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MedBlog

A health and medicine blog with **Cindy George** and **Todd Ackerman**

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September 23, 2009

Poll: Rice professors don't like Baylor merger

A majority of Rice University professors believe a proposed merger with Baylor College of Medicine is inadvisable and likely to negatively affect them, according to an unofficial survey posted on a [Rice faculty blog about the deal](#).

The survey, filled out by 295 of the university's roughly 600 faculty members, found more than 55 percent think the much-anticipated merger is a bad idea. Less than 30 percent think it's a good idea.

A second survey question found 52 percent of professors say the merger would have a negative impact on their and their close colleagues' personal and professional goals. Twenty-four percent say it would have a positive impact.

The survey provides the first real glimpse of how rank-and-file Rice faculty view the proposed merger, which has been touted as a boon for the city as much as the schools. [Baylor financial problems](#) have worried Rice officials and complicated talks, [first reported last fall](#), but in March the two [governing boards signed a memorandum of understanding](#), considered the first stage in the formation of a contract. Since then, however, there have been no signs that an agreement is close.

It's unclear if the faculty survey will have any impact on the schools' ultimate decision. A Rice faculty committee is studying the merger, but it is not polling professors and neither the faculty senate nor the administration has chosen such an undertaking either.

But in the comment section of the merger blog, computational engineering professor Moshe Vardi posted results of his unofficial survey. Vardi, who could not be reached for comment, has been the [leading faculty critic of the deal](#), according to the merger blog and faculty senate Web site.

The faculty merger review committee presented an interim report last month, but the contents are confidential, according to the merger blog. A final report is due later this fall.

Posted by [Todd Ackerman](#) at [September 23, 2009 06:00 AM](#)

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1. What is your view on the overall advisability of Rice's merging with Baylor?

- A very bad idea: 24.5%
- A somewhat bad idea: 32.3%
- I am neutral: 14.3%
- A somewhat good idea: 15.9%
- A very good idea: 13.9%

2. If the proposed merger were to take place, how would you see your and your close colleagues' personal and professional goals being affected?

- Very negative impact: 15.3%
- Somewhat negative impact: 36.7%
- I am neutral: 23.8%
- Somewhat positive impact: 15.6%
- Very positive impact: 8.5%

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- [Chat live about Swine flu with experts from Texas Children's Hospital \(16\)](#)
Terri wrote: S SMITH is IGNORANT....this H1N1 va... [more]
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factsr2intence4you wrote: ohhhhhhhhh... when are the people ... [more]
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Bonnie wrote: There are pregnant women that aren'... [more]
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Michelle wrote: I've always thought that maybe peop... [more]
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