Columbia Engineering Graduate Student Quality of Life Survey

7th Annual Graduate Student Town Hall Meeting

May 2, 2016

COLUMBIA | ENGINEERING
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

EGSC

Introduction

- Survey Design and Analysis Methodology
- Results and Key Insights
  - Overview
  - Academics and Mentoring
  - Academic Integrity
  - Professional Development
  - Career Development
  - Student Life
  - Libraries and Facilities
- Question and Answer Panel

Survey Overview

Survey Design and Analysis

- Likert scale
- Randomized sections, options in matrix questions

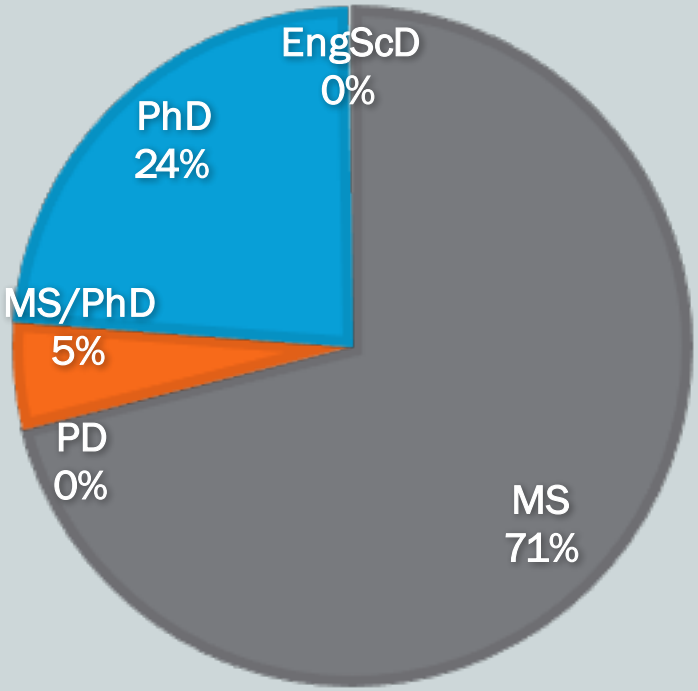
1) State the research question
2) State the null hypothesis
3) Conduct appropriate statistical analysis
4) Draw statistical conclusions
5) Draw research conclusions

Demographics

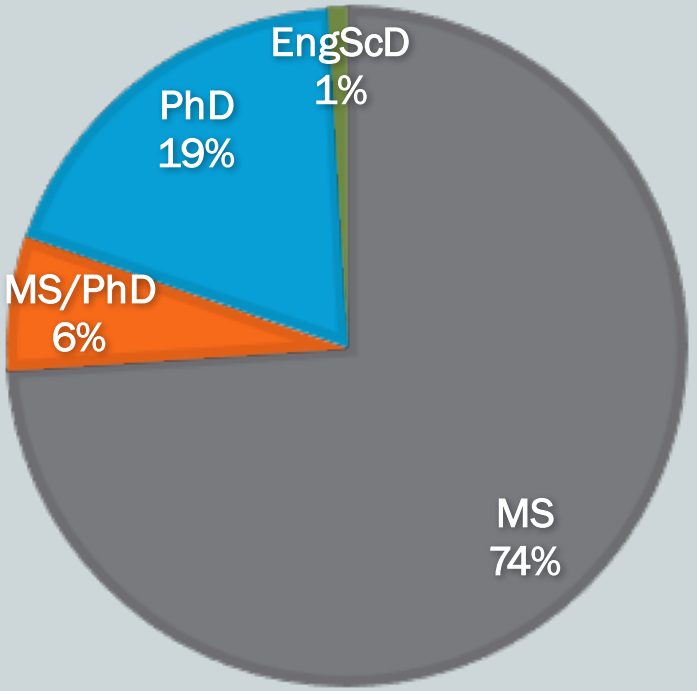
SURVEY RESPONDENTS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF DEGREE PROGRAMS AND DEPARTMENTS

