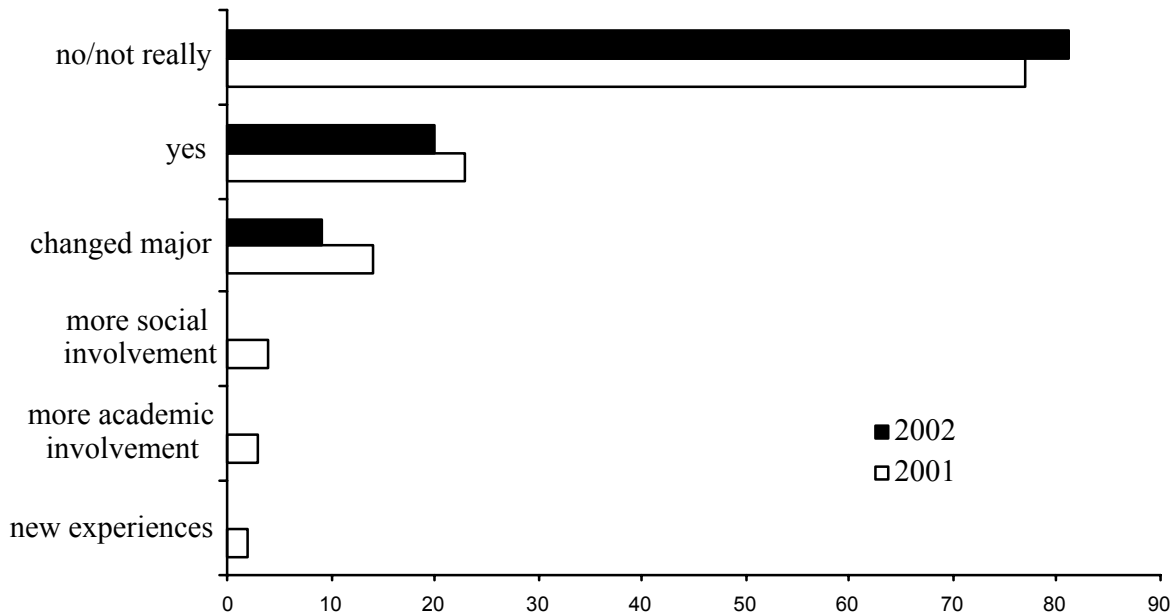
## ORAL SURVEY RESPONSES

### Question 1:

a) *As you were searching for a university to attend, what goals did you have for a college education?*

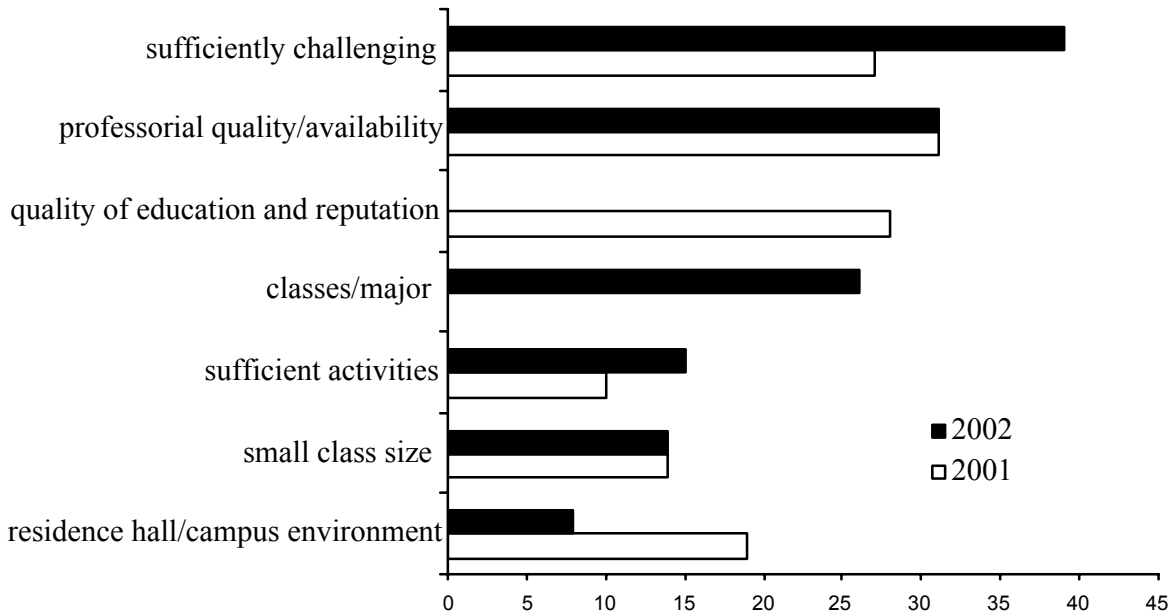


b) *Have those goals changed at all as a result of your college experience so far? Explain.*

