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Many students feel the need to be connected to the school they are attending. Whether it be high school, collage, or university, it is important to feel involved with the school one is attending. Having school spirit or feeling the school spirit is necessary when achieving this. There are many different ways in achieving school spirit such as, attending sports games, attending events, participating in school activities, and being apart of the greek system. Many students feel that school spirit is important when achieving an education; however, many students do not agree with this, and do not have school spirit. This may be a result of not spending enough time on campus, not paying attention to what is going on around them, or simply they do not know what is being provided and what is being offered. As a result of this, many student organizations “ are often urged to focus on building school spirit or school pride. And this is something they struggle with” (Holdsworth, 2015). It is important to feel honoured and proud to be attending the school that you are and in order to have school spirit. The focus on this paper is to determine if the students at Capilano University have school spirit, and if they do not, what is stopping them.

In regards to assessing Capilano University’s school spirit, I found it important to ask students a few questions regarding it. Therefor, I decided to conduct a standardized interview, asking students about their relationship with Capilano Universities school spirit. I proceeded to go to busy areas of the campus in hopes of gathering students to participate. In order to get a fair response, I decided to interview ten people. This way I could get an accurate answer to my questions. When gathering the participants, I wanted to get five female, five males, and wanted to get a variety of how many years the students have attending Capilano University for. In regards to the questions, I kept them either yes/no answers or agree/disagree. This was a result of time, and the ability to process the information better. The questions that were included in the standardized interview were:

1. How many years have you been attending Capilano University for?
2. Have you ever attending a sports game or event? And are you aware of when they take place?
3. Have you ever attending an event put on by Capilano University? And are you aware of when they take place?
4. Are you proud to be attending Capilano University?
5. Do you spend time on campus (outside of class time)?
6. Do you think you have school spirit?
7. Do you agree or disagree with this statement: attending sporting games or events put on by the university, will increase a students school spirit.

|                   | #1             | #2  | #3  | #4  | #5  | #6  | #7       |
|-------------------|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Person 1<br>guy   | First year     | no  | No  | Yes | No  | No  | disagree |
| Person 2<br>Guy   | first year     | no  | No  | yes | yes | Yes | disagree |
| Person 3<br>guy   | Third year     | no  | no  | No  | yes | No  | disagree |
| Person 4<br>Guy   | Second<br>year | Yes | No  | Yes | No  | No  | Agree    |
| Person 5<br>Guy   | Second<br>year | no  | no  | No  | No  | No  | agree    |
| Person 6<br>girl  | Fourth year    | yes | Yes | yes | yes | Yes | Agreee   |
| Person 7<br>Girl  | second<br>year | yes | no  | yes | yes | Yes | agree    |
| Person 8<br>girl  | First year     | no  | no  | no  | No  | No  | Disagree |
| Person 9<br>Girl  | first year     | no  | yes | Yes | yes | Yes | agree    |
| Person 10<br>Girl | Third year     | no  | No  | yes | No  | No  | Disagree |

The interviews went really well and I was able to gain a better understand of Capilano University's school spirit. For question one I was able to get a wide variety of students in regards to how many years they have been studying at Capilano University. The results for question two and three came back with about 75% of the people never attending a sports game or event put on by they school. In order to have school spirit, it is important to be proud of the school you are attending. If someone is not proud and it ashamed, their school spirit tends to be low. This is exactly what I found with the results. The people who were not proud to be attending Capilano University did not have school spirit, while the people who were proud, tending to have school spirit. A large number of the participants said they do not spend time on campus, besides the time they are in class. When the last question was asked, it was common for the participants to take a few minutes to gather their thoughts. The general consensus was that they agreed with the statement: attending sporting games of events will increase a students school spirit. Even though about 50% of the students said they do not have school spirit, a large majority agreed with the last question and statement. After analyzing the information, the general consensus that was formed, was that not a lot of students have school spirit and do not attend events put on by the school. This is of coarse just based on the research that was presented, and not on the entire school.

When taking a look at school spirit, it is important to look at the Universities past activities and motivation in achieving school spirit. Based on the research and information found from the interviews it is important to look at the history of the events that Capilano University has been putting on. Even though the research showed that she school spirits are down, it does not mean that Capilano University has not been trying to get the students involved. The school is constantly hosting sporting events for the basketball teams, volleyball teams, soccer teams and more. It just means that the school is not advertising the games in the right ways. The study

showed that the students were not even aware that the games were going on. The school almost never advertises the sports except for the board outside of the sportsplex which is on the edge of the campus. 2018 is Capilano University's 50th year of being open. With that being said, the university had put on special events to celebrate this. I was able to look through archives and find a poster for the "Run/ Walk Back to 1968" which was an event Capilano University put on to celebrate 50 years. The poster included the date and time of the event, as well as an eye catching design. The university put up posters on campus; however, myself and many students never saw them. This just shows that Capilano University is putting in the effort to raise school spirit but it is not being reciprocated.

The last way I decided to look at school spirit at Capilano University is from conducting research from a visual and observational mode. It is important to gain an understanding of the campus and the people walking through it. It is hard to gain research on school spirit just based on visual observation so I decided to take a look at what the students were doing. I wanted to know if they were enjoying the campus or just rushing from class to class. I decided to observe from two spots: one from the general courtyard, and two from the birch building, by the sportsplex. When I was observing from the courtyard, I saw a lot of students with headphones in rushing to their next destination. They were not talking their time and enjoying there surroundings. It looked like they only cared about going to and from class, nothing else. When I was observing the outside of birch by the sportsplex, I was looking for students who looked at the sign outside of the sportsplex. This sign displays all the upcoming home games for the school sports teams. I was looking for this because I wanted to know if students were registering that we have sports games going on and were aware of them. When I was observing the students, I did not see a single person look at the sign. Everyone was either walking to school on their way to class, or walking out of the building to the car parking lot. After finishing

my visual observations, I came to the conclusion that the students I saw were not enjoying the campus to its full potential.

School spirit is very important for a school. Whether it be high school, collage or university, school spirit gives life to an institution. Over the coarse of this paper, I have come to realize that Capilano University does not have a lot of school spirit. Many students do not care about the events put on by the school. Going to these events adds to a students university experience and makes it better. Capilano University is trying its best (as a smaller university) to bring up the school spirt; however, it is not working for a lot of students. School spirit is important and I hope to see more spirit during my last few years at Capilano University.

References

Holdsworth, R. (2015). School pride?: school spirit? *Connect*, 126, 7. Retrieved from <https://eds-b-ebshost-com.ezproxy.capilanou.ca/eds/detail/detail?vid=1&sid=aa7a61ea-119b-4795-b9f2-57745d07b11a%40pdc-v-sessmgr05&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#AN=edsih.678281550156727&db=edsih>