Representation by Degree Program

2016 Student Body



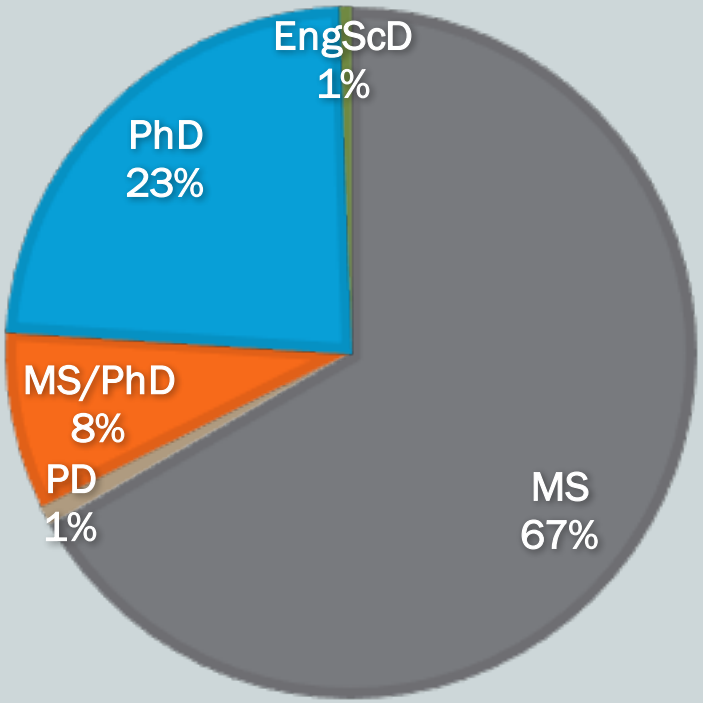
2016 Survey



Survey Response Rate: 555 / 2,405 (27.1%)

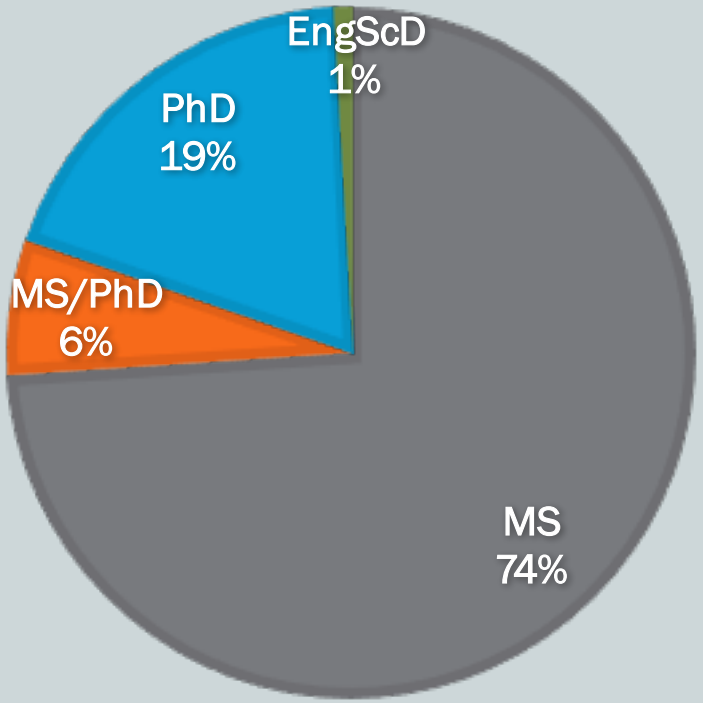
Representation by Degree Program

2015 Survey



Survey Response Rate: 431 / 2,038 (21.1%)

