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McCain leads campus poll

by [The Bagpipe Staff](#) on September 10, 2008

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Most students and faculty say they will vote for Republican candidate John McCain in the November presidential election, according to a poll conducted by Kevin Eames, director of institutional research, and The Bagpipe. Of 359 students who took the survey, 268 (75.1 percent) say they'll vote for McCain. Of 47 faculty members, 27 (60 percent) say they'll vote for the Arizona senator.

54 students (15.1 percent) and 16 faculty members (35.6 percent) will potentially vote for Democratic candidate Barack Obama. 20 students and no faculty say they'll vote for a third party candidate. 15 students and two faculty members say they aren't voting.

The survey was conducted by e-mail last week, and represents only a sampling of students and faculty. Some did not respond to the survey. The survey also tested students' and faculty members' feelings toward a range of issues talked about in the presidential campaign.

Most faculty and students surveyed are unsure whether or not either of the candidates is a Christian. Both candidates say they are Christians.

31 faculty members are unsure McCain is a Christian; 26 are unsure Obama is a Christian. 229 students are also unsure about McCain, and 156 about Obama.

Students who believe Obama is not a Christian are two more than those who are not sure about his faith. 158 believe Obama is not a Christian, compared to 31 who believe McCain is not a Christian. 96 students believe McCain is a Christian.

Most faculty members and students consider the roles the president plays in the economy and foreign/diplomatic relations to be the two most important ones. They ranked these roles higher than military leadership (commander-in-chief) and inspirational leadership.

Most students ranked the issues of abortion, education and social justice as most important when considering candidates. Faculty ranked the issues of abortion, healthcare and social justice as most important. These issues were ranked above ones including church/state concerns, immigration, personal faith, tax increases and the war on terror.

Most surveyed agree the current tax system unfairly benefits the wealthiest Americans.

Also, most students and faculty members consider the country to be worse off than it was in 2004. 155 students (43.4 percent) and 30 faculty members (63.8 percent) say the country is worse off.

Students and faculty split on their sentiments towards the role the United States has played in world leadership. A majority of students (49.6 percent) say they are somewhat happy with the role of the U.S., while a majority of faculty members (34.8 percent) say they are very unhappy.

A similar split happened between student and faculty sentiments towards President Bush's performance as president in his second term.

A majority of faculty (39.1 percent) say they are very unhappy with Bush's performance. A majority of students (44.4 percent) say they are somewhat happy with his performance.

A majority of faculty and students also agree with the attitude that the U.S. should go to war only when all other diplomatic options have been exhausted. 141 students (40.1 percent) and 20 faculty members (42.6 percent) agree with this attitude.

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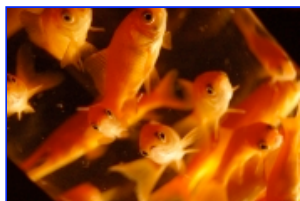
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