

VPR Overall Results

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Executive Summary

An anonymous survey about the services offered by Michigan Tech's Office of the Vice President for Research was conducted in the spring 2025, commissioned by the Research Advisory Council and administered by the office of Research Development. The 2025 survey was the first survey of this kind developed and distributed to the Michigan Tech community. The Research Advisory Council and the Office of the Vice President for Research intend to repeat the survey annually.

Individual survey links were emailed to the campus community (faculty and all identifiable research staff). Participation was voluntary and anonymous. 705 surveys were distributed. 196 surveys were started, resulting in a 28% response rate. 144 surveys were finished, resulting in a 24% survey completion rate. 60% of the respondents self-identified as faculty (tenure track, tenured, instructional track, or other). 21% of respondents self-identified as staff researchers (e.g., research scientists, research engineers). 17% of respondents self-identified as non-research staff involved in research support (e.g., research administrators, research development, institute staff). 2% of respondents chose the "other" category.

Overall:

- Satisfaction with the overall research environment at Michigan Tech was reported as: 10% extremely satisfied, 40% somewhat satisfied, 19% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 24% dissatisfied, and 7% extremely dissatisfied.
- Satisfaction with the services of the units within the Vice President for Research Office was reported at 13% extremely satisfied, 34% somewhat satisfied, 15% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 25% somewhat dissatisfied, 10% extremely dissatisfied (2% chose "not applicable").
- When asked about the trend of the services, 27% of the respondents indicated that they felt these central VPR services were getting better in the past year, 52% felt they were staying about the same over the last year, and 21% indicated that they felt things were getting worse over the last year.

In addition to these high-level results, unit-level satisfaction measures and verbatim comments for each unit and for the environment overall were captured and distributed to the Research Advisory Council and unit leaders.

Survey results will be monitored each year and used in efforts to continuously improve the services offered within the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Any questions about the survey or response can be directed to the office of Research Development at rd-l@mtu.edu.

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Introduction

An anonymous survey about the services offered by Michigan Tech's Office of the Vice President for Research was open for responses from April 2025 through early June 2025. The survey generated quantitative data and written comments. All data was reviewed by the Research Advisory Council and leadership within the Office of the Vice President for Research. Actionable comments and suggestions will be addressed whenever possible.

The survey consisted of 32 total questions, including:

- 1 demographic indication question
- 8 satisfaction scales
- 2 interaction questions
- 2 comparative scales (getting better, getting worse)
- 17 open-ended response questions (but each respondent is limited to a maximum of 8)

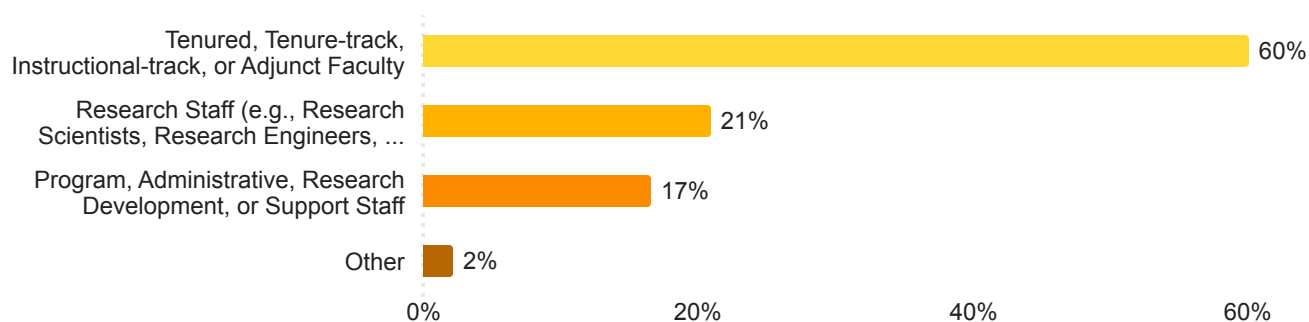
Open-ended response questions were coded to identify themes in responses; these themes are indicated in topic frequency bar charts in the survey reports.