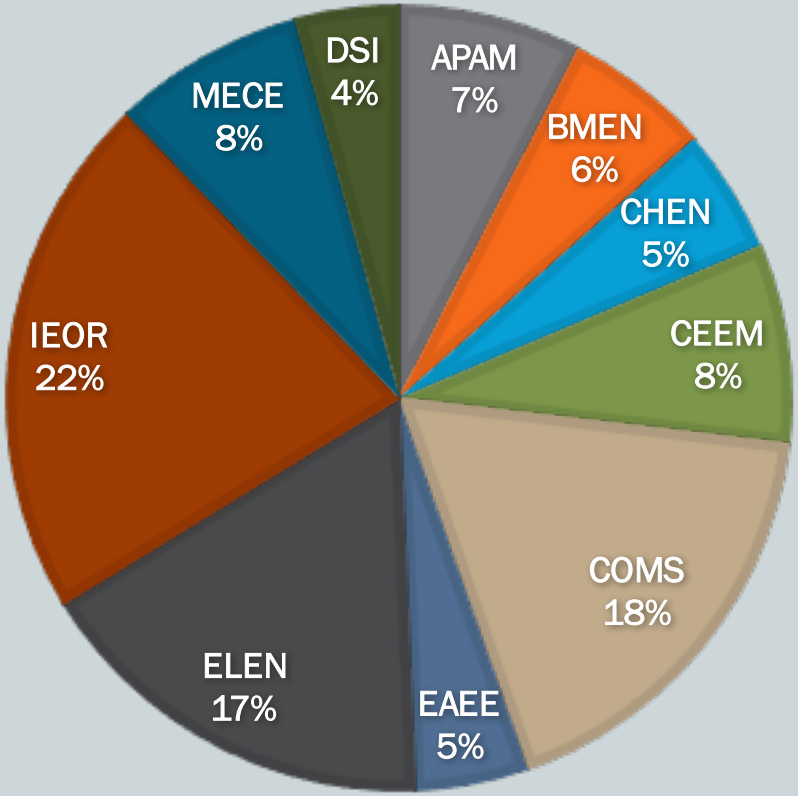
2016 Survey



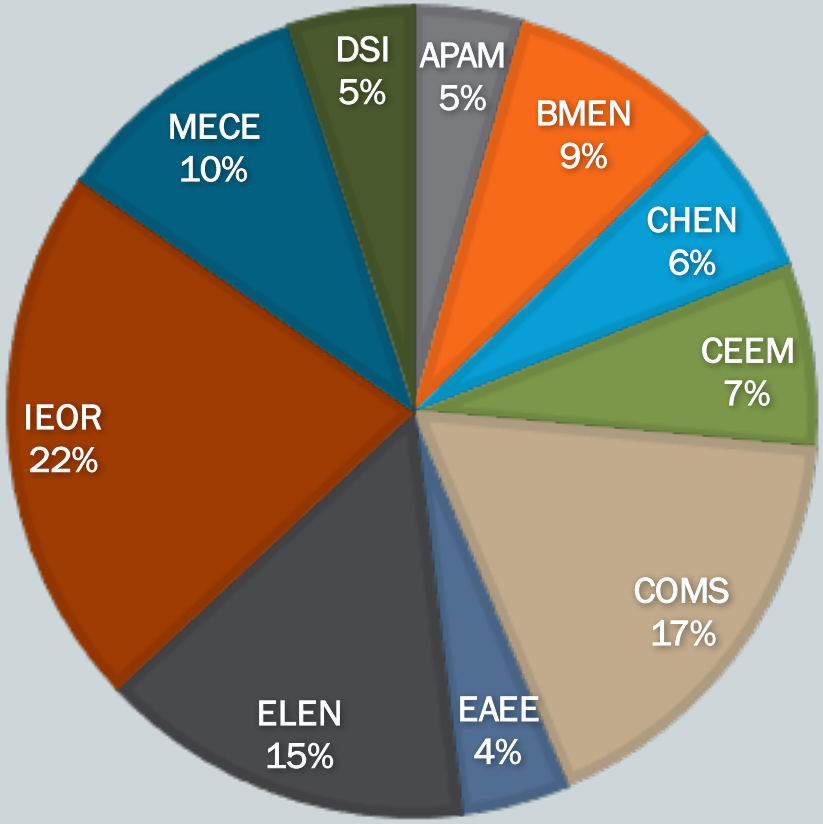
Survey Response Rate: 555 / 2,405 (27.1%)

