Takeaways from Student Survey Data

1. Validity and reliability concerns make it difficult to give much meaning to individual items in the student survey:

--- Some items appear to aim to measure student learning outcomes (as expressed in the MPA program mission statement) but student perception does not generally measure learning

--- Ambiguities and inconsistencies in response categories

Need to give further consideration to the purposes of student surveys and designing items that will better suit those purposes, i.e. better measure what we hope to measure from the survey.

Also need to give consideration to direct methods for assessing student learning outcomes.

1. Drop in response rate and change in method for administering the survey in 2016-17 also reduces confidence in giving interpretation to individual survey items.

We may want to reconsider the process we use for administering the student survey.

1. Noticeable drop in all satisfaction and mission-related items in 2017-18 and 2018-19. This is difficult to explain away as simply a validity or reliability concern since it occurs across all of these items. But the reasons for this drop remain unclear, could be related to the negative press and safety concerns that emerged in 2017 for the campus as a whole.