This year's survey 144 surveys were completed. The participant response rate is as follows:

- 83 faculty (60%)
- 29 research staff (21%)
- 23 program, administrative, research development, or support staff (17%)
- 3 "other" (2%)

Survey Respondent Self-identification: "Choose one that most closely matches your role."

138 Responses



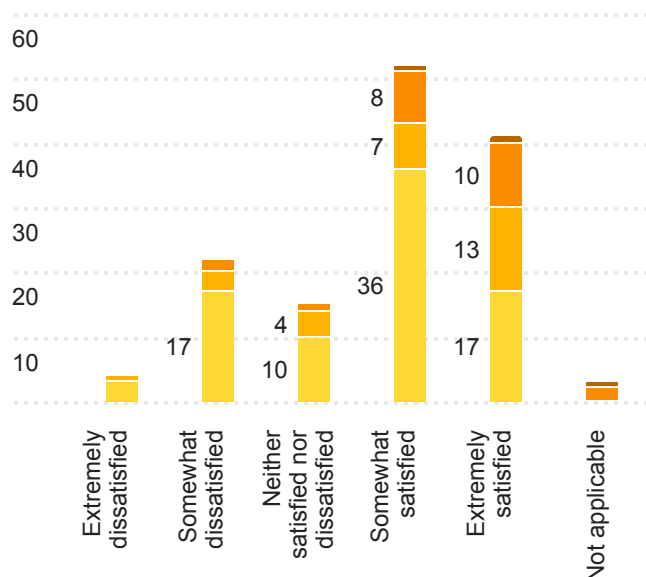
Keep this breakdown in mind as you move through the survey analysis. The proportion of faculty to staff responders provides a good mix of perspective and also matches the reality of faculty-to-(research) staff ratios at Michigan Tech. In FY25, Michigan Tech had ~360 faculty (tenured, tenure track, instructional-track, or adjunct), ~300 research staff, ~55 staff in the VPR.

Overall Unit-level Research Support

The first questions are framed in the context of research support at the unit level (department, college, and/or research center/institute).

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the **overall unit-level** administrative support for research in your primary department?

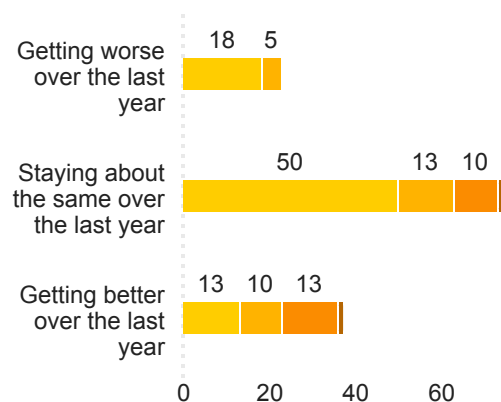
137 Responses



■ Tenured, Tenure-track, Instructional-...
■ Research Staff (e.g., Research Scientist)
■ Program, Administrative, Research Dev... ■ Other

As you consider the **overall unit-level** administrative support for research in your primary department, would you say that the services are getting worse, staying the same, or getting better over the last year?

134 Responses



■ Tenured, Tenure-track, Instru...
■ Research Staff (e.g., Researc...
■ Program, Administrative, Rese... ■ Other

We see here that 19% of the respondents are on the dissatisfied end of the scale and 68% are on the satisfied end of the scale. 11% are neutral and 2% feel like this question doesn't apply to them.