Representation by Department

2016 Student Body



2016 Survey

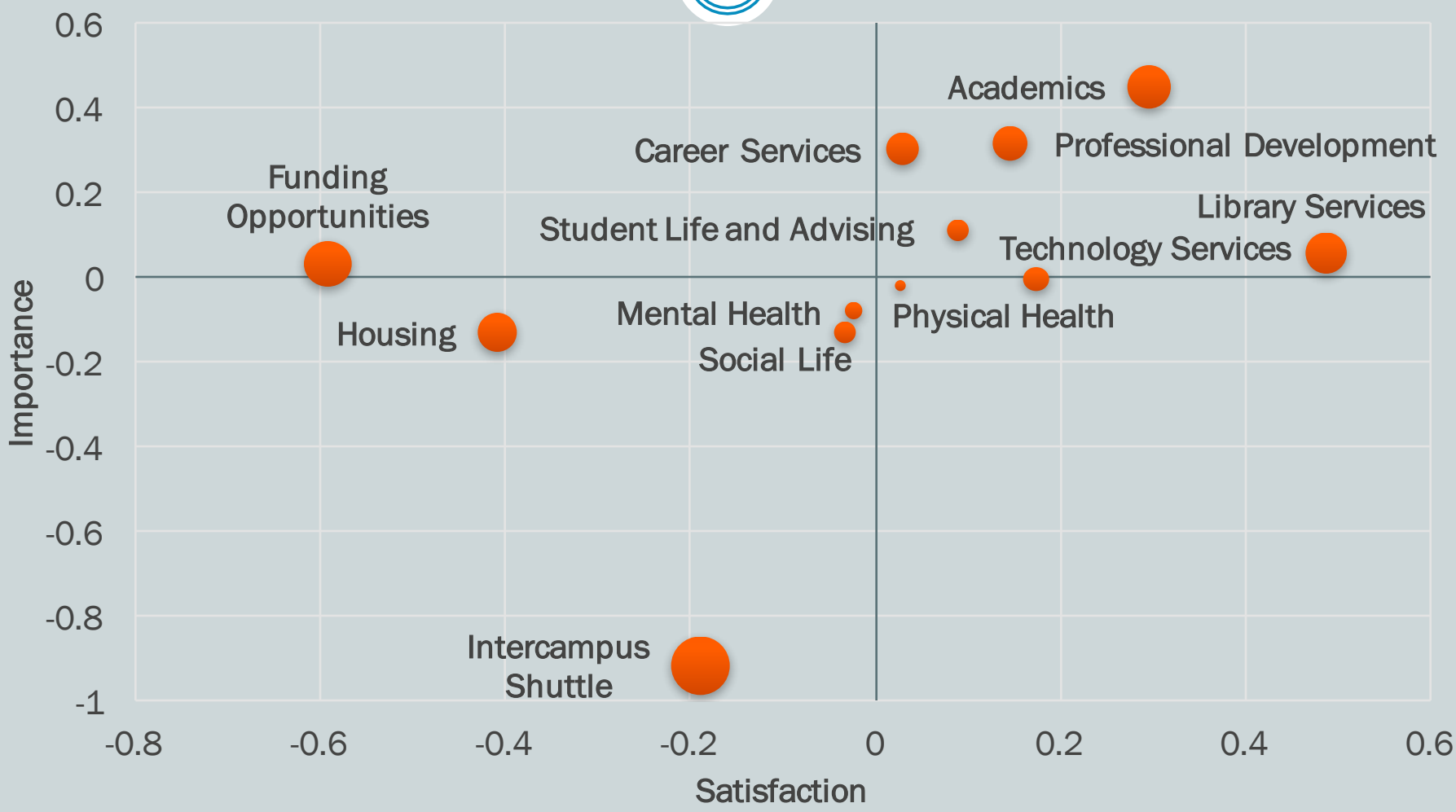


Survey Response Rate: 555 / 2,405 (27.1%)

