**Survey Instrument**  Perception of Undergraduate Life and Student Experiences (PULSE)

**Owner(s)**  Associate Provost for Education; Vice President for Institutional Affairs

**Sponsor(s)**  Council of Undergraduate Deans

**Study Population**  All enrolled undergraduate students - excluding LPS students

**Invited Participants**  Census

**Invitation Signatory**  Provost

**Administration**
At minimum, the PULSE Survey is administered, via the web, every four years beginning in 2009. The survey will be open for approximately one month in the later part of the Spring semester.

**Brief Description**
The PULSE Survey is designed to be given in lieu of the COFHE Enrolled Student Survey (ESS). The ESS is an exhaustive instrument that collects data about virtually all aspects of enrolled students’ collegiate lives amongst COFHE institutions. Consortium wide administration of the ESS occurs every four years, but many institutions choose to administer the ESS on an annual or biennial basis. Recent concerns about declining response rates and the length of the ESS prompted a group of COFHE representatives to develop the PULSE. Originally dubbed the “ESS-Lite,” the much briefer PULSE instrument is designed to be given in “off-years” of the ESS.

The PULSE Survey consists of approximately sixty core questions. These core questions assess students’ general satisfaction with the collegiate experience, as well as their perceived acquisition of knowledge, skills and abilities as a result of attending college. In addition to these core questions, participating institutions may elect to append questions from one of six “modules.” The modules currently available include: Faculty Contact, Choosing a Major, Diversity, Sources of Stress, Alcohol Use, and Floating Items. Lastly, institutions may independently, or collaboratively with other COFHE institutions, append additional questions. The total number of questions on the survey may not exceed 100. Penn includes a set of questions related to the culture and climate of the institution.

**Relationship to Other Instruments**
Several questions on the PULSE Survey also appear on the CIRP Freshman survey, which Penn students take in the few weeks before matriculating. This repetition allows for a comparison between anticipated and actual behavior.

Institutional questions about culture and climate appended to the PULSE are also included in surveys of other populations of the Penn community. This allows for comparisons between undergraduate and graduate response as well as between faculty and students.

Data gathered by the PULSE can also be linked to additional information contained in the data warehouse allowing for further analysis.

**Survey Results**
Each PULSE administration results in an institutional summary report of the responses. Intra-institutional comparisons are made possible through the creation of individual reports for each of the undergraduate schools. Summaries by gender, minority status and international status are also generated.

Participation in the PULSE also allows us to compare the Penn undergraduate population to those of peer COFHE institutions.

**Distribution Plan**
A top level institutional summary, which provides basic frequency counts for each survey item, is available by the fall semester following the PULSE administration. This summary is accessible to the Penn community via the IR&A website.

Detailed reports are shared with the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost. Deans of the Undergraduate Schools receive school-specific results. Results are also shared with the Council of Undergraduate Deans and its workgroup. As appropriate, results are shared with Faculty committees dedicated to issues related to undergraduate education.