



Evaluation Results - December 2004 Mellon Salon

Salon planners Michelle Douskey and Andy Furco established 5 goals for the Salon.

- To reconnect Mellon Fellows with the members of their cohort
- To convene Mellon Fellows from the two cohorts to share their respective experiences
- To share best practices and strategies for advancing research opportunities in undergraduate education
- To reflect on the experiences of the semester
- To continue to build and strengthen the personal and professional connections among the fellows

Eight post-Salon evaluation questions were developed, five of which correlated to the goals of the program. Three additional free-text questions were also included, soliciting the best feature of the Salon, advice for improving the Salon, and brief respondent descriptions of the Salon.

Evaluation results

Evaluation forms were e-mailed to the sixteen Fellows in attendance. Seven evaluation forms were returned for a response rate of 43%.

Rating key:

- 1 Not at all
- 2
- 3 Moderately
- 4
- 5 To a great extent

Question number & content	Median (middlemost) score	Mean (average) score
Q1 The Salon allowed me to reconnect with members of my Mellon cohort	4	3.8
Q2 The Salon allowed me to share my experiences with Fellows I had not met before	3	3.8
Q3 The Salon allowed me to learn from others' best practices and strategies for advancing research opportunities in undergraduate education	3	3.16
Q4 The Salon allowed me to reflect on		

my teaching	4	3.6
Q5 The Salon allowed me to strengthen professional connections with my peers	3.5	3.3

Q6 The one thing I liked best about the Salon was ...

- Knowing we are still considered active members of this incredible group of librarians, faculty, and facilitators
- Time to mingle informally
- Connecting with the people again
- Just hearing the remarks of those who volunteered them allowed me to "borrow" their thoughts for a moment and try to apply them to my very different class. Sometimes the fit was so ludicrous as to be unfit; but other times, though the discipline was different and the class size not comparable to mine, I could still say, "I could have done such and such better; I'll give it a try next time around."
- Talking in small groups with focused questions
- Getting to see old cohort members
- Putting undergraduate research in a context where everyone is encouraging the engaged

Q 7 If I could give one piece of advice to future Salon organizers, it would be ...

- Keep up the good work!
- The group is too big to have everyone contribute equally. Try something more focused or just have the ice-breaker part. You might want to try a less hectic time of the semester.
- Not at the end of semester "crunch" time.
- Forget the structure completely; no agenda, no time limits for each module. If it was truly to have been a salon, we should have had all the time in the world to mingle among the familiar and unfamiliar faces, raising topics spontaneously and differently with each new or renewed encounter. Trying to discuss anything in ten or fifteen minute segments fosters thinking within a box – and a very tight one to boot. Don't schedule it at the very end of the semester.
- More non-alcoholic drink
- Maybe a bit more time to talk with individuals in my group

Q8 Describe the December 2004 Salon in three words or less ...

- Privileged, well planned, well run
- Pleasant, interesting, ill-timed
- Caring, concerned, educators
- Under-realized potential, vitiating
- Energy, subversive, brave
- Nice gathering
- Engaging, rushed, promising