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Student Surveys from the SE Course of the General Education English Program at Shizuoka University

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|  | 作成者：Urick，Steven T． |
|  | メールアドレス： |
|  | 所属： |
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# Student Surveys from the SE Course of the <br> General Education English Program at Shizuoka University 

## STEVEN T. URICK

The General Education English Program at Shizuoka University is to undergo change, and in the very near future, a general framework for a new curriculum will emerge. While much discussion has already occurred, it is hope that this report on data from student surveys can contribute in some degree to a better understanding of student perspectives. Such understanding is a valuable resource to be applied to curriculum evaluation and development (Brown, 1995, p. 236; McDonough \& McDonough, 1997, p.181; Richards, 2001, p. 301). In order to collect data from students, two surveys were implemented in the 2010-2011 academic year. The results from a survey for students who had completed the Power English (PE) Course were discussed in Urick, Suto \& Komachi (2011). This article reports on a survey that was filled out by students who were in the final semester of the Standard English (SE) Course. The purpose of the survey was to better understand how students felt about the program, and what changes would, from the students' perspective, be desirable.

A two-course system was begun in 2006, consisting of the SE Course and the PE Course. The main purpose of creating two courses was to give students with higher motivation and ability in alternative to the standard curriculum. Under the current system, students are given the option of applying for the PE Course before classes begin in their first year. Placement decisions are based on est scores. As the number of students who may join the PE Course is limited, the majority of students are assigned to the SE course. In addition, all students in the Faculty of Engineering are issigned to the SE Course. At the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year, 355 first-year students were assigned to the PE Course, and 1,702 first-year students were assigned to the SE Course. The iE Course places comparatively less emphasis on communicative ability, and is less demanding in erms of the level of coursework and amount of studying outside the classroom. SE students are equired to take four courses from the General Education English Program over two years in order o graduate, with the exception of the Faculty of Engineering, where students are required to take ive courses. Regardless of which faculty they belong to, many SE students also take the two lective English courses that are offered in the first and second semesters of the students' freshman rear.

## METHOD

The students who participated were in their second year at the university and filled out the surveys during classes in January 2011. The students were about a month from completing the required courses for the SE course, and thus in a good position to give feedback on the program as a whole. Of the 1,689 students who were enrolled in second-year SE classes in January 2011, 1,341 completed surveys. The large percentage of students from which data was obtained (79.4\%) suggests that the results should be considered as representative of the group as a whole.

Many of the items for the SE survey were identical to questions on the PE survey, from which data was collected earlier in the same academic year. Some questions from the PE survey did not apply to SE students and were changed or not used. Other items were added to help provide information directly relevant to ongoing discussion about curriculum development at the university. Also included were questions about students' basic information (gender and university faculty), test scores, and attitudes toward English. The three final questions of the survey ask for students' opinions about the difficulty level and amount of assignments as well as the amount of time they spent outside of class on assignments. The survey also provided space for written comments on its reverse side. This article does not contain any analysis of the written comments.

## RESULTS

Results from the survey, translated into English, are shown in Table 1. The same data with the original items in Japanese are attached as the Appendix. This section details the results from each item.

## Q0-1

Well over half of the students in each faculty responded to the survey. The Faculty of Engineering is the largest at the university, and 439 of this faculty's 538 students who were enrolled at the time of the survey filled out surveys. For the Faculty of Education, the number was 268 of 332, and for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, 255 of the 304 students in the target group provided data. 94 of 141 second-year Agriculture students filled out surveys, as did 105 of the 169 second-year students in the Faculty of Informatics. In addition to these numbers, 31 respondents did not answer this question. It is likely that the placement of this item in an isolated box at the top of the survey sheet led to the comparatively high number of participants who did not respond.

| Q0-1 | Faculty | Humanities* | Science | Education | Informatics | Agriculture | Engineering |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $255 / 304$ | $149 / 195$ | $268 / 332$ | $105 / 169$ | $94 / 141$ | $439 / 538$ |

