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STUDENTS WHO WERE ENROLLED FALL 1967 AND DID NOT RETURN FOR SPRING 1968.

San Jose City Coll., Calif.

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Results of a survey of 514 students at San Jose City College (Calif.) who did not return for the 1967 spring semester showed that of the 428 respondents, (1) 156 entered another college (with 124 of these transferring to San Jose State), (2) 85 completed the A.A. degree and desired no further training, (3) 68 decided to work before completing their programs, (4) 40 listed financial problems as reasons for not continuing their studies, and (5) 43 moved away from the area. Also weighed were responses (few of which are detailed in this report) concerning college action which might have enabled students to continue their education, students' attitudes, strengths and weaknesses of the college, students' future plans for attending college, and comments and suggestions. Copies of the cover letter and the 1-page questionnaire, with the number of responses for each item, are included. (DG)

STUDENTS WHO WERE ENROLLED FALL 1967 AND DID NOT RETURN FOR SPRING 1968

Each year there is a concern for the number of students who were enrolled during the fall semester and then do not return for the spring semester. Because of this concern, and with assistance from the computer, a survey of those students enrolled during the Fall 1967 Semester has just recently been completed. The attached questionnaire, with the number of responses for each item, gives an indication of why these students did not return to San Jose City College.

This survey does not include 449 students who were disqualified at the end of the Fall 1967 Semester and hence were not readmitted for the Spring Semester, and it also does not include 185 Day students who enrolled in Evening Division classes only and continued their education. The reason for not continuing in the Day Division in both cases is obvious.

Not counting the above two categories, this still left 514 day students who attended Fall 1967 Semester but did not enroll for the Spring Semester, 1968. In order to find out why these students did not return, a letter and questionnaire was mailed to each student. Of the 514 questionnaires mailed out, a response was received from 428 former students, which is 83% of the total. (It was necessary to follow up the questionnaire with a second reminder as the original request collected only 247 returns, or 48% of the total.)

Some of the more significant results include:

Category A: Why the student did not return.

1. 156 out of the 428 returns, or about 37%, indicated they have entered some other college. 124 of this 156 indicated they are attending San Jose State; or 80% of these students transferred to San Jose State.
2. The next reason listed most often is that 85 students completed the A.A. Degree and had reached their immediate objective.
3. 68 students, 16%, decided to work.
4. 43 students, 10%, moved away from the area.
5. 40 students, 9.5%, listed financial problems as a reason for not continuing.

Category B: Could anything have been done by the college to make it possible for the student to continue?

285 answered "no", 44 said "yes", to this category. It appears the college is doing about all it can do to help students stay in college. Of the 44 students who responded with "yes", 5 said "expand day courses", 4 said "expand evening division courses", and 3 said they had release problems from other districts. The remaining 32 all had individual, different reasons or no comments.

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Category C: What is the student's present attitude toward the college?

Under this category only 11 students listed "not favorable" and 22 indicated "no opinion". This leaves an overwhelming majority with a favorable attitude toward San Jose City College.

Category D: Greatest strength and major weakness of the college.

This question quite naturally received a wide range of responses which are somewhat difficult to analyze. However, the question concerning "greatest strength" seemed to have a tendency to list the instructional staff and registration procedures. The "major weakness" seemed to be apathy of the student body, lack of parking, and poor facilities.

Category E: What are the student's future plans about college?

This item did not indicate significant results other than that many of the students plan to return to San Jose City College at a future date.

Category F: Comments or suggestions.

This category also included every imaginable idea for improvements, some critical, and others very fine commendations. These criticisms and the commendations are being studied in order that the college may review areas where criticism was offered and reinforce areas where approval was indicated.

The questionnaire, with the number of responses for each item, follows.

SAN JOSE CITY COLLEGE
QUESTIONNAIRE

PLEASE CHECK THE ITEMS WHICH APPLY TO YOU. (Several may be applicable.)

A. I decided not to return to San Jose City College because:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>68</u> I decided to work. | 9. <u>23</u> I got married. |
| 2. <u>17</u> My health caused me to change plans. | 10. <u>13</u> I had a baby. |
| 3. <u>7</u> I lacked transportation. | 11. <u>6</u> I was drafted. |
| 4. <u>45</u> I had financial problems. | 12. <u>17</u> I enlisted. |
| 5. <u>19</u> I was needed at home. | 13. <u>156</u> I entered some other college. |
| 6. <u>17</u> I completed the courses I needed for the job I am now holding. | Name of college _____ |
| 7. <u>43</u> I moved away from the area. | 14. <u>85</u> I completed the A. A. Degree. |
| 8. <u>23</u> Courses I wanted were not offered. | 15. <u>18</u> Tired of schooling. |
| List course(s) _____ | 16. <u>55</u> Other. Please describe. _____ |

B. Could anything have been done by the College to make it possible for you to remain here?

1. 44 Yes
2. 285 No

If yes, what? _____

C. Since you formerly attended San Jose City College, what is your present attitude toward the college?

1. 321 Favorable
2. 11 Not favorable
3. 22 No opinion

D. In your opinion what is the greatest strength of the College? _____

What is the major weakness? _____

E. If you are not now attending college, do you plan to return at some future time?

1. 183 Yes
2. 36 No

If you are not now attending, but plan to continue your college program, where will you attend? Please check appropriate space below:

- 122 San Jose City College
21 Another junior college
82 A four-year college or university
3 Other. Please name: _____

F. Comments or suggestions: (use back if necessary) _____

Thank you!