$\chi^2 = 17.20$, p = 0.07

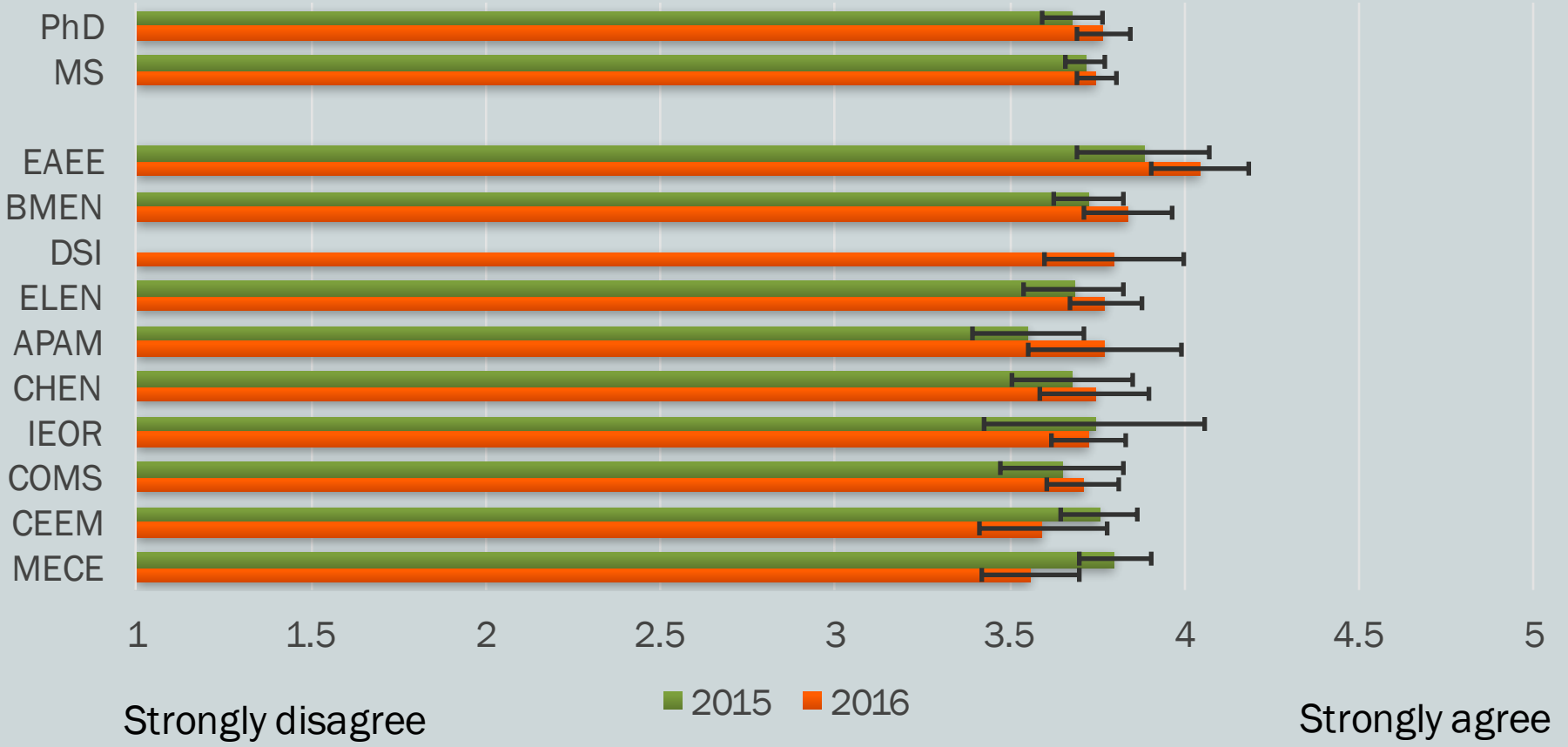
Overview of Student Satisfaction

Importance vs. Satisfaction