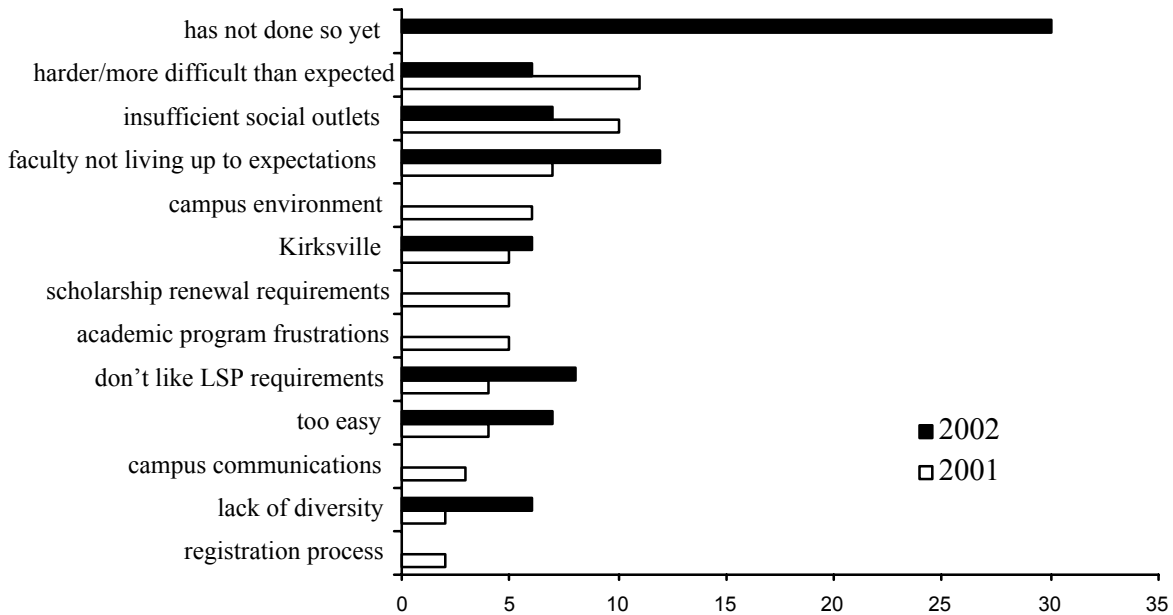


**Question 2:**

*How has Truman lived up to your expectations?*

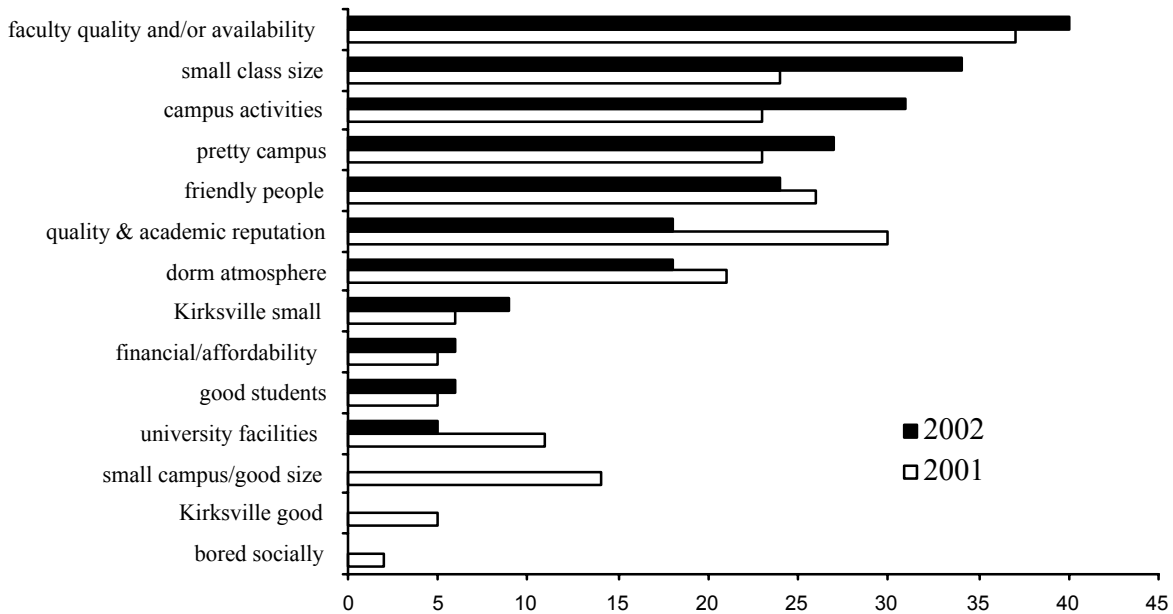


*and how has Truman let you down?*



**Question 3:**

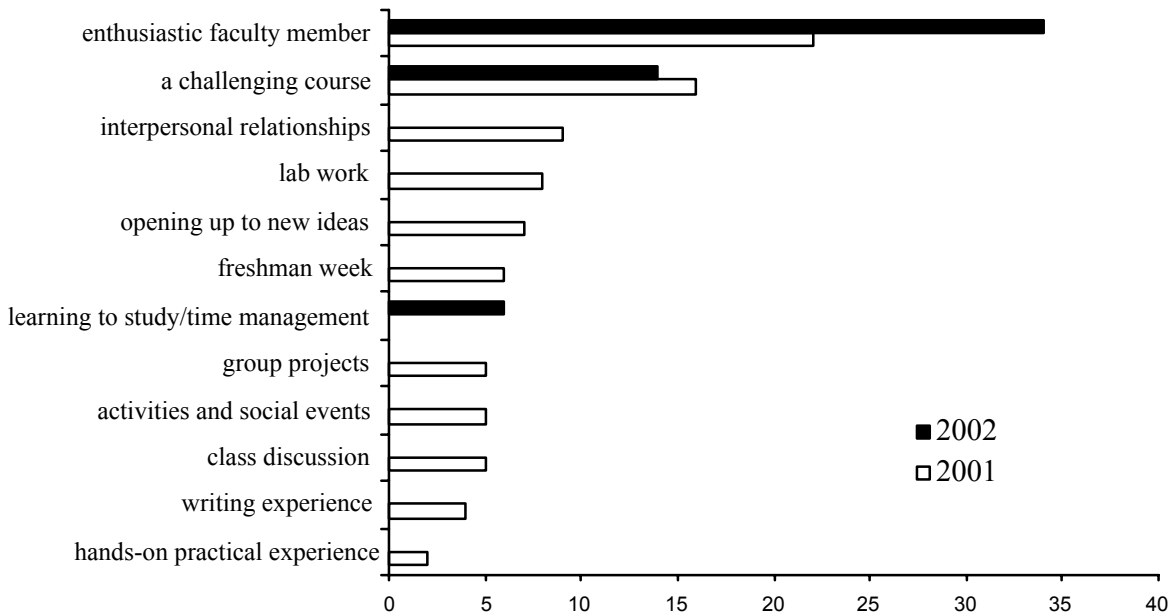
*What aspects/features of Truman would you tell friends and family about back home?*



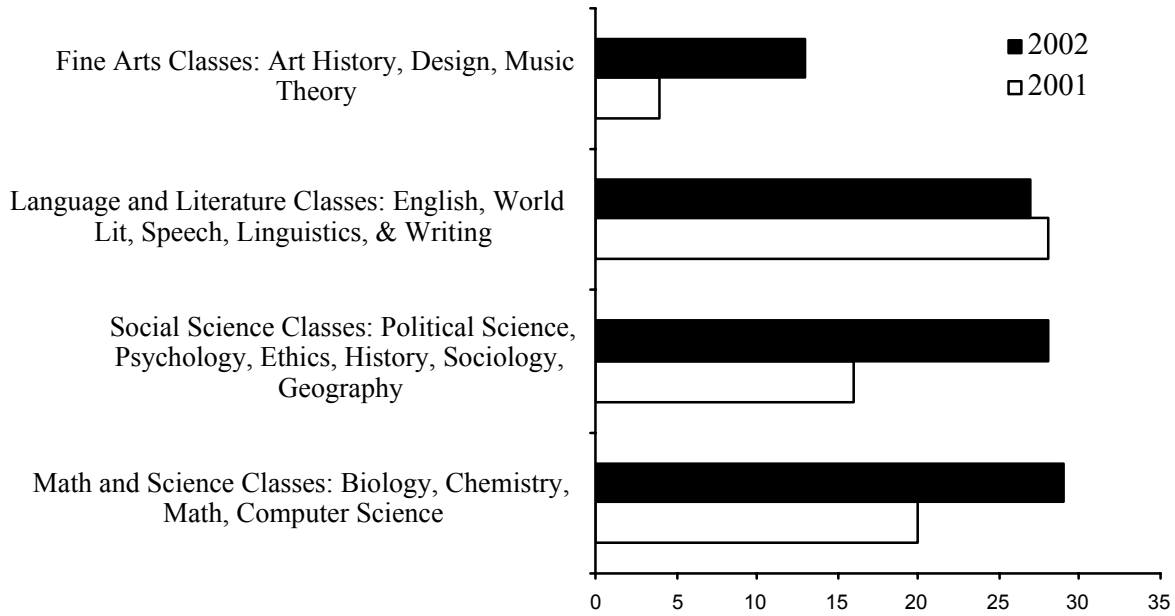
**Question 4:**

*Please tell us about your experience with coursework here at Truman.*

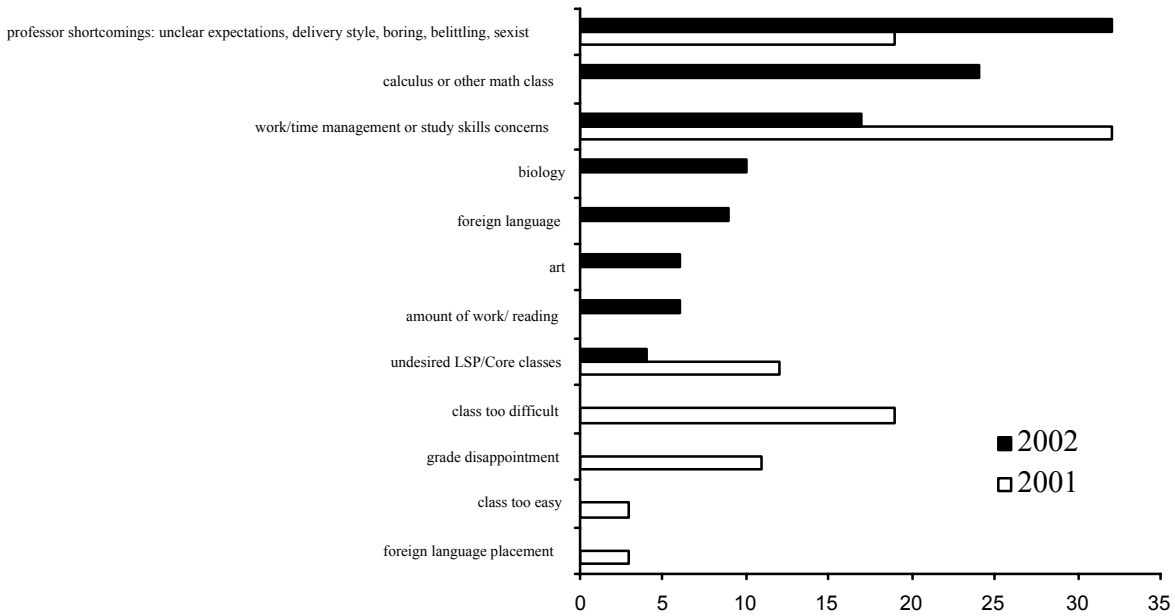
*a) What have been your most rewarding learning experiences so far?*



