

Observations on the Fall 2022 UMRA Program Survey

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Responses

We received responses from 346 people, more than in any other UMRA Survey except our 2019 survey on volunteerism.

Obstacles

- Three factors were named as obstacles (major or minor) by a majority of respondents.
 - Covid/other disease concerns—68%
 - Schedule conflicts—55%
 - Parking—54%

While only 7% named parking as a major obstacle, it is clearly an irritant to many.

- Those who had not attended any in-person events this year generally saw all the factors as more of an obstacle than those who had attended. One difference stands out as both statistically significant and noteworthy:
 - 55% of those who have not attended said that not knowing enough people was an obstacle, with 16% saying it's a major obstacle. (Compared to only 26% and 2% among attenders)

Formats

- By themselves, the proposed coffee formats were generally rated as less appealing than the luncheon formats.
 - The two luncheon formats together were the top choice of 46%, compared with only 19% for the coffee formats.
 - However, 35% said that a mix of luncheons and coffees was their top choice. Taken together with those who preferred the coffee formats, we can infer that 54% indicated an openness to the alternative format.
- Those who had attended UMRA events regularly before COVID (N=87) had a much stronger preference for luncheons.
 - 65% preferred the luncheon formats, and the traditional hot lunch was their single most favored choice at 40%

Importance of an On-Campus Location

- Respondents were split on their views of the importance of being on campus.
 - 54% said it was very or somewhat important to stay on campus, and 45% said it was not important or only slightly important.
- The pre-Covid regulars were strongly in favor of a campus location, with 69% saying that it was very or somewhat important to stay on campus (28% very and 41% somewhat)
- Among those who had attended events this year, 67% replied that a campus location was very or somewhat important, while among those who had not attended, a 56% majority said the campus location was not important or only slightly important.