

THE TEACHING EXCHANGE

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Sheridan Center Survey on Support for Professional Development at Brown

In preparation for the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Sheridan Center this year, the Center conducted an online survey of faculty and graduate students at Brown in November 2006, with the goal of ensuring that the Center continues to meet the pedagogical and professional development needs of the Brown teaching community. There were two separate surveys: one of faculty (including regular faculty and postdoctoral fellows), and one of graduate students. A total of ninety-two (92) faculty and one hundred two (102) graduate students responded. While this represents only 14% of the entire faculty and 6% of the overall graduate student population, it is nonetheless possible to draw some useful conclusions from the responses we received.

The survey data indicates that the overwhelming majority of those who reported having used the Center's programs, services, teaching resources and/or publications found them valuable. Survey respondents who had taken advantage of the Center's consulting services were particularly enthusiastic about them. These services include the Individual Teaching Consultation, Presentation/Conference Paper Consultation, Course Consultation, Grant Consultation and Academic Career Consultation. The survey data also revealed that a significant number of faculty and graduate students are not aware of some of the Center's consulting services, teaching resources and publications. We will work harder to publicize these to all members of the Brown teaching community.

We wish to thank all of you who took the time to respond to the survey – the results will help the Center staff to assess its activities and plan strategically to develop new ones. We welcome your suggestions and ideas for Sheridan Center program, services and resources – please come by the Center or contact us at 863-1219 or Sheridan.Center@brown.edu.