*Specific Courses Mentioned*

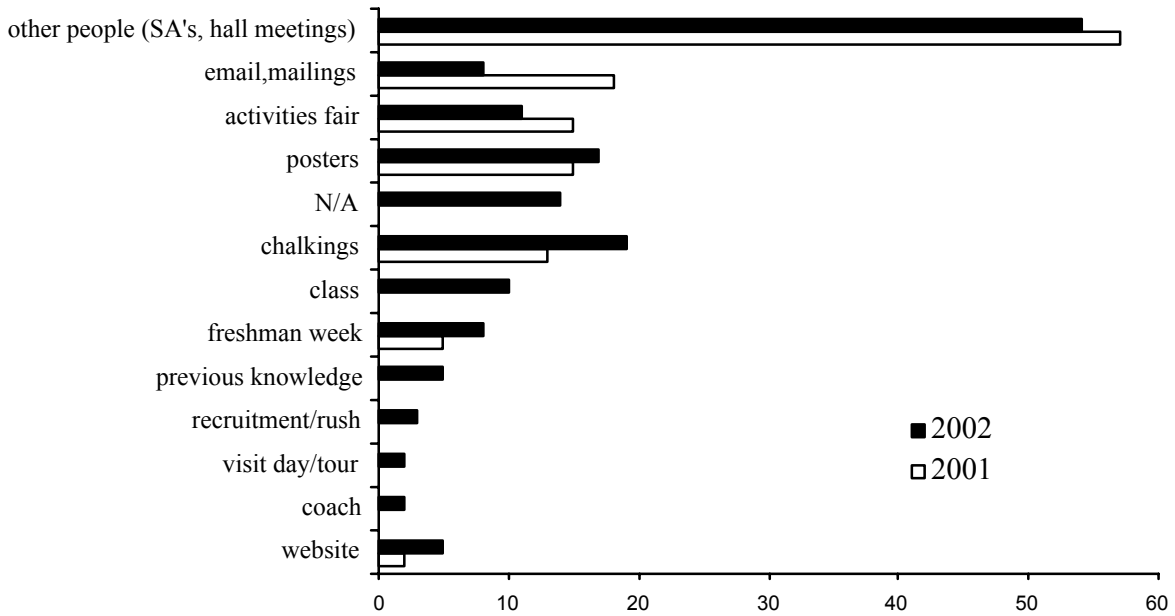


*b) What have been your most frustrating learning experiences so far?*

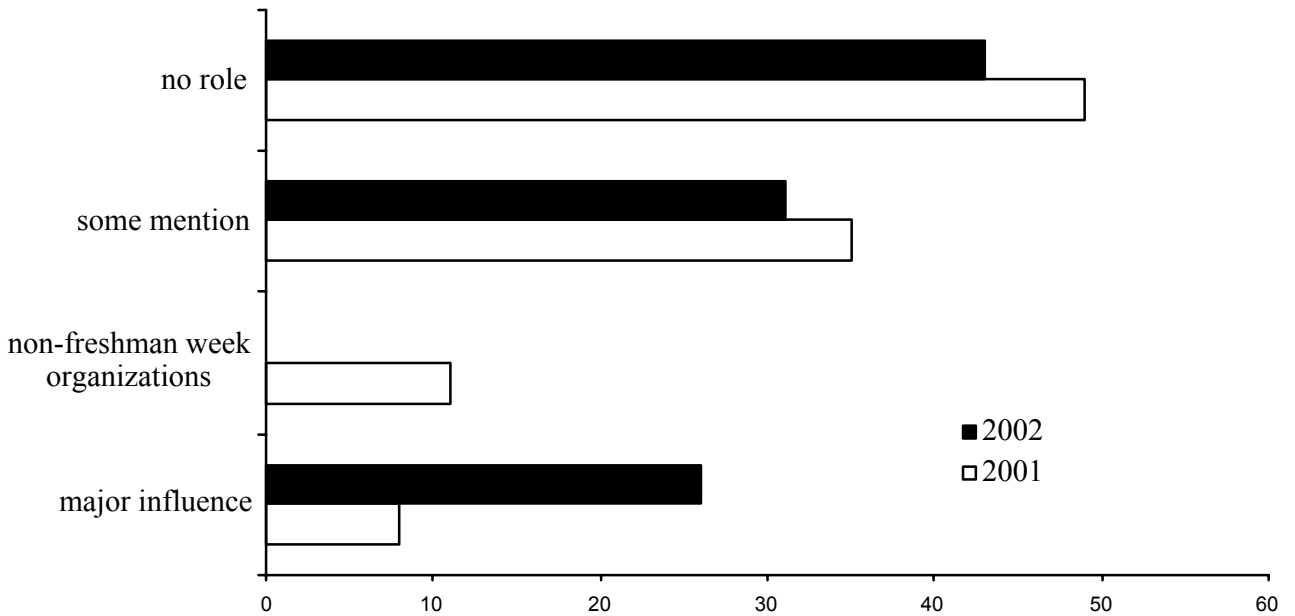


**Question 5:**

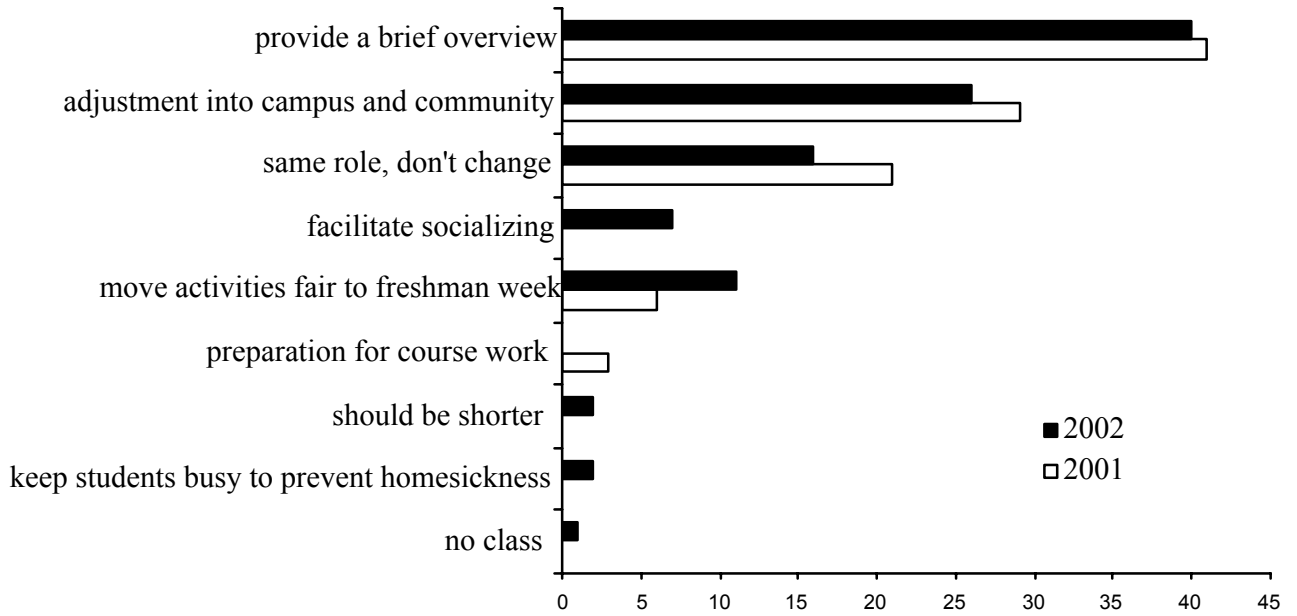
a) *If in the written questions you indicated joining any campus organizations, how did you find out about them?*



b) *What role did Freshman Week play in making you aware of campus organizations?*