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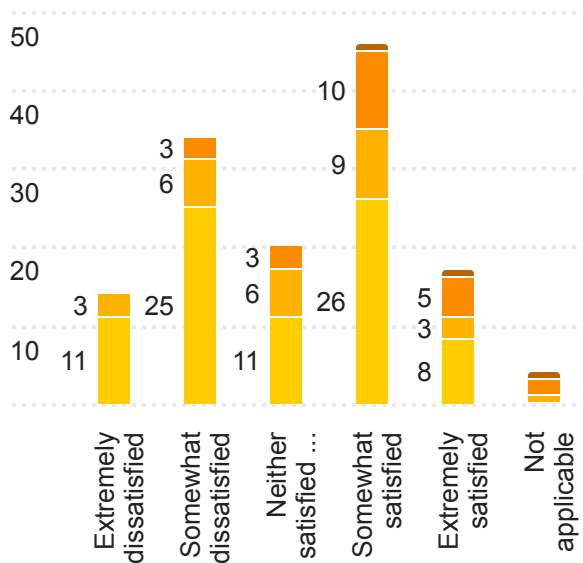
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Overall Centralized Research Support

Then we ask for responders' opinions about centralized research support (i.e., offices reporting to the Vice President for Research).

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the **overall centralized** administrative support for research?

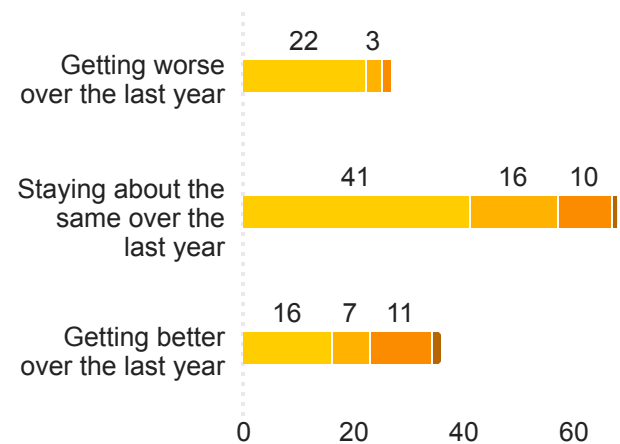
135 Responses



■ Tenured, Tenure-track, Instructional
■ Research Staff (e.g., Research Scientists)
■ Program, Administrative, Research Support
■ Other

As you consider the **overall centralized** administrative support for research, would you say that the services are getting worse, staying the same, or getting better over the last year?

131 Responses



■ Tenured, Tenure-track, Instructional
■ Research Staff (e.g., Research Scientists)
■ Program, Administrative, Research Support
■ Other

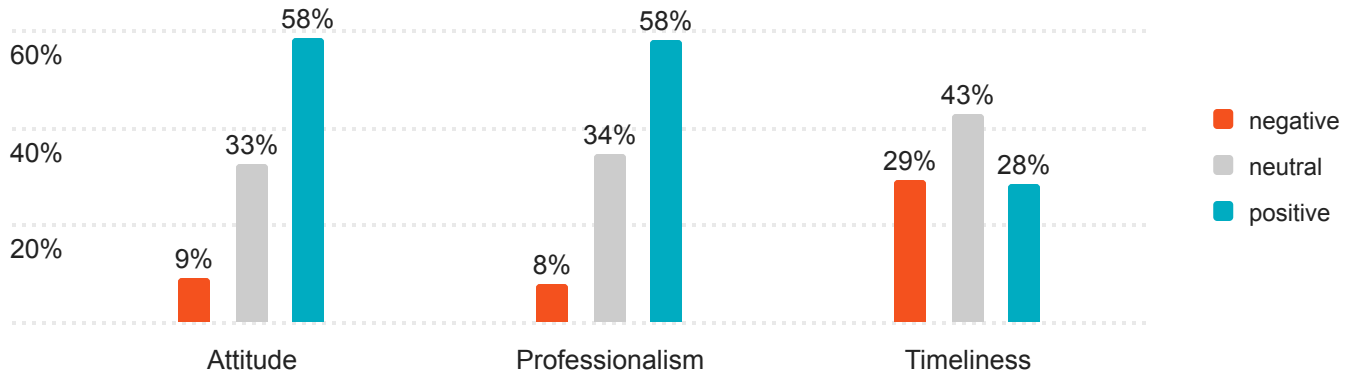
We see here that 35% of the respondents are on the dissatisfied end of the scale and 47% are on the satisfied end of the scale. 15% are neutral and 3% feel like this question doesn't apply to them.