[^0]Table 12010 Academic Year SE Course Student Survey Data

|  |  |  |  | $N=1341$ | SE total=1689 | Engineering |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Male | Female |  |  |  |
| Q1-1 | Gender | 928 | 404 |  |  | 439/538 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | Humanities | Science | Education | Informatics | Agriculture |
| Q0-1 | Faculty | 255/304 | 149/195 | 268/332 | 105/169 | 94/141 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | $\rangle=180$ | $>=170$ | $>=160$ | $\rangle=150$ | <150 |
| Q1-2 | Center Test Score | 2.3\% | 4.6\% | 13.3\% | 19.8\% | 60.1\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | $>=730$ | $>=650$ | $>=550$ | $>=450$ | <450 |
| Q1-3 | TOEIC score from freshman year first semester final examination | 0.5\% | 1.4\% | 15.0\% | 35.3\% | 47.9\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | agree strongly | agree somewhat | neither agree nor disagree | disagree somewhat | disagree strongly |
| Q1-4 | I have confidence about English | 1.3\% | 7.4\% | 16.7\% | 30.9\% | 43.7\% |
| Q1-5 | I like to study English | 4.3\% | 18.2\% | 25.4\% | 29.1\% | 23.0\% |
| Q1-6 | I plan to use English for work in the future | 6.2\% | 19.8\% | 27.6\% | 27.9\% | 18.6\% |
| Q1-7 | I like to read English | 2.9\% | 16.6\% | 24.4\% | 30.1\% | 26.0\% |
| Q1-8 | I like to write in English | 1.9\% | 7.8\% | 18.3\% | 34.8\% | 37.2\% |
| Q1-9 | I like to speak English | 3.2\% | 13.1\% | 21.5\% | 31.5\% | 30.7\% |
| Q2-1 | The SE Course was helpful in improving my English | 4.4\% | 36.0\% | 31.6\% | 20.5\% | 7.5\% |
| Q2-2 | The SE Course was fun | 10.1\% | 32.7\% | 34.3\% | 16.0\% | 6.9\% |
| Q2-3 | It would have been better if there were more course choices | 9.9\% | 21.1\% | 43.4\% | 20.4\% | 5.1\% |
| Q2-4 | I wanted to take two or more courses taught by foreign teachers | 6.3\% | 11.0\% | 31.3\% | 30.5\% | 20.9\% |
| Q2-5 | There was ample explanation about courses before registration | 18.1\% | 35.3\% | 25.4\% | 13.4\% | 7.8\% |
| Q2-6 | It would have been better if there were more grammar classes | 6.7\% | 21.6\% | 39.1\% | 23.1\% | 9.5\% |
| Q2-7 | The TOEIC class was helpful | 5.8\% | 31.1\% | 31.6\% | 20.6\% | 10.9\% |
| Q2-8 | I used English for communication in classes | 4.3\% | 17.8\% | 32.3\% | 28.1\% | 17.5\% |
| Q2-9 | There were too many students in the classes | 2.5\% | 5.9\% | 33.2\% | 38.4\% | 20.1\% |
| Q2-10 | I used the syllabi to choose which elective courses to take | 28.1\% | 39.2\% | 17.1\% | 9.4\% | 6.1\% |
| Q2-11 | I wanted to take more challenging courses | 3.6\% | 7.4\% | 28.1\% | 32.4\% | 28.5\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 0-15 minutes | 15-30 minutes | 30-60 minutes | 60-120 minutes | more than two hours |
| Q2-12 | Average amount of time spent on homework each week (per class) | 32.2\% | 24.1\% | 29.4\% | 11.9\% | 2.5\% |
|  |  | very difficult | somewhat difficult | just right | somewhat easy | very easy |
| Q2-13 | Difficulty of coursework | 4.3\% | 20.5\% | 58.5\% | 14.1\% | 2.6\% |
|  |  | very large <br> amount | somewhat large amount | just right | somewhat small amount | very small amount |
| Q2-14 | Amount of homework | 2.4\% | 13.1\% | 76.5\% | 6.3\% | 1.7\% |

## Q1-1

There were more male students than female students among the respondents. 928 male students and 404 female students filled out surveys. This is a reflection of the general student population; as of May 1, 2011 there were 6,170 males and 2,725 females enrolled as undergraduate students at the university (National University Corporation Shizuoka University, 2011, p.16). Nine respondents did not answer this question.

| Q1-1 | Gender | Male | Female |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | 928 | 404 |

## Q1-2

More than half of the respondents (60.1\%) reported scores of less than 150 points on the non-listening portion of the English section of the Center Test. 19.8\% reported scores between 150159 points. $13.3 \%$ reported scored between $160-169$ points, and $4.6 \%$ reported scores between $170-$ 179 points. Only $2.3 \%$ reported scores over 180 points.