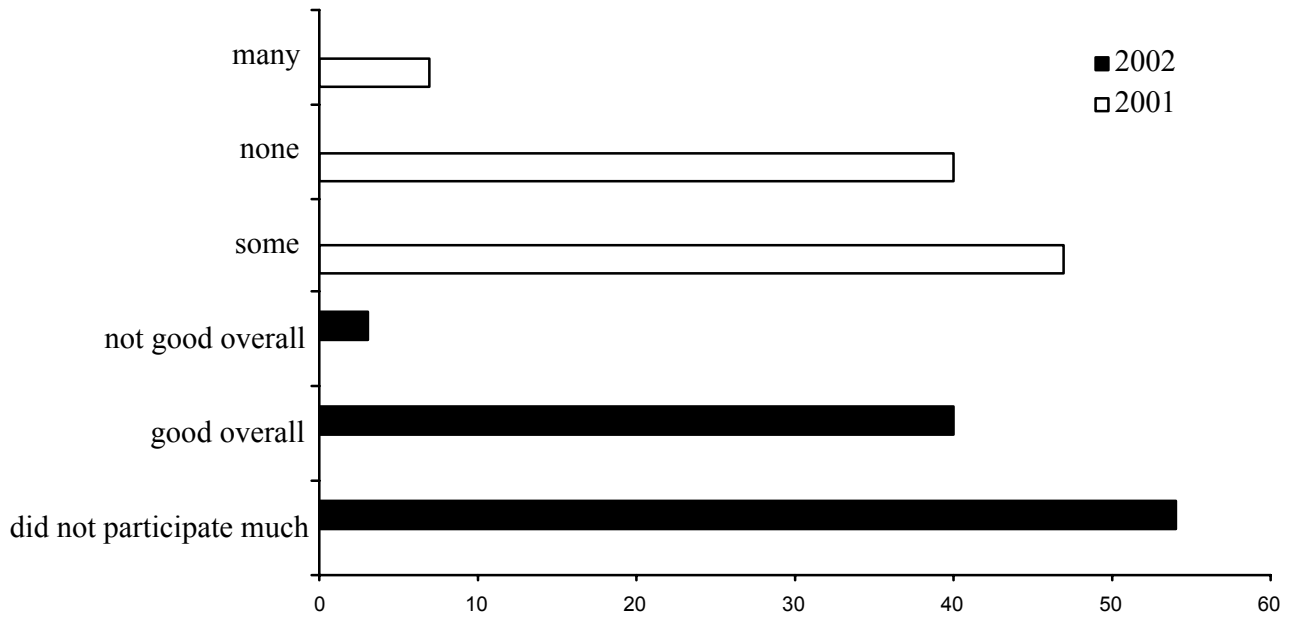


c) *What role should it play?*



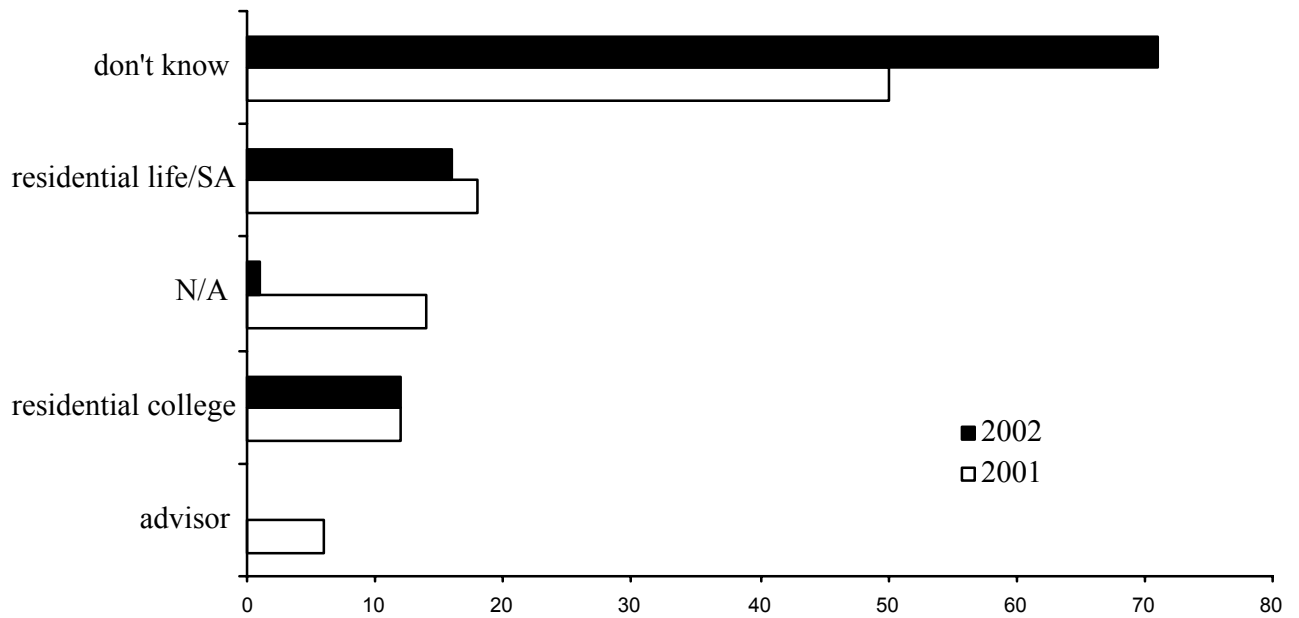
**Question 6:**

a) *Please describe your experience with residence hall programming.*

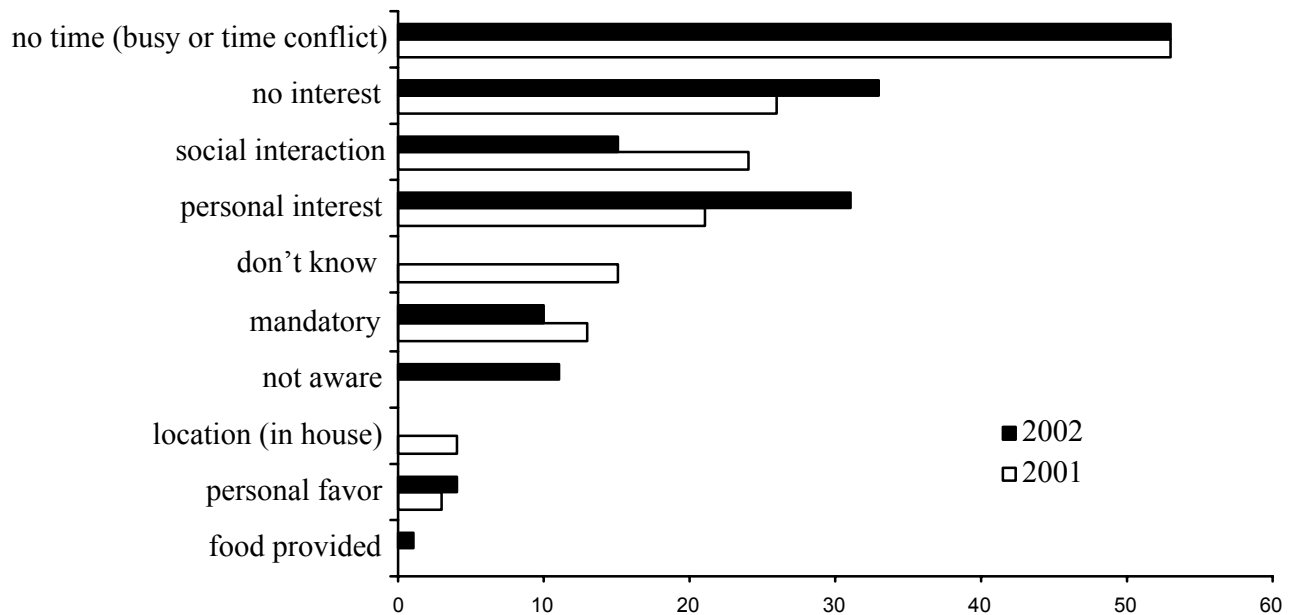




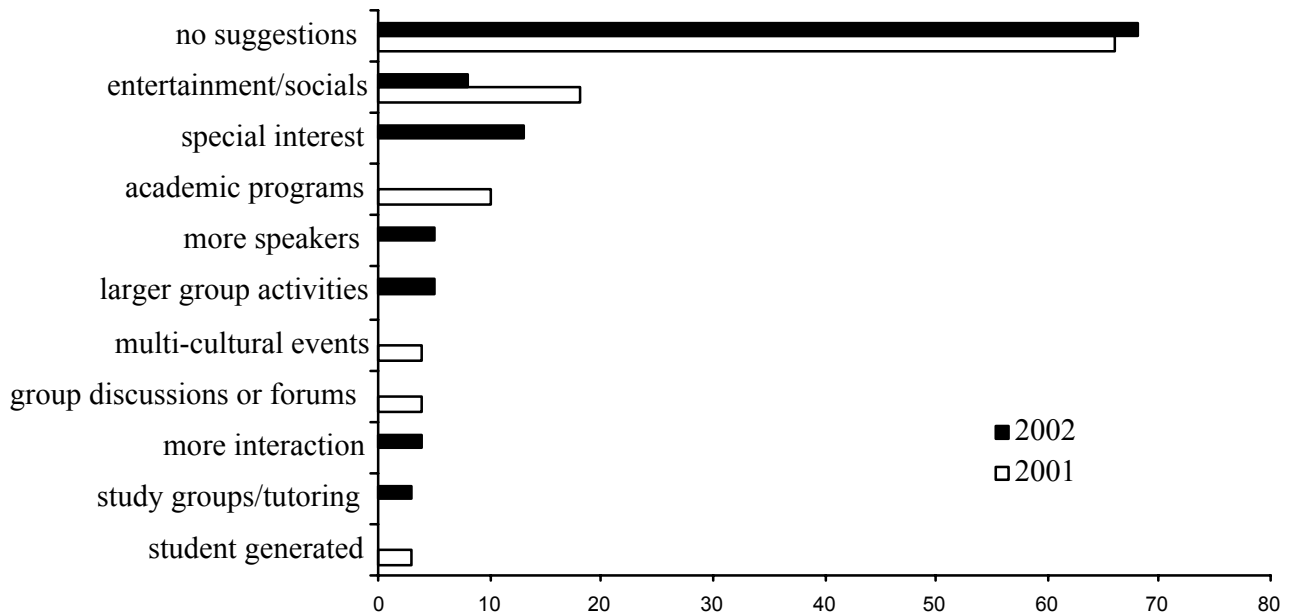
b) Do you know who sponsored the event, RCP (Residential College Program) or Residential Living?



c) Why did you attend these programs or why did you choose not to?