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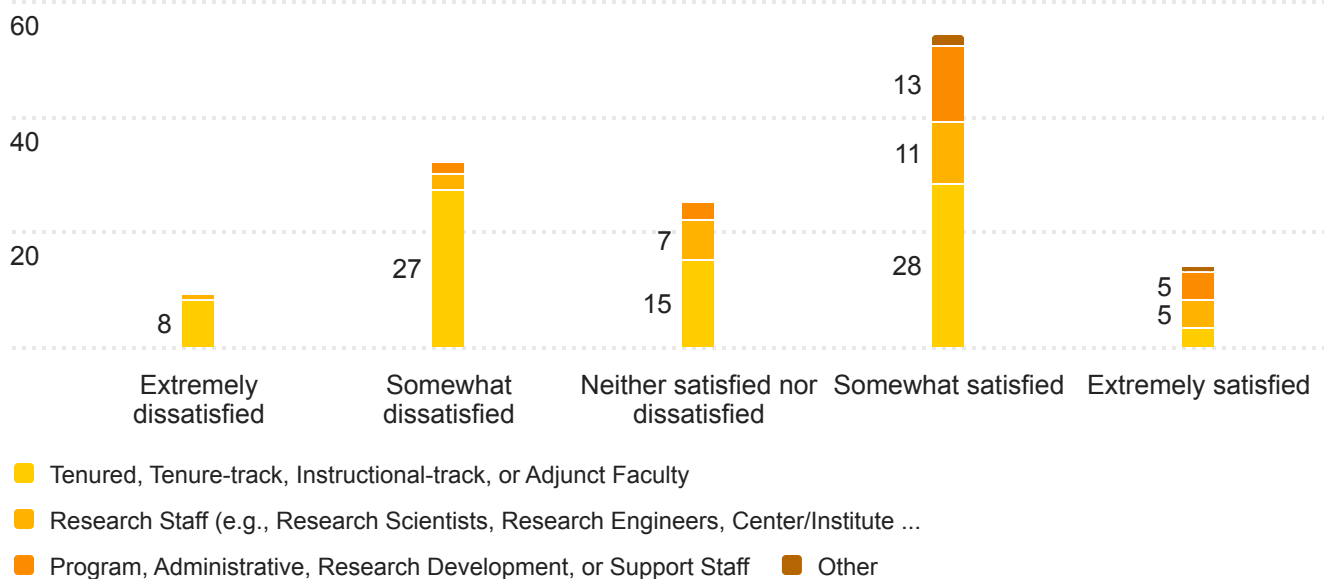
Please rate the following in the context of your interactions with the staff in the offices of the Vice President for Research.

132 Responses



Taking everything into account (i.e., facilities, services, support, recognition), how satisfied are you with the **overall research environment at Michigan Tech?**

134 Responses



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Please indicate your **level of interaction** with each of the following central (reporting to the Vice President for Research) research units.

