

RE: Questionnaire for ENGH 0890 and ENGH 0990 Courses: Representative Sampling
Institutional Research's Staffing Shortage

DATE: 17 October 2004

Questionnaire for ENGH 0890 and ENGH 0990: Representative Sampling

The following table defines our efforts to have a representative sampling for the Questionnaire.

The heading "Eligible Students" refers to those students who should still be attending class at the end of a semester. That number excludes students who have either a "W" (withdrawal) or a "UW" (unofficial withdrawal) beside their names at semester's end.

	Eligible Students	Number Needed for Representative Sampling	Actual Student Participants	Representative sampling?
ENGH 0890 Spring 2003	130	97	98	Yes.
ENGH 0990 Spring 2003	341	180	237	Yes.
ENGH 0890 Summer 2003	35	32	27	No.
ENGH 0990 Summer 2003	97	75	63	No.
ENGH 0890 Fall 2003	192	127	121	No.
ENGH 0990 Fall 2003	405	196	273	Yes.
ENGH 0890 Spring 2004	152	108	127	Yes.
ENGH 0990 Spring 2004	403	196	329	Yes

As the fall semester of 2003 ended, as a faculty group we had failed 50% of the time to obtain a representative sampling. However, since that time, we have improved our ability to obtain a representative sampling due in large part to our Chair's leadership.

Institutional Research's Staffing Shortage

After emails and conversations with Jeff Hoyt and Eric Wilding of Institutional Research, I have learned that Institutional Research's staffing shortage means that the results of the "Questionnaire for ENGH 0890 and 0990 Courses" for the summer of 2004 and fall of 2004 will be processed, at the earliest, in the spring of 2005. Their staffing shortage means, rather than evenly distributing the research projects defined in my release time proposal across fall and spring semesters, I will have to complete more of these reports in the spring. At this time, too, it seems that their staff shortage "adds" to my work by having to write two sets of reports on Questionnaires rather than one set.

Basically, I am having, and will have, difficulty completing the two largest proposed research projects – Questionnaire analysis and tracking portfolio students – because of their staff shortages. I am fulfilling my obligations by availing myself of alternative research methodologies and advancing other research projects.