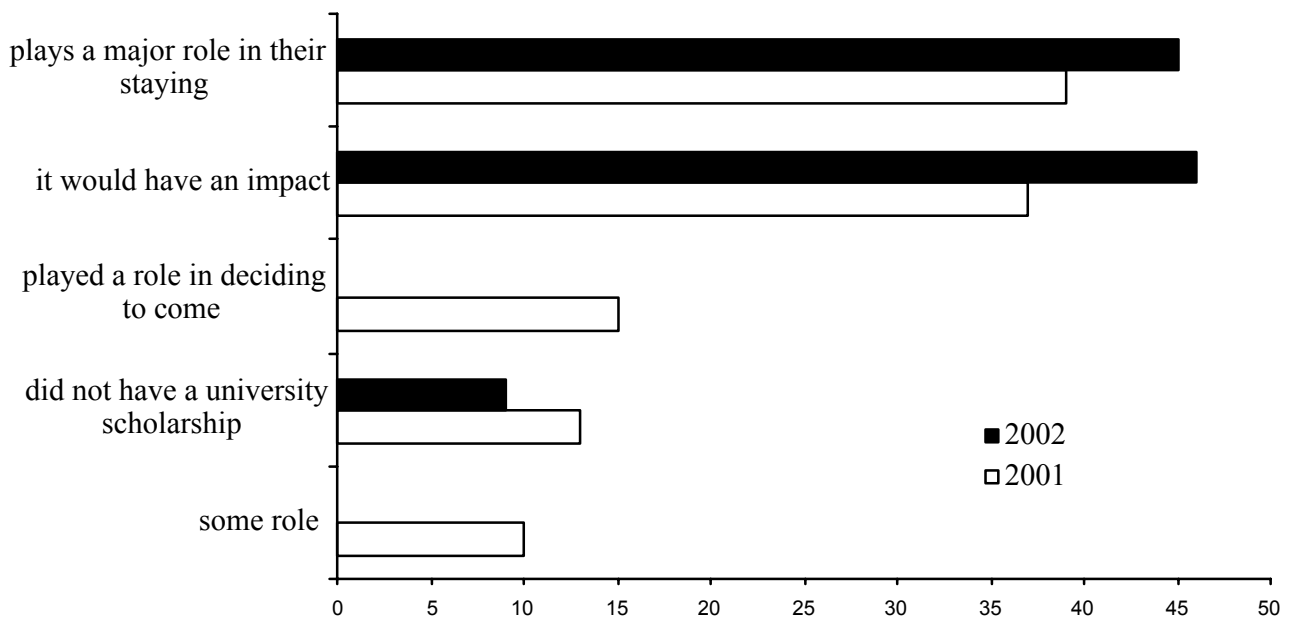


d) *What additional programming should be offered?*



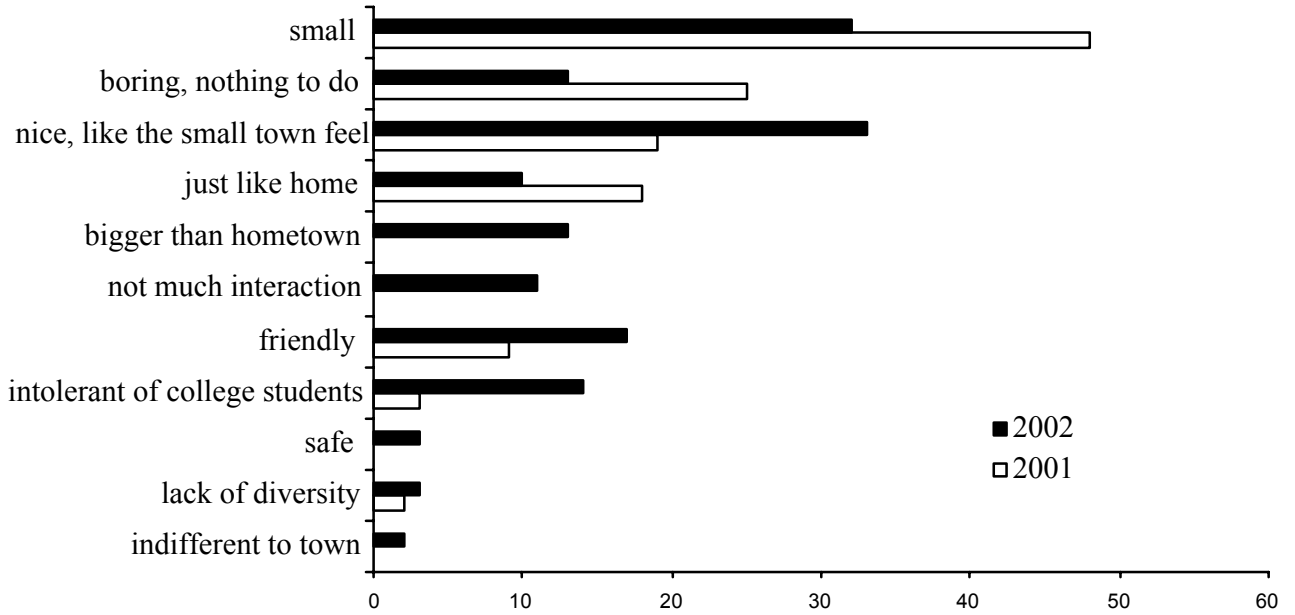
**Question 7:**

*If you have a Truman scholarship, what role does its continuation play in your staying at Truman?*

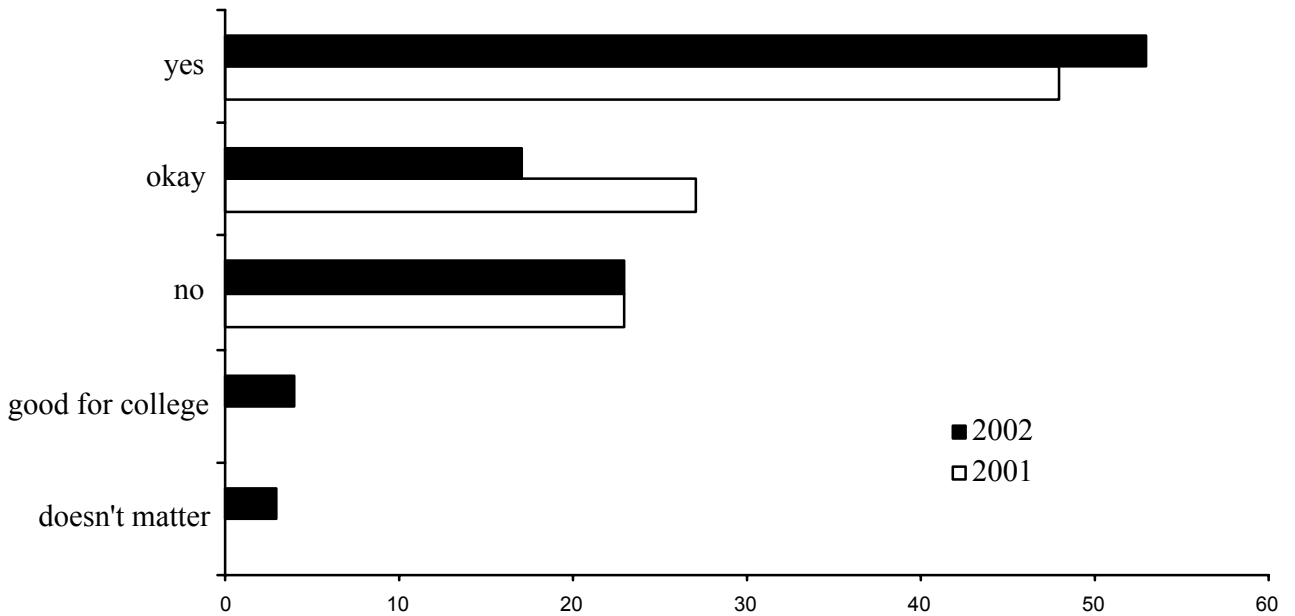


**Question 8:**

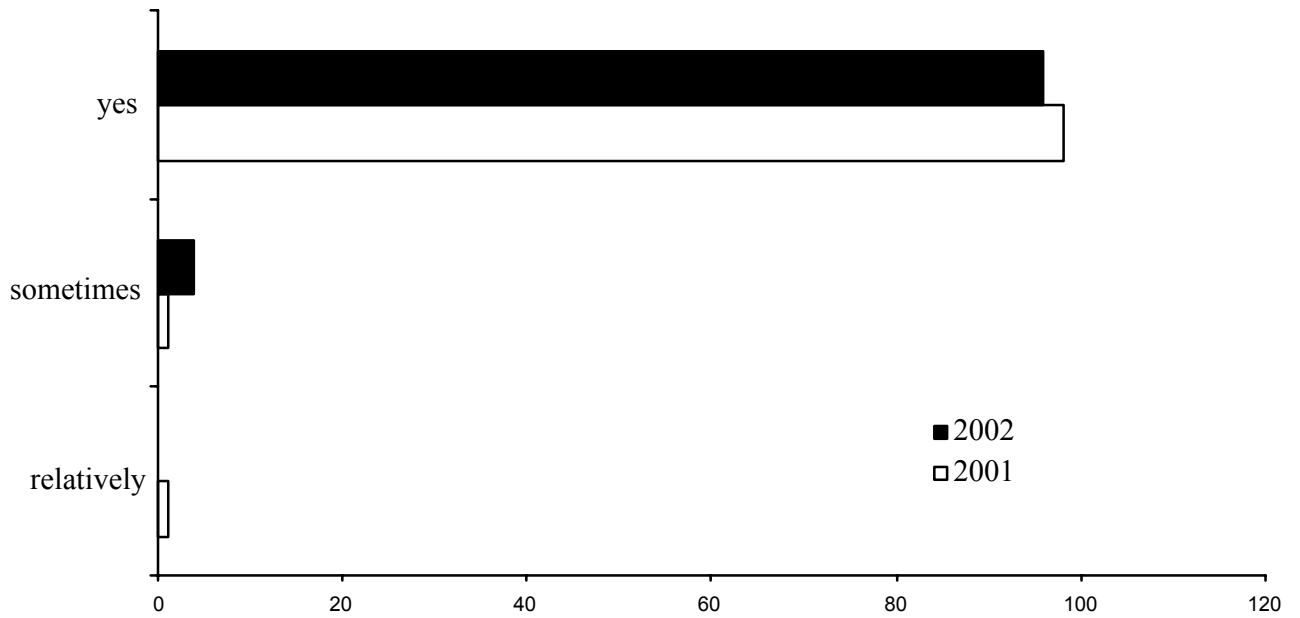
*a) What are your perceptions of the Kirksville community?*