134 Responses

Field	I do not use services	I plan to use services	I currently use services
Research Integrity (i.e., Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), laboratory inspections.)	55%	7%	38%
Research Development (i.e., finding funding, proposal development assistance, funding agency engagement/DC trip, research day, VPR research series sessions, team support)	27%	12%	61%
Sponsored Programs Pre-Award & Awards Group (i.e., proposal review & submission, negotiation of awards)	8%	9%	83%
Sponsored Programs Post-Award (i.e., post-award accounting, project close-out)	13%	16%	70%
Innovation & Commercialization (i.e., intellectual property, technology transfer)	63%	16%	21%

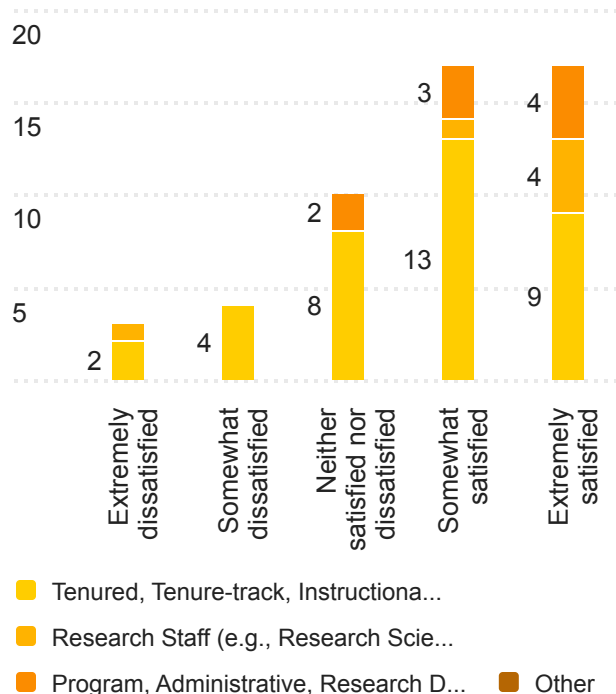
In the question above, respondents were then asked follow-up satisfaction questions for each unit where they indicated "Currently Used."

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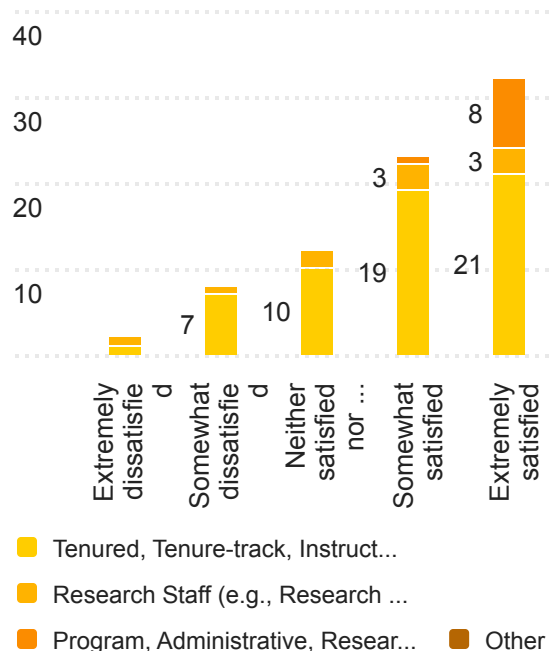
Overall satisfaction with *Research Integrity*.

51 Responses



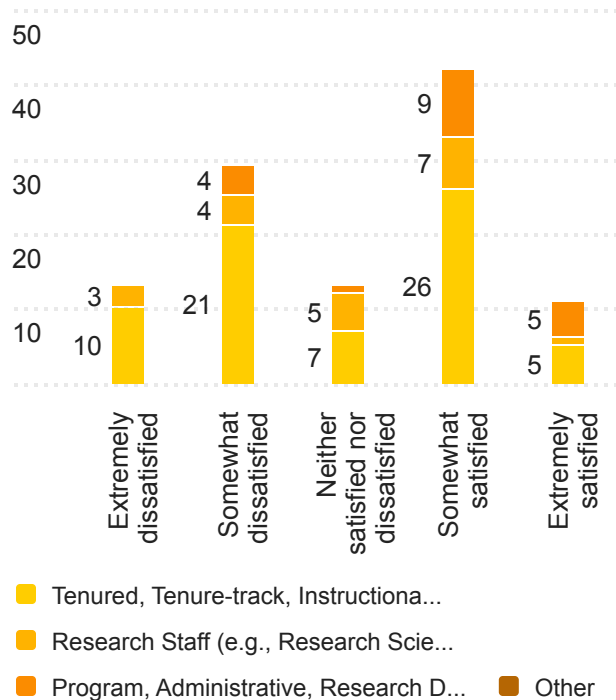
Overall satisfaction with *Research Development*.

