

Survey of Warsaw School of Economics' campus

# Results



Warsaw

September 29, 2011

## About SKNiN and the author

This survey was conducted by SKNiN (Studenckie Koło Naukowe Inwestycji i Nieruchomości – Real Estate and Investment Student Interest Group), which is a very active student organisation operating from the Warsaw School of Economics that hosts several annual conferences related to real estate, organises meetings with experts and viewings of new buildings in construction. For more information visit [www.sgh.waw.pl/skniin/](http://www.sgh.waw.pl/skniin/).

Ferdynand Górski is a member of SKNiN since 2009, where he helped organise several events and was the person in charge behind this survey. He studies at the WSE, is also a programmer and holds a MSc title in architecture from the Warsaw University of Technology. You can contact him at [home@fgda.pl](mailto:home@fgda.pl).

## Background

We have witnessed many significant changes at the Warsaw School of Economics in recent time. Probably the most important event that has been a catalyst for things to come was the ominous report from a technical audit of building “F”, the 12-storey office building located at the North-West end of the campus. According to that report, it was no longer fit for its current use. In fact, allowing any occupants there would endanger their lives. Thus, School’s administration has decided to move all the departments located there to a dormitory, after relocating students to different dorms in town. The ones operated under WSE weren’t enough to house them all. It was then, that everyone has started talking about development perspectives of the School really seriously.

As a students’ organisation that is based at the WSE, the Real Estate and Investment Student Interest Group had observed all that with great interest but decided to take a more active role in the process. That is how the concept of a special survey was born, in December 2010.

The goal of this survey was to find out what the inhabitants of the buildings that belong to the Warsaw School of Economics really want, so that future development decisions can be deeply rooted in the needs of the academic community and not be something imposed onto it without much consideration and public discussion with the ones to whom it matters the most – daily users of all the facilities: students and employees.

This idea was warmly welcomed by School’s highest management and we were given support from the IT department by performing a mass-mailing, informing about the survey. Everyone expected to get some solid results as soon as possible, so it was a bit rushed and I ended up coding the online survey, building the database and processing results myself. The timing wasn’t that great, though. The survey was conducted from January 17 until February 5, which means: winter exam period. We knew we wouldn’t have students’ undivided atten-

tion, therefore we had to keep the survey simple. There were only four questions asked:

1. What do you like at the Warsaw School of Economics?
2. What does really annoy you in the facilities?
3. What do you miss the most?
4. What investments should be undertaken?

Each question was followed by an empty box that could be filled with multiple answers. For even greater convenience, we have provided answers from the same poll that we had conducted among ourselves in the Student Interest Group before going public with this survey. If anyone agreed with them, they could simply click on the answer and it would be pasted into the answer box. This is important to note and explains why some answers appear quite often.

Despite the fact that it was the exam period, we have received many responses. In fact, the number of responses we received has surprised us all. We were expecting to get around 300 replies tops. In reality there were over 1300. The following table shows the number of responses, grouped by the type of person surveyed.

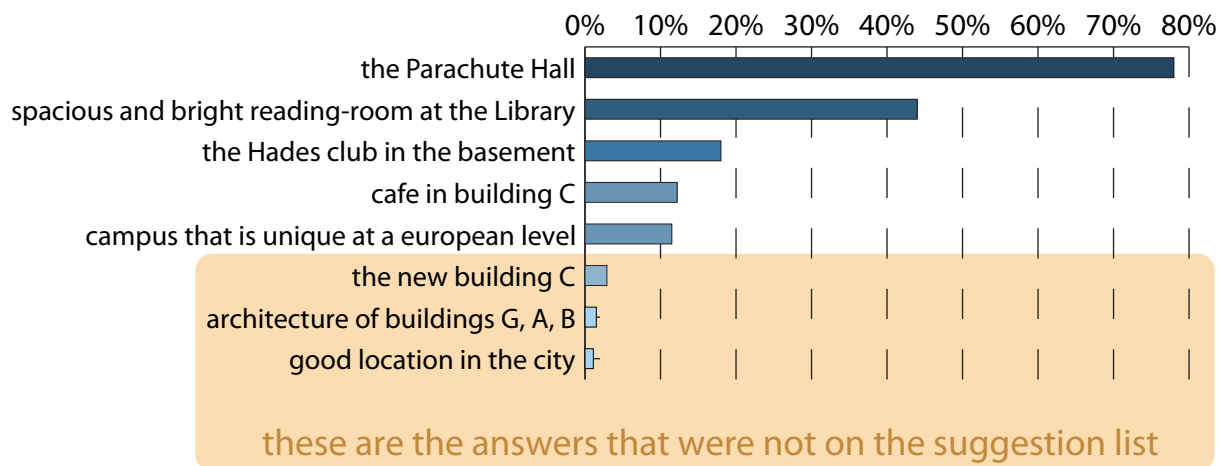
<b>Number of surveys filed by category</b>						
	SUM	B.Sc	Masters	Ph.D	postgrads	other
students	1118	655	420	42	0	1
	SUM	lecturers	researchers	administration	other	
employees	185	115	15	54	1	
guests	59					
exchange students	6					
<b>SUM</b>	<b>1368</b>					