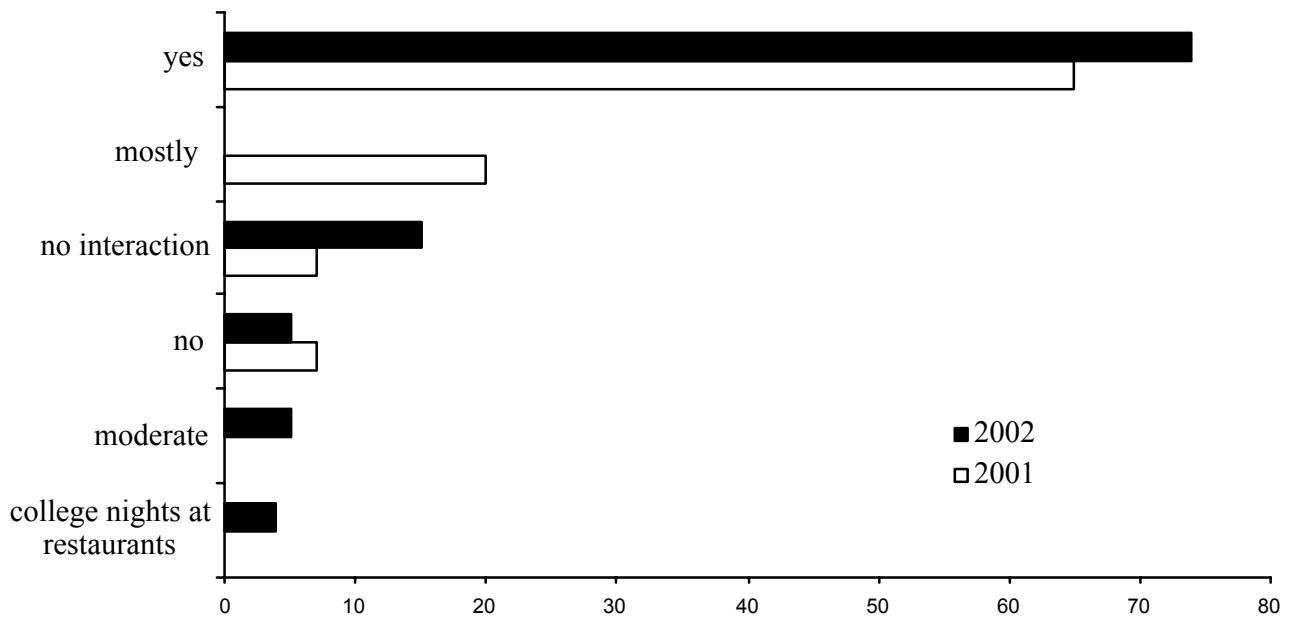
*b) Do you like the size?*



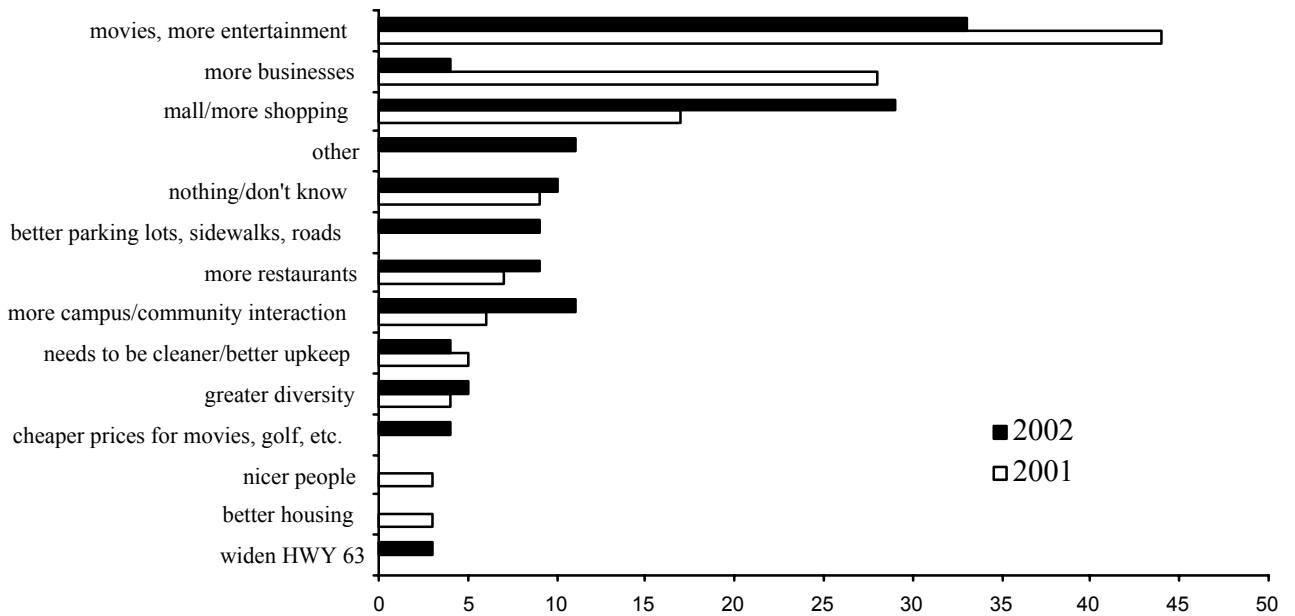
c) Do you feel safe?



d) Is the community friendly and welcoming?

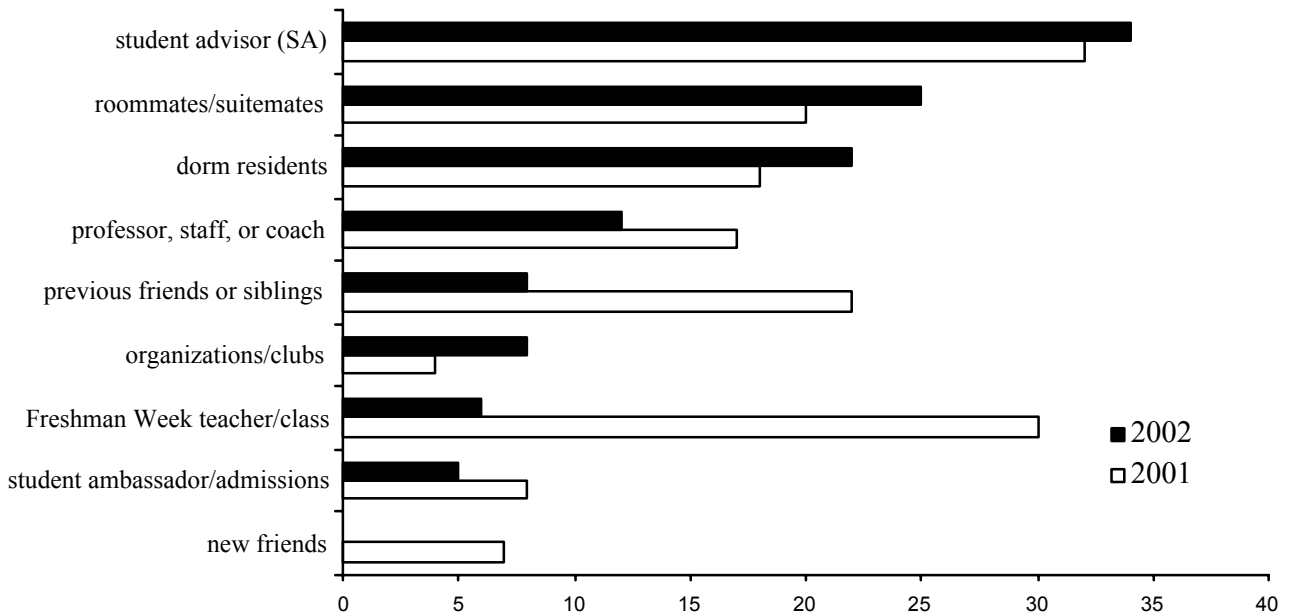


e) What would you change about the community if you could? (Provide specific suggestions.)

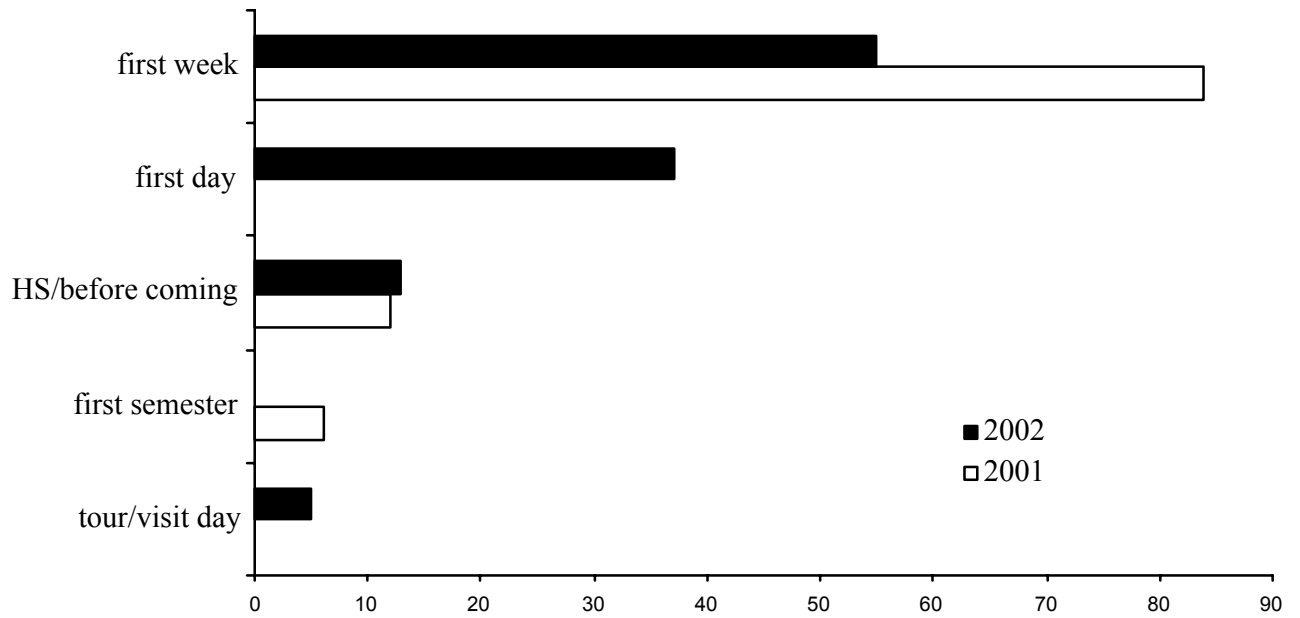


**Question 9:**

a) Who was/were the first person(s) who made you feel comfortable at the University?