| Q1-2 | Center Test Score | 180 points or <br> more | 170 points <br> or more | 160 points <br> or more | 150 points <br> or more | Less than 150 <br> points |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $2.3 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ | $13.3 \%$ | $19.8 \%$ | $60.1 \%$ |

## Q1-3

Almost half of the respondents reported scoring less than 450 points on the TOEIC exam. The students had taken TOEIC as the final exam for a course in the first semester of their freshman year. $47.9 \%$ reported scores less than 450 points. $35.3 \%$ reported scores between $450-545$ points, and $15.0 \%$ reported scores between $550-645$ points. Higher scores were rare, with $1.4 \%$ reporting scores of $650-725$ points, and $0.5 \%$ reporting scores of 730 or higher.

| Q1-3 | TOEIC Score <br> (first semester of <br> freshman year) | 730 points or <br> more | 650 points or <br> more | 550 points or <br> more | 450 points or <br> more | Less than 450 <br> points |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Not many students reported having confidence in their English ability. When asked to respond to the statement, "I have confidence about English," 43.7\% strongly disagreed, and 30.9\% disagreed somewhat. $16.7 \%$ responded neutrally to the statement. $7.4 \%$ agreed somewhat, and $1.3 \%$ strongly agreed.

| Q1-4 | I have confidence about <br> English | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $1.3 \%$ | $7.4 \%$ | $16.7 \%$ | $30.9 \%$ | $43.7 \%$ |  |

## Q1-5

A majority of respondents (52.1\%) demonstrated a dislike for studying English. 29.1\% disagreed somewhat and $23.0 \%$ disagreed strongly with the statement, "I like to study English." $25.4 \%$ responded neutrally, $18.2 \%$ agreed somewhat, and $4.3 \%$ agreed strongly with the statement.

| Q1-5 | I like to study English | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $4.3 \%$ | $18.2 \%$ | $25.4 \%$ | $29.1 \%$ | $23.0 \%$ |

## Q1-6

About a quarter of respondents (26.0\%) reported that they plan to use English for work in the future, while a little bit less than half ( $46.5 \%$ ) reported having no such intention. Responding to the statement, "I plan to use English for work in the future," $6.2 \%$ strongly agreed, while $19.8 \%$ agreed somewhat. $27.9 \%$ disagreed somewhat, while $18.6 \%$ strongly agreed. $27.6 \%$ of the students who responded neither agreed nor disagreed.

| Q1-6 | I plan to use English for work <br> in the future | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $6.2 \%$ | $19.8 \%$ | $27.6 \%$ | $27.9 \%$ | $18.6 \%$ |  |

## Q1-7

A majority of respondents (56.1\%) reported that they did not like reading English. 30.1\% disagreed somewhat, and $26.0 \%$ disagreed strongly with the statement, "I like to read English." $24.4 \%$ responded neutrally to the statement, while $16.6 \%$ agreed somewhat and $2.9 \%$ strongly agreed.

| Q1-7 | I like to read English | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $2.9 \%$ | $16.6 \%$ | $24.4 \%$ | $30.1 \%$ | $26.0 \%$ |  |

## Q1-8

Writing in English was less popular than reading. Responding to the statement, "I like to write in English," $37.2 \%$ strongly disagreed, and 34.8 percent disagreed somewhat. 18.3\% neither agreed nor disagreed. $7.8 \%$ agreed somewhat with the statement, and $1.9 \%$ strongly agreed.

| Q1-8 | I like to write in English | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $1.9 \%$ | $7.8 \%$ | $18.3 \%$ | $34.8 \%$ | $37.2 \%$ |

## Q1-9

A majority of respondents (62.2\%) also do not like speaking in English. 30.7\% disagreed strongly with the statement, "I like to speak English," while $31.5 \%$ disagreed somewhat. $21.5 \%$ answered neutrally, while $13.1 \%$ agreed somewhat, and $3.2 \%$ strongly agreed.

| Q1-9 | I like to speak English | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $3.2 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $21.5 \%$ | $31.5 \%$ | $30.7 \%$ |  |

## Q2-1

Responding to the statement, "The SE Course was helpful in improving my English," $36.0 \%$ agreed somewhat, making this the most frequent response. $4.4 \%$ strongly agreed, for a total of $40.4 \%$ agreeing. $31.6 \%$ responded neutrally, while $28 \%$ disagreed. $20.5 \%$ of the respondents disagreed somewhat, and $7.5 \%$ strongly disagreed.

