Parent Survey Highlights, 2016

The COFHE Parent Survey was administered to the parents of Swarthmore College students in the spring of 2016. The response rate was 58%. The following highlights report reflects general findings in six distinct areas. **Figure 1** reflects parents' general sense of satisfaction and personal connection with the College. **Figure 2** displays the level of agreement with several statements on the culture and environment at the College. **Figure 3** (on page 2) displays the level of agreement with several statements on the College's goals and areas of focus. **Figure 4** (on page 2) reflects areas about which parents would like to be more informed. **Figure 5** (on page 3) displays the levels of parental concern for the well-being of their children. **Figures 6 and 7** (on page 3) illustrate parental reaction to the process and impacts of financing a Swarthmore education.

**Figure 1**
Overall, how satisfied are you with your child’s education so far?

- Very dissatisfied: 4%
- Generally dissatisfied: 30%
- Ambivalent: 25%
- Generally satisfied: 28%
- Very satisfied: 17%

**Figure 2**
How much do you agree or disagree with the following? Swarthmore...

- welcomes people of different racial/ethnic backgrounds: 80%
- is a place where diverse viewpoints can be heard: 68%
- welcomes people from all socioeconomic backgrounds: 64%
- is a safe place for students: 58%
- takes parents’ concerns seriously: 26%

**Figure 3**
How satisfied are you with your sense of personal connection to Swat?

- Don’t know: 5%
- Very dissatisfied: 8%
- Generally dissatisfied: 57%
- Generally satisfied: 28%
- Very satisfied: 17%

**Figure 4**
Would you encourage a high school senior who resembles your child to attend Swarthmore?

- Definitely would not: 8%
- Probably would not: 20%
- Maybe: 17%
- Probably would: 29%
- Definitely would: 33%
Figure 3

How much do you agree or disagree with the following? Swarthmore...

- Should do more to promote community service/volunteerism.
- Could reduce spending and maintain quality.
- Should focus more on providing training for specific careers/professions.
- Should focus more on broad-based education.
- Needs to create more opportunities for alcohol-free socializing.
- Should focus more on career counseling.

Figure 4

What areas would you like to hear more about?
(Percentage of respondents who selected item)

- Career counseling: 63%
- Academic life: 54%
- Off-campus programs: 45%
- Residential life: 42%
- Special events: 40%
- Campus safety: 37%
- Financial aid: 35%
- Health services: 33%
- Resources for parents: 33%
- Academic support: 32%
- Events for parents: 31%
- Psychological counseling: 30%
- Student organizations: 26%
- Athletics: 19%
- Financing: 15%
- Religious life: 13%

Fig. 5

How much do you worry that you child...

- Not at all
- A little
- Quite a bit
- A great deal

...is under too much academic stress?

- 15% Not at all
- 42% A little
- 26% Quite a bit
- 17% A great deal

...will have trouble getting a job after graduation?

- 25% Not at all
- 38% A little
- 22% Quite a bit
- 16% A great deal

...will graduate with too much debt?

- 47% Not at all
- 26% A little
- 14% Quite a bit
- 14% A great deal

Fig. 6

Financing Education

- 21% (Yes)
- 79% (No) Child has student loans
- 23% (Yes)
- 77% (No) Parent(s) borrowed for child’s education
- 8% (Severe)
- 37% (Considerable) Impact of paying for child (on family)
- 17% (Central to Choice)
- 72% (Yes) Child’s experience worth the expense
- 18% (None/Slight)
- 33% (Moderate)
- 22% (Somewhat Important)
- 29% (Not Important at all)
- 4% (N/A)

Fig. 7

Has paying for college caused you to...

- 17% Delay home buying
- 47% Delay retirement
- 63% Slow savings
- 65% Delay major purchase

Percentage of respondents selecting item.