POD Network Conference Materials

Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education

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POD Site Survey Final Report

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POD SITE SURVEY
FINAL REPORT

Total responses: 171; 81 from the green form (in POD newsletter),
91 from the blue form (from POD conference '88) (not all people
responded to every question and in some instances more than one answer
was appropriate)

1. Preference for setting (check one):
    106 I strongly prefer a retreat-type setting, away from a city.
    29 I have a mild preference for a retreat-type setting.
    17 We should alternate between retreat and urban setting.
    3 I have a mild preference for a setting in or near a large city.
    13 I strongly prefer an urban setting (in or near a large city).

2. Preference for specific location:
    134 We should move around the continent.
    19 We should concentrate sites in the mid-US.
    5 Other

3. Should we sometimes return to a proven site, rather than always seek
a new location?   144 yes   14 no

4. Preference for distance:
    45 I prefer (or am willing) to travel up to two hours from airport
    57 I prefer (or am willing) to travel no more than 1 1/2 hours.
    51 I prefer (or am willing) to travel no more than 1 hour.
    18 I prefer (or am willing) to travel no more than 1/2 hour.

5. Preference for conference length:
    70 I prefer the conference to be 3 days.
    47   no more than 3 days
    21.....4 days   2... 5 days   7... no more than 2 days

6. Preference for days of the week
    95 I prefer a conference beginning in the week; ending on Sunday
    11 I prefer beginning on Saturday evening; ending during the week
    18 Other - middle of the week to Saturday

7. Preference for month: (indicate first choice, second, and third)
        #1 - October; #2 November for POD'88 participants, April for
others;   #3 September for POD '88, March/May for others (Nov #4 for
others)

8. Preference for meals (given availability of both at the site):
    7   I would rather arrange for all my own meals
    43 I prefer that all meals be group meals
    117 I prefer a balance between group meals and individual meals

9. Preference for breakfast:
    59 individual service   54 buffet   45 continental style

10. Preference for lodging:
       98 I prefer a single room;   51 double;   4 triple or quad
        9 I prefer a room with a kitchenette

11. Which of the following factors influence your decision to come to
the conference? (check as many as apply - put a #1 by the most
important):
       105 geographic location   104 cost of travel
       101 time of year   75 cost of conference (registration)
        74 theme of conference   76 cost of accommodations
        72 presentors at conference

12. What is the maximum total charge per day for room and meals that
you can handle?
       34 $75;   28 $85;   25 $95;   31 $105;   19 $115; 17 no limit

13. What part of your conference costs are paid by your institution?
       96 - 100%;   23 - 75%;   11 - 50%; 5 - 25%; 17 - 0%

14. US Residents only: Do you have any complications in securing
reimbursement for travel to locations in Canada: 28 yes; 79 no; 29 unsure

15. Canadian Residents only: Do you have any complications in securing
reimbursement for travel to locations in the US: 0 yes; 4 no; 0 unsure

Number of POD conferences attended:
0 - 11;   1 - 22;   2 - 13;   3 - 14;   4 - 7;   5 - 2;   6 - 3;
7 - 1;   8 - 4;   9 - 0;   10 - 3;   11 - 2;   12 - 3;   all - 3

      I asked (on the form in the POD newsletter) for those who did not
attend POD '88 to list the reasons they did not attend. The most often
cited reasons were location (too remote and inaccessible or problems in
making convenient travel arrangements) the cost.   The next most
frequently listed problems concerned conflicts with campus events or
with other conferences.

What arrangements have you especially liked?
      The responses in this category were primarily divided between the
location and facilities available and the content of the conference,
including sessions/workshops and keynotes. Frequently mentioned here
were group meals, networking/informal meeting space, a lot of outdoor
options for recreation, structured mixers,

What arrangements have you especially disliked?
      People did not like to be scattered, or far away from other POD
members or the meeting and eating areas. "Glitzy motel ambiance" was
also not appreciated.   People disliked not having "get acquainted"
activities at the beginning of the conference.   People wanted evening
events in which all could participate actively together.

<u>What are your personal concerns regarding conference sites?</u>
        The facilities were mentioned most frequently here - people want high quality rooms, plenty of conversational area, good service, etc.

<u>What kind of facilities do you like to have at a conference site?</u>
        Many people mentioned exercise and recreational facilities, including pools, tennis courts, outdoor track, etc. Also mentioned were "off site" facilities such as museums, shopping areas, historical/ cultural sites. A hospitality area was mentioned again. People also want a place to dance and to interact with other POD people.

SAH comments:
    I was surprised at the similarity of responses of both groups. One of my assumptions was that those who did not attend the conference might be influenced by different factors (see question #11) than those who attended the conference. This survey did not bear that out.
    A few things are clear to me. First, the POD annual conference, as it now stands, is what the membership wants. And it is wanted by those who come (or did in '88) and those who did not make it. Secondly, although cost is listed as a factor, a significant number of our people have their way paid totally by their college. So we perhaps shouldn't be as worried about cost (I hate to say this, though, because I'm one of those whose colleges pay little or nothing.)
    As an aside, POD people are used to sending out surveys - they were wonderful in getting back to me!

        If you are interested in the complete responses, please let me know. I'll send one or two copies along so that you can look at them now. If you want your own, please give me a call.

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