## Responses

Let us have a look at the answer provided by the people we surveyed. The graphs show how many from them have chosen a particular answer or a category of answers:

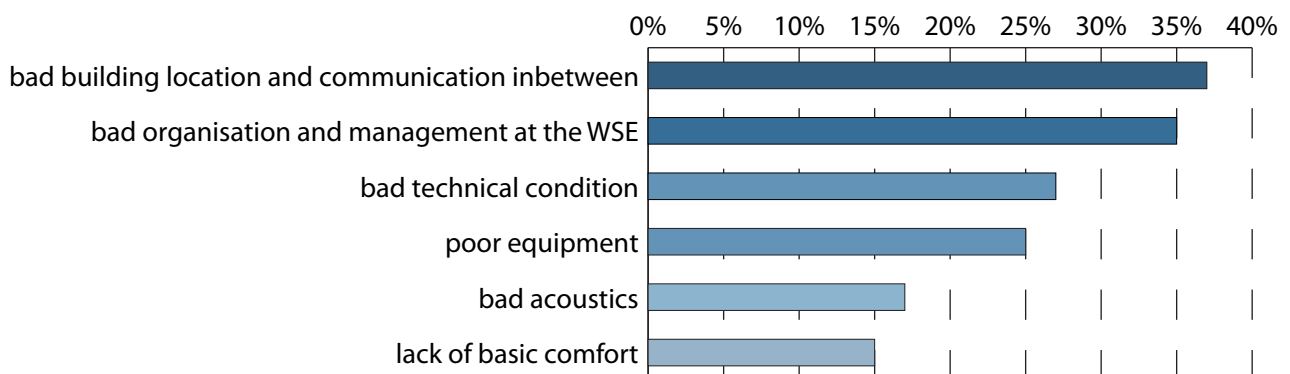
## What I like the most in WSE...

### Most popular answers



## What really annoys me...

### Most common categories of answers



## **What really annoys me – popular and important answers:**

### **Bad organisation and management**

EVERYTHING should be double labelled in English but is not  
odd numbering of rooms in G & C  
hidden offices in the cellar of building A  
department moved so far away that it's hard to get there  
running with documents around instead of sending them electronically  
complete administrative chaos  
monstrous bureaucracy - 5 signatures required under the smallest receipt  
losing money on unimportant stuff and high level of debt  
renovations - too many, too long, too pricey, wrong season, some needless  
throwing students away from Hermes dorm was scandalous!  
pushing cars on the parking lot in front of G - embarrassing  
lack of a stable development plan - WSE doesn't really know where to go

### **Lack of basic comfort**

having to go through cigarette fumes each day you enter G  
it's cold in halls and corridors in G  
uncomfortable old benches in halls in G & A  
textbooks slipping from desks in hall A  
bad lighting in G's halls and hallways  
no carpets in the library - you hear every step  
odour from the sewers on the ground floor in A  
having to use cloak-room in the Library  
very slowly shutting doors to the elevators in C  
heavy entrance doors in A and B  
windows in hallways in G - can't close them in winter , because they're not tight,  
... can't open in summer, because there are no handles :)

### **Horrible aesthetics**

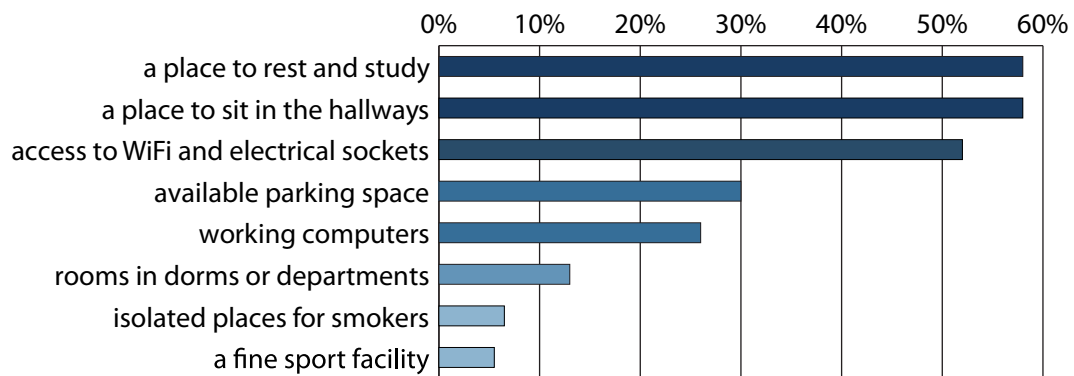
crowds of smokers in front of the entrance to G  
basements in G - horrible and dark  
dirt, dust, shabby walls and their hospital colours