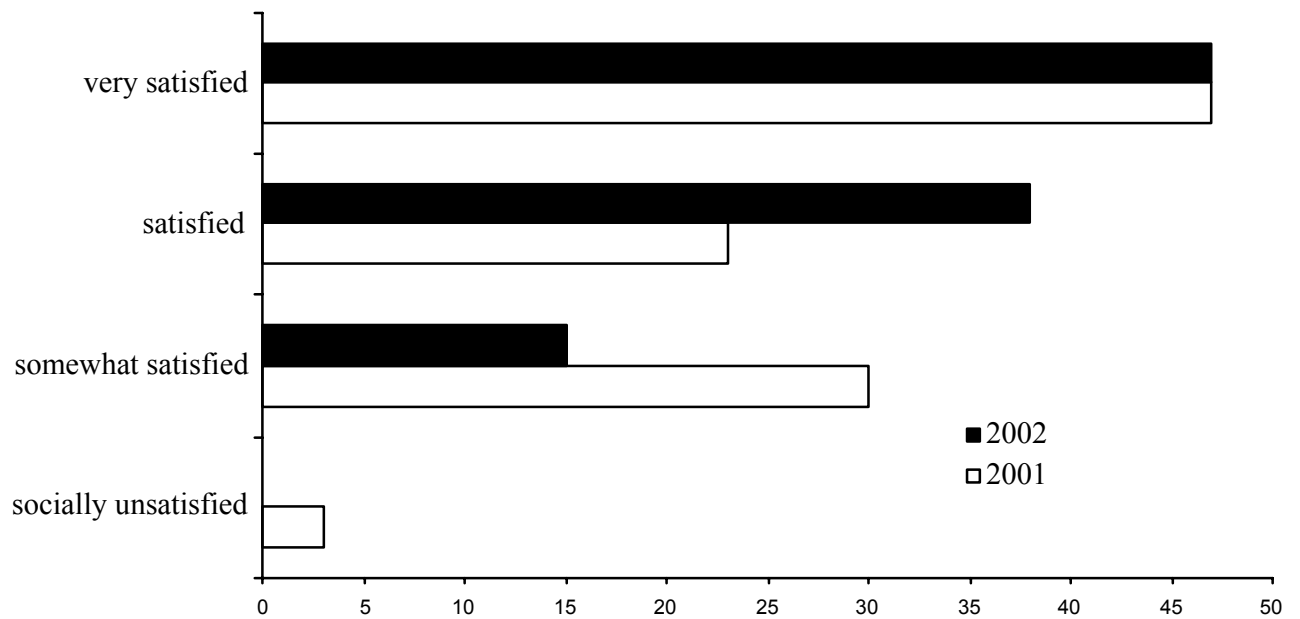


b) *When/where did it occur?*

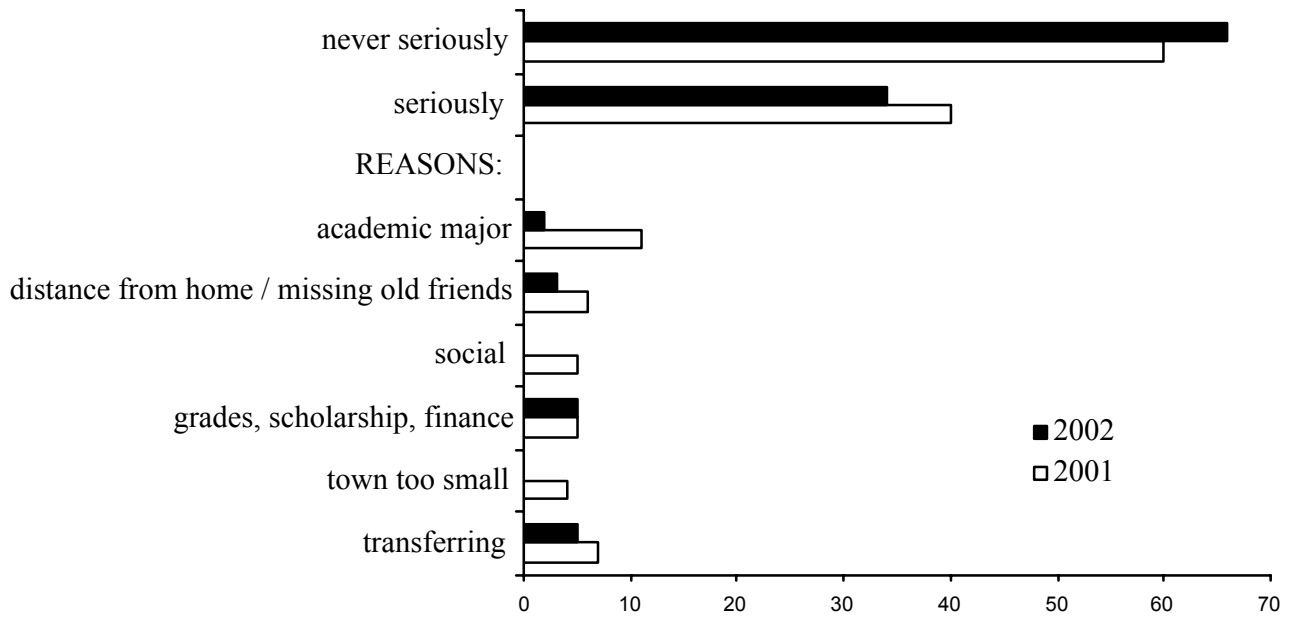


**Question 10:**

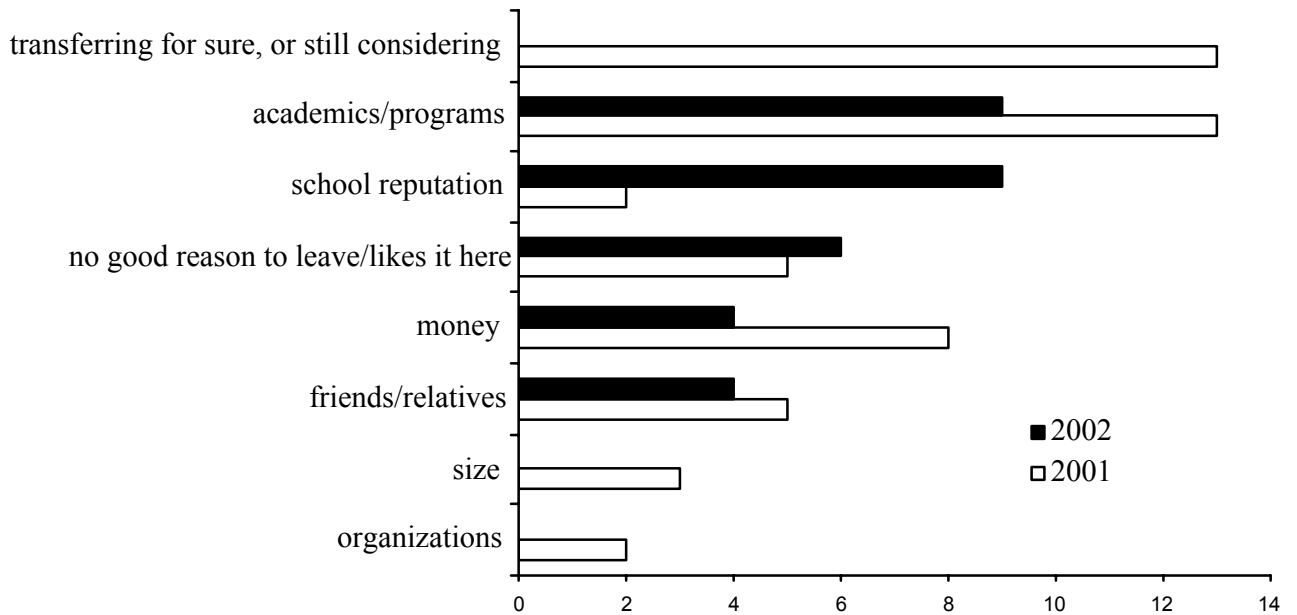
a) *How satisfied are you with your experience?*



b) *Have you ever seriously considered leaving the University?*



c) *If yes, why did you decide to stay?*



## Written Survey Responses

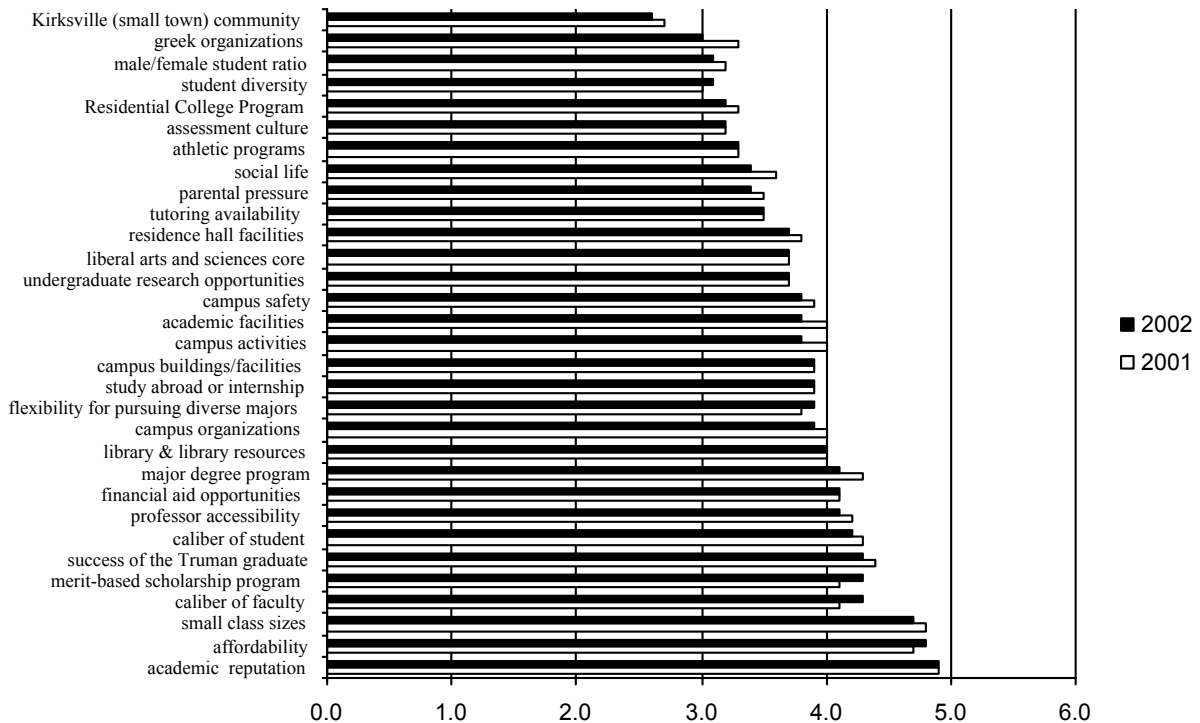
### Question 1:

*Indicate the degree to which each of the following attributes influenced your decision to attend Truman State University:*

Students were asked to circle the appropriate answer on the following scale:

- didn't know about it (received no numerical score),
- negative role (1), minor negative role (2), played no role (3),
- minor positive role (4), positive role (5).

