

From: Kang, Kelly H.
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 3:36 PM
To: Plimpton, Suzanne H.
Cc: Rivers, Emilda B.
Subject: Responses to OMB questions on GSS

Hi Suzanne,
Here are our responses to OMB questions. I didnt address (3) because I am sure youll take care of it.
Id appreciate it if you can submit this to OMB at your earliest convenience.

Thanks, and please let me know if you have any questions.—
Kelly

1.— OMB: The memo says its methodological research but it looks like a production activity to screen all of the schools in question (ie, an operation to determine their inclusion in the next round of data collection). Is that correct? If so, please change characterization.—
NSF: No, this is not a production activity; it is a research activity for this cycle only. The goal is to assess our ability to improve survey coverage by testing the effectiveness of administrative sources (IPEDS degree completion data and school website review) thereby reducing the screening cost in the GSS. We will use the additional data from the screening survey to help NSF determine the best methodologies to use to efficiently screen potentially eligible institutions in the GSS for upcoming 2011 cycle and beyond.—
As part of the previously approved GSS frame expansion research activity, approximately 500 institutions were identified as potentially eligible for GSS using mainly the IPEDS degree completion data. A website review of the potentially eligible institutions was conducted in an attempt to verify the degree programs offered at these institutions. We had originally planned to base the decision of whether or not to add new institutions to the GSS based on the results of the website reviews.—
However, given that the potentially GSS eligible institutions are primarily masters degree granting institutions, we are concerned that using the results of the website reviews alone may yield too many ineligible new schools in the 2011 GSS cycle. Our concern is that often

~~school websites do not always provide sufficient or updated information to screen out the practitioner-oriented degrees from the research-oriented degree programs. Therefore, we decided that further research is needed (the short screening survey) to determine whether the IPEDS degree completion data and the school website reviews can be used to successfully identify the GSS eligibility of the degrees.~~

~~2. OMB: Is this going to be the way that NCSES proposes to deal with new schools each round? In other words, why would we anticipate this being a onetime activity?
NSF: Yes, this is planned as a onetime activity. We will compare the eligibility results from the three sources (screening survey, school website review, IPEDS degree completion) to determine the effectiveness of the outcome of each source. The results from the screening activity will help us determine the best procedures for screening potentially eligible schools in the future GSS cycles and for streamlining the process of confirming their GSS eligibility to ensure full coverage of all graduate students enrolled in science, engineering, and selected health fields in the U.S.~~

~~From: Plimpton, Suzanne H.
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 11:49 AM
To: Kang, Kelly H.
Subject: FW: GSS~~

~~Kelly,~~

~~Some questions from Shelly.~~

~~Thanks,~~

~~Suzanne~~

~~From: Martinez, Shelly [mailto:Rochelle_W_Martinez@omb.eop.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 11:45 AM
To: Plimpton, Suzanne H.
Subject: GSS~~

~~Okay, I just took a look at the GSS change request. The memo says its methodological research but it looks like a production activity to screen all of the schools in question (ie, an operation to determine their inclusion in the next round of data collection).~~

- ~~1. — Is that correct? If so, please change characterization.~~
- ~~2. — Is this going to be the way that NCSES proposes to deal with new schools each round? In other words, why would we anticipate this being a onetime activity?~~
- ~~3. — Suzanne, please plan to load the screener questionnaire as a separate IC in ROCIS rather than as a memo attachment.~~

~~Thanks. Shelly~~