Institute for Public Opinion Research

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Mission Statement:
The primary purpose of the Institute for Public Opinion Research is to advance understanding of public opinion through education and research. Education is provided directly with the instruction of students, by conducting seminars, and through scholarly publications; and indirectly through the dissemination of the results of public opinion polls. Research is performed to inform on specific issues of public opinion and also on public opinion theory and methodology.

Key Terms:
Survey Research
Public Opinion
Polling

Affiliated Universities:
N/A

FL
305-919-5242
N/A
Activities - Prior Year

In terms of the C&G/E&G ratio we did not do as well as we would have liked. Some FIU units for which we contracted paid us with E&G funds, and we do not have the information to more than roughly estimate the amount of C&G funds coming to other units from grants facilitated or enabled by IPOR (we hope this information will be made available to centers for 2000/01).

As usual this was a busy year for IPOR. Nine projects were completed, though they were each relatively small compared to past years (average budget $20,704). However the small size of the projects was not indicative of the complexity and difficulty of them. Two (one for the LACC Institute for International Professional Services, the other for Gov. Jeb Bush's forum on Engaging a Civil Society) involved using multiple data collection strategies to get data from leaders in the private and public sectors.

These projects stretched IPOR to the limit in terms of staff and space, exacerbated by the departure of our programmer. We were not able to seek any new contracts and in one case had to ask an FIU researcher to look for a survey facility outside of FIU to do a large project. We began efforts to find a new space for IPOR. We also initiated discussions to resolve issues with the university that have made it impossible to create full-time staff lines funded by our C&G income.

During the year IPOR's mission to advance awareness of public opinion issues/research and FIU's reputation for research continued primarily through its presence on the web. IPOR was recognized as being among the top 15 survey research sites accessed. On surveys measuring opinions about Cuba and hurricane evacuation IPOR stays within the first or second most accessed sites.

Activities - Coming Year

IPOR's mission to advance awareness of public opinion issues/research and FIU's reputation for research will get a good start as AY 2000-2001 begins with the FIU/Cuba Poll. Results will be presented at the Cuba Research Institute Conference at FIU on October 19. The 2000 FIU/Florida Poll results will be out a month later inform and analyze important issues raised for the November election.

A number of projects are either planned or in the proposal stage which should improve the C&G/E&G ratio for IPOR.

IPOR’s most urgent task is to improve the staffing situation. As of the end of August our second (replacement) programmer has been hired away and our director is doing most of the programming (one reason why this report is late--programming for FIU’s Cuba Poll is top priority now). We will be working with Sponsored Research and the Controllers Office to find a way to enable us to hire full time staff and pay them from C&G funds we bring in. We are also proceeding with plans to move to a larger space.