**Survey Instrument**: Parent Survey

**Owner(s)**: Joann Mitchell, Vice Pres. for Institutional Affairs; Andy Binns, Vice Provost for Education

**Sponsor(s)**: Joann Mitchell, Vice Pres. for Institutional Affairs; Andy Binns, Vice Provost for Education

**Study Population**: Parents of all Enrolled Undergraduate Students

**Invited Participants**: Parents of all Enrolled Undergraduate Students

**Invitation Signatory**: President/Provost

**Administration**
Every five years, Penn participates in the COFHE Parent Survey. Beginning in the spring of 2012, the Parent Survey became a fully web-based instrument. The Parent Survey opens late in the spring semester and remains open for approximately one month. Parents and guardians of traditional undergraduate students who are enrolled during the spring semester are invited to complete the Parent Survey. Separate emails are sent to all parents and guardians, but only one survey response per household is collected; parents in the same household may elect to take the survey together. Parents who currently have multiple children enrolled at Penn are asked to provide answers based on their experiences with the elder of these children.

**Brief Description**
The COFHE Parent Survey addresses issues of parental satisfaction and engagement. It further addresses issues related to financing their child’s education at Penn. The survey gathers a wide variety of demographic information about Penn Parents. Additionally, the survey collects information about the extent and quality of parental involvement both with the institution, and with their child while enrolled at Penn.

Consisting of approximately 125 items, the Parent Survey represents one of the most exhaustive sources of information about Penn Parents. Survey sections include: General satisfaction; Staying informed as the parent of a college student; Paying for college; Choosing a college; About you and your child; and About you.

**Relationship to Other Instruments**
There are several questions on the Parent Survey that are either identical to or similar to questions on student surveys. Data collected from the Parent Survey may be linked with student survey data allowing for comparisons between parent and student response.

As with all other surveys administered by IR&A, Penn parents are asked to respond to a set of institutional-specific questions related to the culture and climate of the Penn Community.

**Survey Results & Distribution Plan**
Results from the COFHE Parent Survey will be shared with the Offices of the President and Provost. A top-level report will compare Penn parent responses to the responses of parents of children at other participating COFHE institutions. At the discretion of the Office of the Provost, more detailed analyses of information collected on the Penn Parent Survey will be available, by request.