March 5, 2013: What Do You Want Wednesday Report

The purpose of What Do You Want Wednesdays is to allow Mason students and Mason’s Student Government to interact on a one-on-one basis to facilitate conversations regarding desired changes or questions about campus issues. This month, we partnered with the George Mason Police Department, and polled students on their opinion of the Police Department. There were 150 surveys taken, and the results are as follows:

Do you think Mason Police are effective in keeping a safe environment at Mason?
Total Count: 150

Keeping A Safe Environment on Campus

- Yes (126) 84%
- No (24) 16%
Have you had any interactions with the Mason PD, if so, how did they go?
Total Count: 150

Interactions with the PD?

- **Yes (61)**
- **No (89)**

- 41%
- 59%

How was the interaction?
Total Count: 57

How was the interaction?

- **Positive (29)**
- **Mediocre (11)**
- **Negative (17)**

- 30%
- 19%
- 51%

Most of the interactions involved alcohol, or stopping cars because of a taillight, running a stoplight, or speeding.
A positive about Mason PD:
Total Count: 117

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positives about the Police Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cadet Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Environment/Presence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do Their Job Efficiently</td>
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<tr>
<td>Respectful</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
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<td>Quick Response Time</td>
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There was plenty of positive feedback from the Mason student body. Most of the positive feedback regarded how well the Mason police make students feel safe on campus. A majority of students stated that the officers were quick to respond and efficiently got the job done. Students were appreciative of the fact that they could easily get into contact with an officer in case of a problem. Students also value the cadet program, and how the cadets were able to competently move the flow of traffic throughout the University.
The amount of feedback for improvement was lower than some of the other categories. Nonetheless, most of the suggestions focused on the officers using more discretion when it came to vehicle violations and incidences in the dorms. Additionally, while the friendliness and respectfulness of the officers was a notable strength of the campus Police, in certain cases students felt that the Police could have responded in a more respectful manner. Several students suggested that the officers should be more focused on making sure students were safe going back to their dorm at night on weekends, rather than arresting offenders if they appeared to be in normal and functioning condition after spending a night out with friends and such. Presence was again a strong point, but also an area of improvement for the George Mason Police Department. Some suggested that the officers should walk about the campus at night to ensure the safety of students walking alone.