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36-303 Team G Assignment I.4

**Target Population**

For this research study asking, “What are CMU students' perceptions of the distribution of tuition funds across non-academic resources?” the target population will be Carnegie Mellon University undergraduate students. Carnegie Mellon University has a compulsory activities fee as part of its tuition. However, the student's participation in deciding how to spend the funds is limited by institutional constraints. This research study will analyze CMU student's awareness and perceptions of how funds are distributed for non-academic resources. Moreover, the survey will evaluate to what degree CMU students might want to participate in the decision-making process.

**Sampling Plan**

In order to make inferences about our target population most accurately, we will use the complete list of names of undergraduate students from the most recent copy of the student directory as our sampling frame. We will draw an SRS with replacement from this frame to form our sample. We feel that this will be the most representative sampling method because it includes the widest possible frame of undergraduate students that will match up most closely to our desired population. The only omissions from the sampling frame would be undergraduate students who for some reason were not included in the most recent student directory. We believe that this population - the population of undergraduate students not in the directory - will be very close to zero and thus will not negatively affect our results.

We will then use a computer-based random number generator to generate 2 numbers, one for the page and one for location of the student on the page (pg.10-119 in C-book ) to ensure that the process is random. With a list of students' names and email addresses, we will send an email that contains a link to an anonymous survey online and necessary instructions. If a subject does not respond, we will send a reminder email 10 days later. An online survey is a convenient way for students to respond and also provides sufficient confidentiality as to ensure that our results might not be compromised. Given our limited resource constraints, using emails for distribution of the surveys accommodates to our use of SRS and amplifies our exposure to undergraduate students at Carnegie Mellon University.

To address the issue of nonresponse, if a subject does not respond in 10 days, a reminder email will be sent. Further nonresponse will have to be dealt as "item missing data". If it is suspected that the sample is not representative of the target population, a couple steps to adjustment must be made. Firstly, the reason why the sample is not representative of the target population must be identified. Then, adjustments can be made accordingly. For example, some variance between the sampling frame and the population may come up due to variations between students listed in the C-Book Directory and the number of currently enrolled undergraduate students. This variation may result in a smaller Sampling Frame than our Target Population.