CIRP Freshman Survey – Executive Summary

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The following is a report of results of the 2006 administration of the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey. The survey was administered during orientation last summer. The results reported here are for the 3,241 respondents who indicated that they would be full-time FTIACs in the fall.

Following are some areas in which GVSU’s freshmen differ from freshmen at similar schools nationwide. Please refer to the report “2006 CIRP Institutional Summary” for additional details. Reports showing trends and gender differences in GVSU freshmen’s responses are also available.

- **GVSU freshmen regard GVSU highly…** Our students were more likely to be attending their first choice school (84% vs. 77%). Among those who were not at their 1st choice school, GVSU students were more likely to have been accepted at their first choice school (72% vs. 56%).

- **Alcohol and tobacco use is much lower among GVSU freshmen…** According to their self-reports, GVSU students are less likely to have drank beer (20% vs. 40%), drank wine or liquor (26% vs. 54%), or smoked cigarettes frequently (2% vs. 5%) in the last year.

- **GVSU freshmen are less politically involved…** GVSU students are less likely than national peers to consider “influencing the political structure” an important personal goal (14% vs. 22%) or to value “keeping up to date with political affairs” highly (30% vs. 38%).

- **GVSU freshmen have less experience with ethnic diversity…** Our students were more likely to describe their high school as “Mostly White” or “Completely White” (81% vs. 69%). They were also less likely to say they had socialized frequently with someone of another ethnic group in the past year (59% vs. 65%).

- **GVSU freshmen emphasize utilitarian reasons for attending college…** Our students are more likely to indicate “getting a better job” (74% vs. 70%) or “train for a specific career” (75% vs. 69%) as important reasons for attending college.

- **GVSU freshmen are concerned about financing college…** GVSU freshmen are less likely than peers to indicate confidence in their ability to finance their education (30% vs. 44%). They’re more likely to say they’ll get a job to pay for college (60% vs. 41%) and to count on saving from summer work to cover expenses (67% vs. 48%).

For more information on these survey results, please see the attached reports, or contact the Office of Institutional Analysis (331-8648).