

## 23rd Annual Psychology Undergraduate Conference – November 5, 2016

### NCPA Conference Survey Summary – Analyses/Report completed by Kali Smith

The following brief report is a summary of the responses from 73 conference attendees that agreed to complete the post conference survey. While no demographic information was requested, respondents included 3 freshmen, 18 sophomores, 23 juniors, 24 seniors, 1 graduate student, and 4 students that did not indicate class level.

#### Application and Needs

Respondents were asked to rate the degree in which this conference met their needs and was applicable to them. The rating scale was from 1 to 5 with a rating of 1 indicating they strongly disagreed with a statement of conference utility and a rating of 5 indicating they strongly agreed with a statement of conference utility. The average scores and statements are listed below.

Table 1: Need and Application Ratings

Statement	N	Avg.	Notes
The Undergraduate Conference met my needs	73	4.7	No ratings of 1 or 2; mode was 5
The Graduate school Representatives met my needs	73	4.6	No ratings of 1 or 2; mode was 5
Graduate School presentation was applicable to me.	73	4.4	No ratings of 1; 8 ratings of 2 or 3; mode was 5

#### Small Group Sessions

Based on the handwritten titles provided by students, there were 21 small group sessions as represented in Table 2 below. The ratings below are based on the same scale as referenced above (1 = strongly disagree/5= strongly agree). The per group statement that respondents are rating is; *I found this Small Group Session Helpful.*

Table 2: Small Group Session Ratings

Group	N	Avg. Rating
Counseling Psychology	18	4
Social/Personality	4	5
Military	4	4.75
Health	4	4.25
Forensic	15	4.8
Neuropsychology	10	4.4
Industrial-organizational Psychology	3	4.67
Psychology Hospital	9	5
School Psychology	15	4.67
Graduate Record Examination	12	4.83
Adult/Private Practice	4	4.5
Behavioral Analysis	11	3.36
Child and Adolescent Psychology	16	4.69
Sport Psychology	5	4.6
Community Mental Health	4	5
Academic	8	4
Substance Abuse	7	4.57

Affording Graduate School	23	4.65
University Counseling	4	5
Surviving Graduate School	4	4.75
VA Hospitals	7	4.57

### Open Ended Feedback

Respondents were asked to provide open ended comments or remarks regarding the small group sessions. There were approximately 29 respondents that added “open ended” responses. Of these responses, 59% were responses emphasizing the quality of the group sessions and positive personal feelings about the utility of the group sessions. For example, one respondent offered, “Absolutely amazing, every one of them! Very interesting and very helpful”. Of the remaining 12 open ended comments, 9 respondents expressed concerns about logistics that included the following: 5 attendees stated that the small groups needed more structure, and 2 went on to say that they did not expect the small group content to be dependent on student questions; 3 attendees enjoyed the small groups but wanted the opportunity to attend more of them; and 1 attendee mentioned that the group presenters were not on time for the groups. The 3 remaining complaints included: 1) groups were informative but needed to be more interesting; 2) make the groups more interactive; and 3) graduate students should not be the group leaders.

### General

The following data is related to general questions about the conference. When asked, *how did you find out about this conference*, the majority of attendees indicated they found out about this conference from their professor (66%). One respondent indicated they discovered this conference via a web based search and 12 respondents reported discovery through e-mail with an overlap of 7 students who heard about it from both their professor and via email. Finally, 9 respondents reported other sources and 3 respondents left this item blank on their survey. Sixty-six respondents (90.4%) indicated this was the first time they had attended this conference. Five respondents had attended this conference in the past and three respondents left this item blank. Despite this low re-attendance rate, 95.8% of respondents indicated they would recommend this conference to other people. When asked, *would you like to receive information about the next conference*, 40% of the respondents indicated they would not like to receive information about the next conference.

When asked if there was enough time for questions and discussion in the small group session and during breakout sessions with graduate students, 95.8% of respondents indicated there was enough time in the small groups and 89% of respondents indicated there was enough time with graduate student representatives. 48% of respondents indicated that the Poster Sessions were helpful in planning a future in psychology. Of note, 35.6% of all respondents left this item blank (poster session utility).

Respondents were also asked to comment on the things they liked “best” and “least” about the program content of the undergraduate conference. Respondents offered information about program content and about the conference in general. As with the small group session report above, complaints about logistic issues represented the majority of complaints while accolades about the quality of presenters and amount of information acquired represented the bulk of the positive feedback. The three most common complaints were in regards to a lack of structure in small groups, signage lacking in the area causing attendees to get lost, and the first half of the conference being too long, while the group portion was often regarded as too short. Some respondents commented on the lack of structure in small

groups, despite them being well regarded overall. A few respondents made note that directions were unclear and they often got lost trying to find where they were going, causing them distress. Lastly, a few respondents reported that the first half of the conference was too long for their liking.

### **Summary and Recommendations**

In general, the response to the 23rd Annual Undergraduate Conference was positive and encouraging. While there were some complaints about small session groups, the general ratings and feedback regarding the timeliness and quality of small group sessions were very positive. Based on the ratings and open ended feedback from respondents regarding the small group sessions, the SASA will work to accomplish the following:

- Ask all presenters to prepare agendas/outlines of the small group session
- Make sure students are aware that a portion of the content of the small groups will be their questions, so they may have them prepared
- Provide presenters with timeline of events to help small groups run more smoothly and start on time

In regard to the general operations of the next conference, based on respondent ratings and the open ended feedback received, the SASA will work to accomplish the following:

- Reduce the length of morning session and/or add breaks
- Placing adequate signage throughout the venue so that attendees do not get lost

**THIS IS A DRAFT REPORT; WILL DISCUSS FINDINGS/OTHER DURING NEXT SASA ON MAY 12 2017**