### **Bad planning**

no coherent campus - buildings scattered around  
G, C, M and accounting require a 2-hour walk to visit them all  
why does nothing happen in the space between G, A & B?  
not using the internal garden - there's not even an exit there from Jajko  
poor sustenance - pricey Hades and cafe and C and poor menu as well  
buildings are not adapted to the needs of disabled people  
state of the art parking space in building C - expensive and ill-designed  
building C isn't even properly booked - most halls are always empty  
lecture hall in C with a bloody pillar right in the middle of it

# Right now I miss the most...

## Most common categories of answers

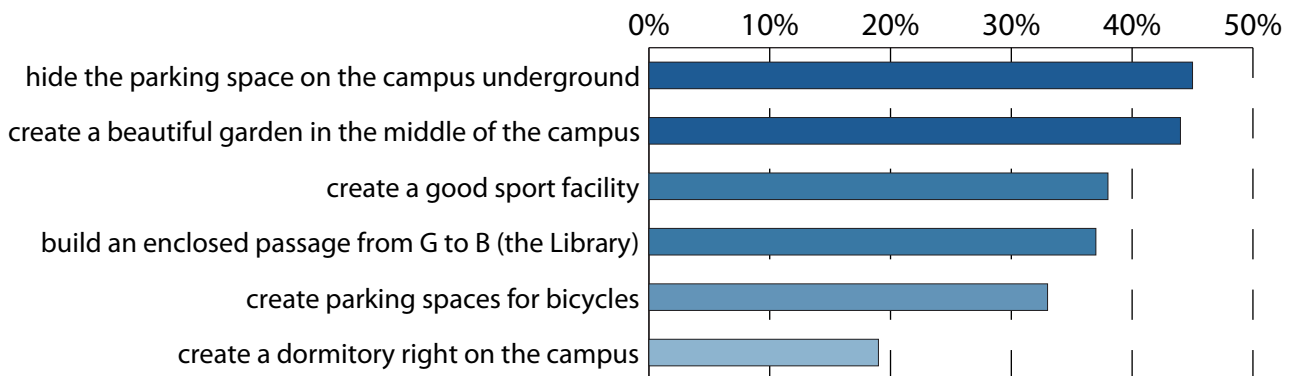


### Common and important answers:

- any place to sit in the hallways in G whatsoever
- a place to rest and relax with coffee, tables and sofas
- places for loud group work with multimedia in the Library
- a landing spot for helicopters
- good and cheap food
- a sport facility that's not a laughing stock
- multimedia equipment in every lecture room
- more toilets in G, also ones for employees
- a teachers' room in G to meet with students
- clean toilets, aesthetic hallways, refit rooms and buildings
- ergonomic rooms, place to keep ones feet in halls (they don't fit)
- transparent glass elevators in G
- paintings and art on the walls instead of ads
- a high quality public space
- a well planned garden with benches, tables and some roof
- attractive space between campus' buildings instead of all those cars
- a real campus and not just a loose bunch of buildings
- an enclosed passage to go from G to B
- high level of teaching, the newest knowledge and more practical lessons
- a better approach to students in the dean's office
- longer working hours at the library, especially during exams
- allowance to bring in purses / backpacks to the library
- semester groups like on every other university because we feel alienated
- an IT system informing about called off lectures and other basic stuff

# Which investments should be undertaken?

## Most common answers



### Other interesting answers:

- create the most beautiful campus in Europe, or at least Warsaw
- adapt the buildings to people with disabilities
- build a direct underground passage to the subway station
- make more entrances to the garden - now they are blocked on purpose!
- label every room and do that logically
- buy some chairs and put them in hallways
- change the benches in halls to something more comfortable
- take over the parking lot in front of G and make it our own
- get rid of buildings S and W
- clean up the organisational structure and lay off redundant people
- you really should try to buy the old SGGW buildings on the adjacent area
- locate whatever you can fit on the central campus
- you really need a good development plan and stick to it
- it's the highest time to start actually doing something and not discussing
- you should rather try to better manage the things you have now
- the most important investment should be in the quality of learning
- first take care of what you have - only then build more landmarks

### But what about financial problems the School is struggling with?

- pay off all debts - can we even discuss new investments in this situation?
- create an endowment fund - Yale and Harvard got them
- be in contact with old graduates - they are usually in high places and got cash
- you can try a joint venture with the private sector - PPP anyone?