| Q2-1 | The SE Course was helpful in <br> improving my English | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $4.4 \%$ | $36.0 \%$ | $31.6 \%$ | $20.5 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ |  |

## Q2-2

The most frequent response to the statement, "The SE Course was fun" was neutral, at $34.3 \%$. Those agreeing somewhat accounted for $32.7 \%$ of the responses, and those strongly agreeing amounted to $10.1 \%$. Respondents who disagreed somewhat amounted to $16.0 \%$, and $6.9 \%$ strongly disagreed.

| Q2-2 | The SE Course was fun | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $10.1 \%$ | $32.7 \%$ | $34.3 \%$ | $16.0 \%$ | $6.9 \%$ |

## Q2-3

Reacting to the statement, "It would have been better if there were more course choices," the neutral response was again the most frequent, at $34.3 \%$. Those agreeing outnumbered those disagreeing, with $31.0 \%$ agreeing and $25.5 \%$ disagreeing. $21.1 \%$ agreed somewhat with the statement, and $9.9 \%$ agreed strongly. 20.4\% disagreed somewhat, and $5.1 \%$ strongly disagreed.

| Q2-3 | It would have been better if <br> there were more course choices | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $9.9 \%$ | $21.1 \%$ | $43.4 \%$ | $20.4 \%$ | $5.1 \%$ |

## Q2-4

A majority of respondents ( $82.7 \%$ ) did not demonstrate a desire to learn from foreign instructors. $30.5 \%$ disagreed strongly, and $20.9 \%$ disagreed somewhat with the statement, "I wanted to take two or more courses taught by foreign teachers." $11.0 \%$ agreed somewhat, and $6.3 \%$ strongly agreed with the statement. The neutral response was the most frequent, at $31.3 \%$.

| Q2-4 | I wanted to take two or more <br> courses taught by foreign <br> teachers | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $6.3 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ | $31.3 \%$ | $30.5 \%$ | $20.9 \%$ |  |

## Q2-5

$21.2 \%$ of respondents indicated dissatisfaction with the explanations they received before registration. Responding to the statement, "There was ample explanation about courses before registration," $13.4 \%$ disagreed somewhat, and $7.8 \%$ strongly disagreed. The neutral response, at $25.4 \%$ was the most frequent. $35.3 \%$ of students agreed somewhat with the statement, and $18.1 \%$ strongly agreed.

| Q2-5 | There was ample explanation <br> about courses before <br> registration | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $18.1 \%$ | $35.3 \%$ | $25.4 \%$ | $13.4 \%$ | $7.8 \%$ |  |

## Q2-6

More than one in four respondents (28.3\%) had wanted more grammar instruction. $6.7 \%$ of respondents strongly agreed and $21.6 \%$ agreed somewhat with the statement, "It would have been better if there were more grammar classes." $23.1 \%$ disagreed somewhat with the statement, and $9.5 \%$ strongly disagreed. Here again, the neutral response was the most frequent, at $39.1 \%$.

| Q2-6 | It would have been better if <br> there were more grammar <br> classes | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $6.7 \%$ | $21.6 \%$ | $39.1 \%$ | $23.1 \%$ | $9.5 \%$ |  |

## Q2-7

Responding to the statement, "The TOEIC class was helpful," $5.8 \%$ strongly agreed and $31.1 \%$ agreed somewhat, for a total of $36.9 \%$ agreeing. 20.6\% disagareed somewhat and $10.9 \%$ strongly disagreed, for a total of $31.5 \%$ disagreeing. $31.6 \%$ neither agreed nor disagreed.

| Q2-7 | The TOIEC class was helpful | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $5.8 \%$ | $31.1 \%$ | $31.6 \%$ | $20.6 \%$ | $10.9 \%$ |

## Q2-8

While the neutral response was the most frequent ( $32.3 \%$ ), less than a quarter of respondents (22.1\%) indicated having used English for communication in classes. 4.3\% of students responding strongly agreed, and $17.8 \%$ agreed somewhat with the statement, "I used English for communication in classes." $28.1 \%$ disagreed somewhat, and $17.5 \%$ strongly disagreed.

| Q2-8 | I used English for <br> communication in classes | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $4.3 \%$ | $17.8 \%$ | $32.3 \%$ | $28.1 \%$ | $17.5 \%$ |  |

