Enrolled Student Survey (ESS) Inventory Document

**Survey Instrument**: Enrolled Student Survey (ESS)
**Owner(s)**: Vice Provost for Education; Vice President for Institutional Affairs
**Sponsor(s)**: Council of Undergraduate Deans
**Study Population**: All traditional undergraduate students enrolled during the spring semester
**Invited Participants**: Census
**Invitation Signatory**: Provost and Vice Provost for Education

**Administration**
The Enrolled Student Survey is administered via the web every four years. During administration years, the survey is open for approximately one month in the latter part of the Spring semester.

**Brief Description**
The 2011 Enrolled Student Survey (ESS) is much shorter than earlier versions. It is very similar to the PULSE (Perception of Undergraduate Life and Student Experiences) survey. In addition, it allows institutions to select options and add content to the body of the survey. However, it remains a robust instrument, collecting just under 120 required items on almost every aspect of student life at COFHE institutions. Consortium-wide administration of the ESS occurs every four years, but many institutions choose to administer the ESS on an annual or biennial basis.

The ESS Survey consists of eight sections. Students are asked to evaluate many aspects of their institutions including the academic environment, faculty and advisors, intellectual gains and progress, student employment, health and wellbeing, and student demographics. Additionally, institutions may elect to append institution-specific questions either independently or collaboratively with other COFHE institutions. Penn currently includes a set of institution-specific questions related to campus culture and climate.

**Relationship to Other Instruments**
Several questions on the ESS also appear on the PULSE Survey, as well as the CIRP Freshman Survey which Penn students take in the few weeks before matriculating. This repetition allows for a comparison between anticipated and actual behavior.

Institutional culture and climate questions appended to the ESS are also included in surveys of other populations of the Penn community. This allows for comparisons between undergraduate and graduate response as well as between faculty and students.

Data gathered by the ESS can also be linked to additional information contained in the data warehouse, allowing for further analysis.

**Survey Results**
Each ESS administration results in an institutional summary report of selected questions. Intra-institutional comparisons are made possible through the creation of individual reports for each of the undergraduate schools. Summaries by gender, minority status and international status are also generated.

Participation in the ESS allows Penn to compare its undergraduate population to those of peer COFHE institutions.

**Distribution Plan**
A top-level institutional summary, which provides basic frequency counts for each survey item, is available by the fall semester following the ESS administration. This summary is accessible to the Penn community via the IR&A website.

Detailed reports are shared with the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost. Deans of the Undergraduate Schools receive school-specific results. Results are also shared with the Council of Undergraduate Deans and its workgroup. As appropriate, results are shared with Faculty committees dedicated to issues related to undergraduate education.