Purposes and Goals of the 2010 Student Social Climate Survey

Key purposes of the Student Social Climate Survey are:

- To provide a mechanism to monitor student perceptions of the extent to which the Boulder campus community provides a positive and supportive climate for diversity, inclusion and learning. In short, it helps answer the question, “How are we doing?”
- To permit assessment of change over time in student perceptions of various aspects of the campus social climate.
- To provide data that can spark ideas for action—in the classroom, at the department level, in units that focus on student services, etc.—to foster a supportive and inclusive community. And to carry out initiatives based on the data.
- To demonstrate accountability and contribute to a larger campus discussion about diversity and inclusion by collecting and communicating information that describes both positive and negative student experiences related to diversity.

Steps toward meeting the key purposes of the 2010 Student Social Climate Survey include:

- Establishment of the current advisory board to clarify survey goals and improve assessment.
- Expand scope of survey to include:
  - more extensive assessment of religious tolerance
  - assessment of tolerance of diverse political points of view
  - attention to tolerance of other groups or statuses not explicitly addressed before.
  - Earlier surveys had assessed perceived biases against others based on their race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability status, religiosity and religious belief, gender, residency (in-state/out-of-state), and foreign citizenship. Assessment may be expanded to include perceived bias based on others’ veteran status, economic/social class, and political beliefs.
- Make survey respondents more aware of the uses to which the information is put and the impacts it may have.
- More/better effort to use the data to bring about a better learning and social climate on campus. This may include:
  - Making more concerted effort to use the data to inform programs, address needs, and support initiatives.
  - Making more concerted effort to communicate results to particular constituencies.
  - Making better use of student comments from open-ended items.
- Improve participation rate:
  - Survey all students rather than a representative sample of them, to allow campus-wide campaigns for participation.
  - Initiate stronger recruitment/reminder efforts targeted at specific groups, including students with disabilities, GLBT students, etc. Involve the advisory board and other campus leaders in these efforts.
  - Improve incentive strategy, e.g., make chances of receiving financial awards better for groups with higher response rates, e.g., colleges/departments, majors.