## Q2-9

Most respondents ( $91.7 \%$ ) indicated no dissatisfaction with class sizes. 2.5\% strongly agreed with the statement, "There were too many students in the classes," while $5.9 \%$ agreed somewhat. $38.4 \%$ disagreed somewhat, and $20.1 \%$ strongly disagreed. $33.2 \%$ neither agreed nor disagreed.

| Q2-9 | There were too many students <br> in the classes | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $2.5 \%$ | $5.9 \%$ | $33.2 \%$ | $38.4 \%$ | $20.1 \%$ |  |

## Q2-10

A majority of respondents (67.3\%) reported using syllabi to choose elective courses. $28.1 \%$ of respondents strongly agreed with the statement, "I used the syllabi to choose which elective courses to take," and $39.2 \%$ agreed somewhat. $17.1 \%$ of responses were neutral. $9.4 \%$ disagreed somewhat, and $6.1 \%$ strongly disagreed with the statement.

| Q2-10 | I used the syllabi to choose <br> which elective courses to take | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $28.1 \%$ | $39.2 \%$ | $17.1 \%$ | $9.4 \%$ | $6.1 \%$ |  |

## Q2-11

Only a small number of respondents ( $11.0 \%$ ) expressed the desire for more difficult classes. $32.4 \%$ of respondents disagreed somewhat with the statement, "I wanted to take more challenging courses." $28.5 \%$ disagreed strongly, bringing the total disagreeing to $60.9 \%$. Neutral responses amounted to $28.1 \%$ of the total. $3.6 \%$ agreed strongly with the statement, and 7.4 agreed somewhat.

| Q2-11 | I wanted to take more <br> challenging courses | strongly <br> agree | agree <br> somewhat | neither agree <br> nor disagree | disagree <br> somewhat | strongly <br> disagree |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $3.6 \%$ | $7.4 \%$ | $28.1 \%$ | $32.4 \%$ | $28.5 \%$ |  |

## Q2-12

More than half of the respondents ( $56.3 \%$ ) reported spending 30 minutes or less on homework for each General Education English course. $32.2 \%$ reported doing 0-15 minutes of homework weekly, and $24.1 \%$ reported doing $15-30$ minutes. $29.4 \%$ reported studying 30-60 minutes and $11.9 \%$ reported studying 60-120 minutes. $2.5 \%$ reported studying more than two hours.

| Q2-12 | Average amount of time spent <br> on homework each week (per <br> class) | $0-15$ <br> minutes | $15-30$ <br> minutes | $30-60$ <br> minutes | $60-120$ <br> minutes | more than <br> two hours |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $32.2 \%$ | $24.1 \%$ | $29.4 \%$ | $11.9 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ |  |

A majority indicated satisfaction with the difficulty level of coursework. $58.5 \%$ reported than the level was "just right." While $20.5 \%$ reported that the level was somewhat difficult, $4.3 \%$ found it to be "very difficult." For $14.1 \%$ of respondents, the level was "somewhat easy," and for $2.6 \%$, it was "very easy."

| Q2-13 | Difficulty of coursework | very <br> difficult | somewhat <br> difficult | just right | somewhat <br> easy | Very easy |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  | $4.3 \%$ | $20.5 \%$ | $58.5 \%$ | $14.1 \%$ | $2.6 \%$ |

More than three quarters of the respondents approved of the amount of homework. 76.5\% of respondents found the amount of homework to be "just right." $13.1 \%$ of respondents reported that the amount of homework was "somewhat large," and $2.4 \%$ reported a "very large amount" of homework. $6.3 \%$ reported that the amount of homework was "somewhat small," and $1.7 \%$ reported a "very small amount" of homework.

| Q2-14 | Amount of <br> homework | very large <br> amount | somewhat <br> large amount | just right | somewhat <br> small amount | very small <br> amount |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $2.4 \%$ | $13.1 \%$ | $76.5 \%$ | $6.3 \%$ | $1.7 \%$ |  |

## DISCUSSION

In many areas a majority of students did not express dissatisfaction with elements of the current SE program. Generally speaking, students appear to be satisfied with the amount of homework (Q2-14) and the difficulty level of coursework (Q2-13). Not many students desired more challenging courses (Q2-11). Only 8.4\% reported that the class sizes were too large (Q2-9). Yet only $40.4 \%$ reported that the four to six courses they had taken had helped them improve their English (Q2-1). If class size, the amount of homework, and the level of coursework are not problems for most students, what can be done to ensure that more students can leave the General Education English Program having made recognizable gains in ability?