Numbers were assigned later during the scoring process, thus a "3" should be interpreted as a neutral influence. Scores less than three represent negative influences; scores above three represent positive influences. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of students not knowing about that particular attribute.





(number of students who didn't know about it) Raw Numbers

	2001	2002	2001	2002
<i>professor accessibility</i>	(12)	(20)	4.2	4.1
<i>academic reputation</i>	(00)	(01)	4.9	4.9
<i>affordability</i>	(00)	(01)	4.7	4.8
<i>assessment culture</i>	(24)	(29)	3.2	3.2
<i>caliber of student</i>	(07)	(06)	4.3	4.2
<i>student diversity</i>	(11)	(13)	3.0	3.1
<i>tutoring availability</i>	(31)	(32)	3.8	3.5
<i>caliber of faculty</i>	(09)	(11)	4.1	4.3
<i>campus organizations</i>	(02)	(07)	4.0	3.9
<i>parental pressure</i>	(00)	(02)	3.5	3.4
<i>male/female student ratio</i>	(10)	(06)	3.2	3.1
<i>flexibility for pursuing diverse majors</i>	(06)	(06)	3.8	3.9
<i>merit-based scholarship program</i>	(05)	(05)	4.1	4.3
<i>financial aid opportunities</i>	(01)	(02)	4.1	4.1
<i>small class sizes</i>	(00)	(01)	4.8	4.7
<i>undergraduate research opportunities</i>	(21)	(20)	3.7	3.7
<i>success of the Truman graduate</i>	(19)	(12)	4.4	4.3
<i>study abroad or internship opportunities</i>	(08)	(06)	3.9	3.9
<i>campus activities</i>	(08)	(05)	4.0	3.8
<i>major degree program</i>	(09)	(03)	4.3	4.1
<i>liberal arts and sciences core</i>	(07)	(04)	3.7	3.7
<i>athletic programs</i>	(01)	(06)	3.3	3.3
<i>campus buildings/facilities</i>	(07)	(04)	3.9	3.9
<i>academic facilities</i>	(06)	(12)	4.0	3.8
<i>residence hall facilities</i>	(02)	(05)	3.8	3.7
<i>campus safety</i>	(12)	(12)	3.9	3.8
<i>library &amp; library resources</i>	(09)	(05)	4.0	4.0
<i>greek organizations</i>	(06)	(04)	3.3	3.0
<i>social life</i>	(12)	(08)	3.6	3.4
<i>Residential College Program</i>	(42)	(38)	3.3	3.2
<i>Kirksville (small town) community</i>	(00)	(01)	2.7	2.6

**Question 2:**

Indicate the degree to which each of the following individuals influenced your decision to attend Truman State University: (Students were asked to circle the appropriate number on the following scale: no role (1), minor role (2), some role (3), major role (4), deciding factor (5).)

	2001	2002
<i>siblings</i>	1.75	1.58
<i>parents</i>	3.11	2.77
<i>significant others</i>	1.43	1.23
<i>other family members</i>	1.54	1.37
<i>friends</i>	1.97	1.94
<i>guidance counselor</i>	1.83	1.78
<i>admissions counselor</i>	1.93	1.80
<i>Truman students</i>	2.16	2.13
<i>Truman Web page</i>	1.48	1.67

**Question 3:**

a) How many campus organizations are you involved with here at Truman?

	2001	2002
<i>max</i>	6	6
<i>min</i>	0	0
<i>average</i>	1.4	1.6

b) How much time do you commit to each of them? (hours per week)

	2001	2002
<i>Cultural</i>	1.0	
<i>Departmental/Professional</i>	2.0	2.0
<i>Greek</i>	5.4	6.1
<i>Honorary</i>	1.8	
<i>Recreational/Sports</i>	8.4	13.4
<i>Religious</i>	3.5	3.8
<i>Residential Living</i>	1.3	1.8
<i>Service</i>	3.0	3.2
<i>Special Interest</i>	3.4	2.7
<i>Student Government/Political</i>	2.6	2.0
<i>Fine Arts</i>		5.9
<i>Admissions</i>		1.8

**Question 4:**

a) *Have you established a group of close friends that you are comfortable with as a support system?*

	2001	2002
<i>yes</i>	96.5%	93.5%
<i>no</i>	3.5%	6.5%

b) *Where did you find these friends?*

	2001	2002
<i>dorm</i>	78%	72%
<i>class</i>	30%	27%
<i>organizations</i>	29%	38%
<i>previous friends</i>	17%	10%
<i>freshman week</i>		15%
<i>other</i>	12%	8%
<i>athletics</i>	9%	5%
<i>friends of friends</i>		8%

**Question 5:**

a) *How well does the residential hall experience meet your social needs? (please circle the appropriate response)*

On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (extremely well), students rated their residential hall experience:

2001	2002
3.6	3.4

b) *How well does the residential hall experience meet your intellectual/cultural needs? (please circle the appropriate response)*

On a scale of 1 (not at all) to 5 (extremely well), students rated their residential hall experience:

2001	2002
3.0	2.8

**Question 6:**

*Please list any programs or activities offered in the residence halls in which you have participated.*

	2001	2002
<i>none</i>	55%	37%
<i>discussion groups or forums</i>	20%	15%
<i>entertainment or social events</i>	17%	24%
<i>activities or games</i>	17%	19%
<i>crafts/decorating</i>		10%
<i>class</i>	7%	8%
<i>freshman week</i>		0%
<i>movie nights</i>		6%
<i>residential hall governance</i>	4%	5%
<i>birthday committee</i>		4%
<i>house meetings</i>		3%
<i>SA programs</i>		3%
<i>intramurals</i>	2%	2%
<i>casa hispanica</i>		2%
<i>other</i>		2%

**Summary of Question 7:**

*How does the level of course difficulty you expected to encounter at Truman compare with your experience during your first semester? (please check the appropriate response)*

	2001	2002
<i>not at all what I expected, much easier</i>	2%	3%
<i>a little easier than I expected</i>	13%	14%
<i>about what I expected</i>	39%	43%
<i>a little harder than I expected</i>	37%	31%
<i>not at all what I expected, much harder</i>	8%	4%

**Question 8:**

*How satisfied are you with your current social life?*

	2001	2002
<i>not at all satisfied, I'd like to be a lot busier than I am</i>	1%	0%
<i>somewhat satisfied, I'd like to be a little busier than I am</i>	31%	23%
<i>very satisfied, I'm as busy as I'd like to be</i>	45%	51%
<i>somewhat satisfied, I'm a little busier than I'd like to be</i>	18%	22%
<i>not at all satisfied, I'm a lot busier than I'd like to be</i>	2%	0%

**Question 9:**

*How satisfied are you with your involvement in campus activities?*

	2001	2002
<i>not at all what I expected, much less</i>	7%	9%
<i>a little less than I expected</i>	36%	31%
<i>about what I expected</i>	48%	46%
<i>a little more than I expected</i>	6%	6%
<i>not at all what I expected, much more</i>	0%	3%

**Question 10:**

a) *Are you getting the advising help you need?*

	2001	2002
<i>yes</i>	89.0%	92.0%
<i>no</i>	11.0%	8.0%

b) *Who has been your main source of academic advice? (Check only one.)*

	2001	2002
<i>student advisor</i>	9%	7%
<i>faculty member</i>	16%	14%
<i>residential college advisor</i>	43%	46%
<i>business advisor</i>	4%	1%
<i>students</i>	23%	18%
<i>tutors</i>	0%	0%
<i>parents</i>	7%	10%
<i>other</i>	5%	3%

When asked to specify “other”, items mentioned included  
 2001: self, sibling, academic advisor, and friends  
 2002: self, sibling, academic advisor.

c) *Who has been your main source of personal advice? (Check only one.)*

	2001	2002
<i>student advisor</i>	3%	5%
<i>faculty member</i>	0%	1%
<i>residential college advisor</i>	1%	0%
<i>business advisor</i>	0%	0%
<i>students</i>	80%	66%
<i>tutors</i>	16%	23%
<i>parents</i>	0%	0%
<i>other</i>	4%	5%

When asked to specify “other”, items mentioned included  
 2001: family friends, ISO advisors, and siblings  
 2002: sibling and self.