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UW students satisfied with education

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LARAMIE — Parking is a hassle but otherwise students at the University of Wyoming are overwhelmingly happy with their schooling and believe they are growing intellectually, according to student surveys.

UW conducts three student surveys on a biennial basis to assess student satisfaction on a range of topics.

Of 1,500 students surveyed in 2010, 96 percent said they were happy with their educational experience and 85 percent believed they were growing intellectually, according to survey results released by the university this week.

UW President Tom Buchanan said the results of the surveys, which have been conducted since 1994, are encouraging.

"I think what we're seeing are in the places that are important in terms of the quality of instruction, availability of faculty to students, satisfaction of course work in the major, all of those are indicators that have been strong here for quite a while, but they are getting stronger and noticeably stronger over time in the last five or six years," Buchanan said.

Enrollment at the university hit a record 13,657 students this fall, breaking the previous record of 13,655 set in 1991.

Seventy-eight percent of UW students said they believe UW tuition to be a worthwhile investment, while 10 percent

were dissatisfied.

A lack of parking was far and away the least positive aspect students cited about UW although parking was not among the 10 most important issues with students.

In addition, 27 percent expressed dissatisfaction with being able to register for classes with few conflicts.

Other survey results showed:

- * **81 percent** said they the content of the courses within their major was valuable and 82 percent rated the instruction in their major as excellent.

- * **Students who** indicated that they feel treated as individuals rather than an institutional number increased from 37 percent in 1994 to 53 percent in 2010. Twelve percent expressed dissatisfaction last year.

- * **Satisfaction** with financial aid services has increased to 73 percent from 60 percent in 1994, a figure significantly higher than the national average.

- * **86 percent** said the campus was safe and secure.

- * **Satisfaction** with food services in the residence halls has risen from 37 percent in 2002 to 61 percent in 2010.

- * **93 percent** of students expressed satisfaction with recreational or intramural activities and programs.

- * **89 percent** were satisfied with classroom facilities.

- * **93 percent** of students would recommend the university to a friend or relative.