Students in the more advanced PE Course responded favorably to the focus on communication in their courses. This focus and foreign teachers' contributions were found to be two factors contributing to students' positive evaluation of the PE program (Urick, Suto \& Komachi, 2011). One hypothesis about the SE Course would suggest that more focus on communication could help improve the SE students sense of accomplishment. A majority of students do not appear to want this, however. Only $17.3 \%$ of respondents indicated a desire to take two or more classes taught by a foreign teacher (Q2-4). If it is reasonable to assume that most students associate foreign teachers with communicative classrooms, this can be interpreted as a lack of desire to study English as a tool for communication.

In fact, it is difficult to find an area where a majority of students agree that a particular kind of change would be desirable. Only $31.0 \%$ of respondents reported that more choice would make the program better (Q2-3). The percentage of respondents who wanted more opportunities to study grammar was $28.3 \%$ (Q2-6). While these numbers are significant and should not be ignored, the fact remains that only a minority of students demonstrated a desire for such changes.

One likely reason for the limited success of the SE program is students' lack of affinity toward English, as demonstrated in the responses to Q1-4 through Q1-9. A majority of the respondents are not confident about their English ability (Q1-4) and do not like to study English
(Q1-5). A majority of respondents also do not like reading English (Q1-7), writing in English (Q18), or speaking English (Q1-9). Only about a quarter of students report that they plan to use English in the workplace in the future (Q1-6). Although there is no data available that provides evidence about students' attitudes in earlier years, it is most likely that those who lack affinity toward English developed this attitude before beginning college life. Certainly, efforts should be made at the university level to foster an affinity towards English, but the results of such efforts may remain limited.

Another key issue is motivation. Unfortunately, the survey this article documents did not include items that directly asked about students' motivation. Still, the data as a whole seems to suggest that students are somewhat lacking in concern or interest about their English studies. As noted above, there were no potential changes that a majority of students supported. Furthermore, neutral responses were most frequent for many of the items (Q2-2, Q2-3, Q2-4, Q2-6, Q2-7, and Q2-8). This suggests a lack of investment in the SE program on the part of the students.

Given that a majority of students are not demonstrating a sense of achievement after having taken four to six courses in the SE program, reducing the number or credits that are required may make the program more efficient. It is likely that students who have no or little interest in studying English will benefit very little from their coursework. Rather than attempting to solve this by making coursework more rigorous, allowing such students to take less English courses may be a reasonable solution. However, reducing the number of required English credits would apply not only to the SE group, but also the PE group, which has demonstrated a high level of satisfaction with a six-course, 12 credit program. Making sure that motivated students at a higher level of proficiency have a suitable menu of course choices is crucial.

In developing the new curriculum, it is also necessary to consider students who are motivated and invested in the program, but are at a lower level of proficiency. Currently these students are a sub-group of the SE students. These students also need a variety of alternatives so that they may find courses that suit their interests and perceived needs. Even though only $11 \%$ of responding SE students reported a desire for more grammar classes (Q2-6), it would be wise to provide more instruction in this area, if possible. Similarly, there need to be alternatives for students who want to take more challenging courses (Q2-11) and multiple courses with foreign teachers (Q24). There are also, without doubt, other needs that were not addressed by the current survey. These should be carefully considered, and if possible, more data from students should be collected.

Whatever changes are made to the curriculum, a sense of vision and clear goals for the program are vital (and also logically prior). What sort of internationalization do we envision for Japan in the future? What role do we see English playing in domestic academic, industrial, and social realms in years to come? What sort of internationalization do we want to bring to our
campus? What kinds of language ability do we need to foster? Only when we have the answers to these questions will we be able to formulate concrete goals for the General Education English Program at Shizuoka University. Certainly, we will need to respond to an array of student needs, but in addition to providing variety and flexibility we will need a strong sense of purpose to guide us in making decisions with regard to curriculum development.