77 Responses



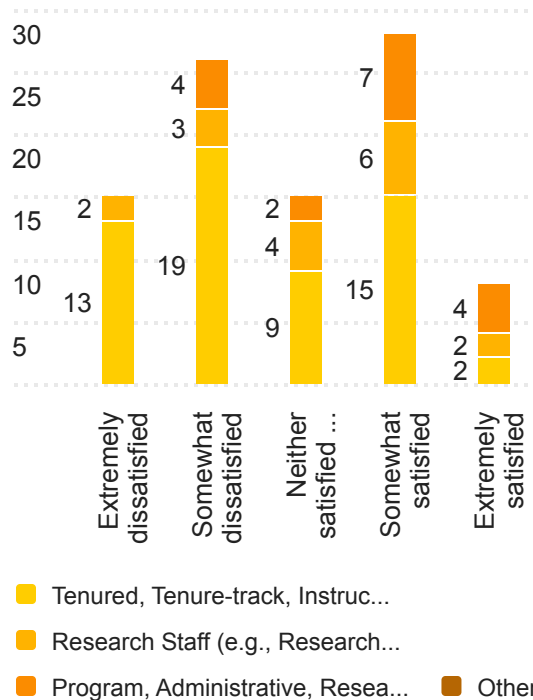
Overall satisfaction with *Sponsored Programs Pre-award & Award*.

108 Responses



Overall satisfaction with *Sponsored Programs Post-award*.

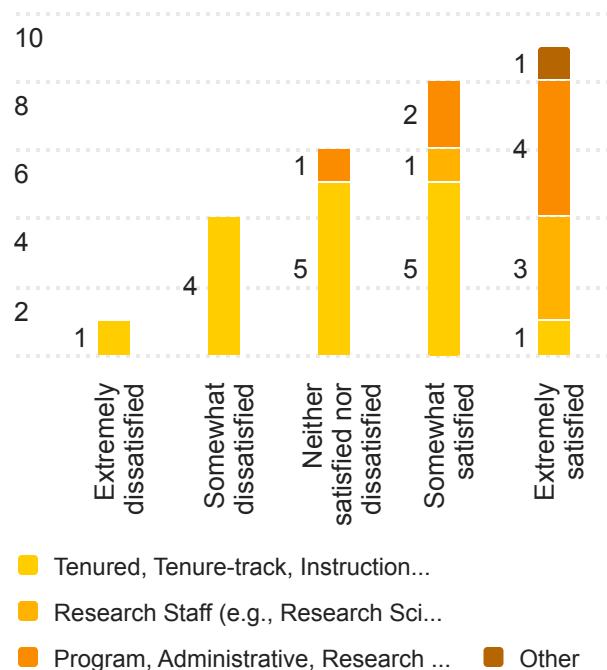
92 Responses



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Overall satisfaction with *Innovation & Commercialization*.

28 Responses



One important consideration while looking at the satisfaction responses is to keep in mind that we don't ask for a specific moment in time to contextualize the sense of satisfaction. Respondents could be reflecting on their experiences with VPR service units in recent history or over an entire career at Michigan Tech.

Summary

The results presented in this summary report represent the high-level responses to an anonymous survey conducted in early 2025 designed to solicit feedback about the services offered by Michigan Tech's Office of the Vice President for Research.

Survey responses and feedback will be used to inform customer service tracking and improvement efforts within the offices of the Vice President for Research.

The leaders within the offices of the Vice President for Research are committed to continual improvement and sincerely value the feedback of the campus community.