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Appendix
Survey Data（in Japanese）

## 平成22年度SEコース受講者用アンケートの結果



|  |  | 180 点以上 | 170 点以上 | 160 点以上 | 150 点以上 | 150点未満 |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q1－2 | あなたのセンター試験の点数を教えてください（だいたい <br> （で結構です） | $2.3 \%$ | $4.6 \%$ | $13.3 \%$ | $19.8 \%$ | $60.1 \%$ |


|  | 730点以上 | 650 点以上 | 550 点以上 | 450点以上 | 450点未満 |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Q1－3 | あなたの2008年前期末のTOEICの点数を教えてください <br> （だいたいで結構です） | $0.5 \%$ | $1.4 \%$ | $15.0 \%$ | $35.3 \%$ | $47.9 \%$ |


|  |  | とてももう思う | 少しそう思う | どちらでもない | あまりそう思わない | 全くそう思すない |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q1－4 | 英語に自信がある | 1．3\％ | 7．4\％ | 16．7\％ | 30．9\％ | 43．7\％ |
| Q1－5 | 英語を勉強するのが好きだ | 4．3\％ | 18．2\％ | 25．4\％ | 29．1\％ | 23．0\％ |
| Q1－6 | 今後仕事で英語を使うつもりだ | 6．2\％ | 19．8\％ | 27．6\％ | 27．9\％ | 18．6\％ |
| Q1－7 | 英文を読むのが好きだ | 2．9\％ | 16．6\％ | 24．4\％ | 30．1\％ | 26．0\％ |
| Q1－8 | 英文を書くのが好きだ | 1．9\％ | 7．8\％ | 18．3\％ | 34．8\％ | 37．2\％ |
| Q1－9 | 英語で話すのが好きだ | 3．2\％ | 13．1\％ | 21．5\％ | 31．5\％ | 30．7\％ |
| Q2－1 | SEの授業は自分の英語の上達に役立った | 4．4\％ | 36．0\％ | 31．6\％ | 20．5\％ | 7．5\％ |
| Q2－2 | SEの授業は楽しかった | 10．1\％ | 32．7\％ | 34．3\％ | 16．0\％ | 6．9\％ |
| Q2－3 | もっと科目の選択肢があった方がよかった | 9．9\％ | 21．1\％ | 43．4\％ | 20．4\％ | 5．1\％ |
| Q2－4 | 外国人の先生の授業を二つ以上取りたかった | 6．3\％ | 11．0\％ | 31．3\％ | 30．5\％ | 20．9\％ |
| Q2－5 | 履修前，教員から授業についての説明を十分受けた | 18．1\％ | 35．3\％ | 25．4\％ | 13．4\％ | 7．8\％ |
| Q2－6 | もっと文法の授業があったほうがよかった | 6．7\％ | 21．6\％ | 39．1\％ | 23．1\％ | 9．5\％ |
| Q2－7 | TOEICの授業は役立った | 5．8\％ | 31．1\％ | 31．6\％ | 20．6\％ | 10．9\％ |
| Q2－8 | 授業てコミュニケーションの道具として英語を使えた | 4．3\％ | 17．8\％ | 32．3\％ | 28．1\％ | 17．5\％ |
| Q2－9 | クラスの人数が多すぎた | 2．5\％ | 5．9\％ | 33．2\％ | 38．4\％ | 20．1\％ |
| Q2－10 | 選択科目はシラバスの内容でとる授業を決めた | 28．1\％ | 39．2\％ | 17．1\％ | 9．4\％ | 6．1\％ |
| Q2－11 | もっとしべルの高い授業をとりたかった | 3．6\％ | 7．4\％ | 28．1\％ | 32．4\％ | 28．5\％ |


|  |  | 0－15分 | 15－30分 | 30分－1封閉 | 1－2時間 | 2時開以上 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Q2－12 | 教室外の課題にかけた平均的な時間（一科目につき）を教えてください | 32．2\％ | 24．1\％ | 29．4\％ | 11．9\％ | 2．5\％ |
|  |  | 大変維しかった | すこし難しかった | ちょうどよかった | すこし簡単だった | とても䈑単だった |
| Q2－13 | 授業の難易度を教えてください | 4．3\％ | 20．5\％ | 58．5\％ | 14．1\％ | 2．6\％ |
|  |  | 大変多かった | すこし多かった | ちょうどよかった | すこし少なかった | 少なすきた |
| Q2－14 | 宿題の量を教えてください | 2．4\％ | 13．1\％ | 76．5\％ | 6．3\％ | 1．7\％ |


[^0]:    *The full name of the faculty is the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