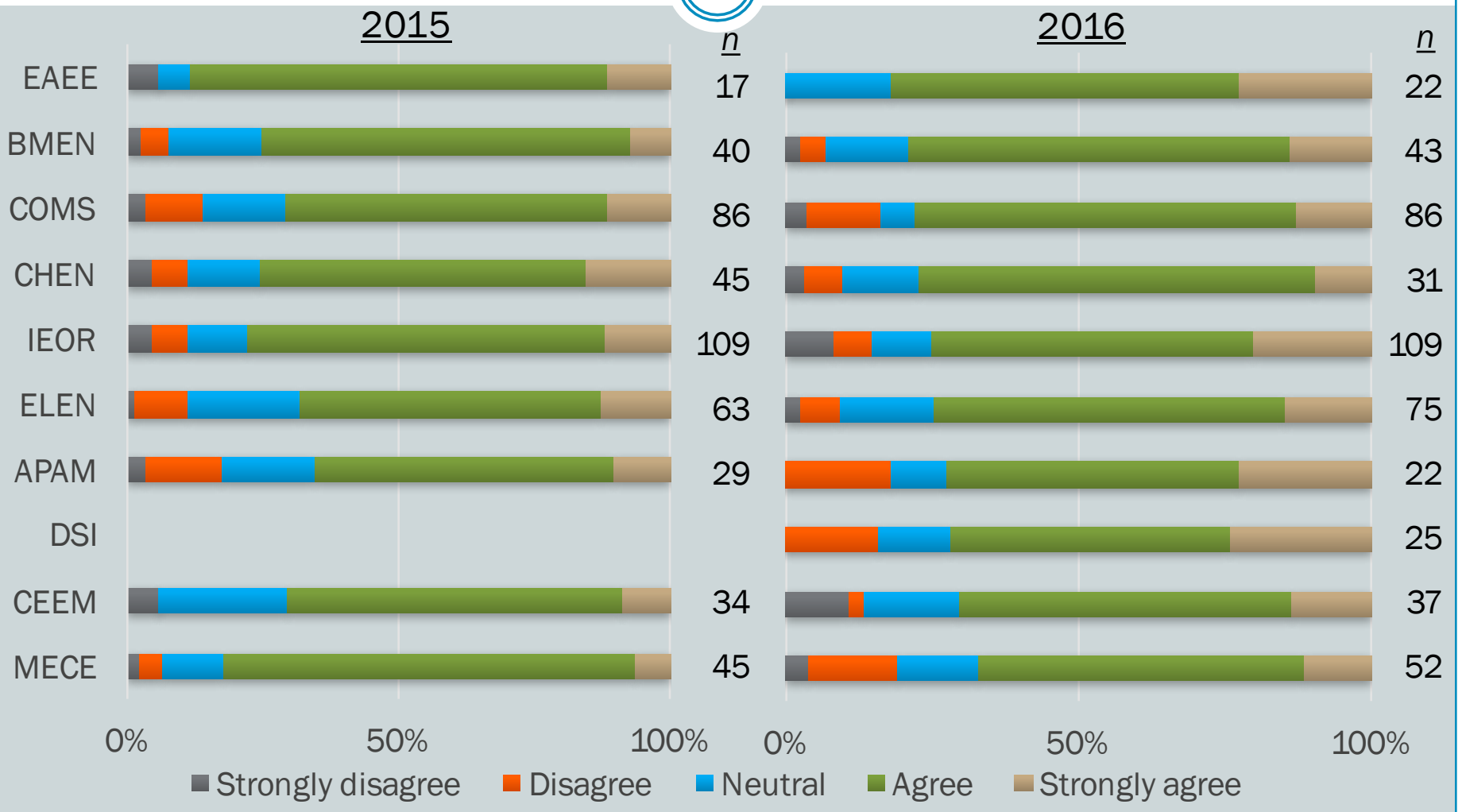
Overall Student Satisfaction

The overall student satisfaction in 2016 is 75% ± 1%.

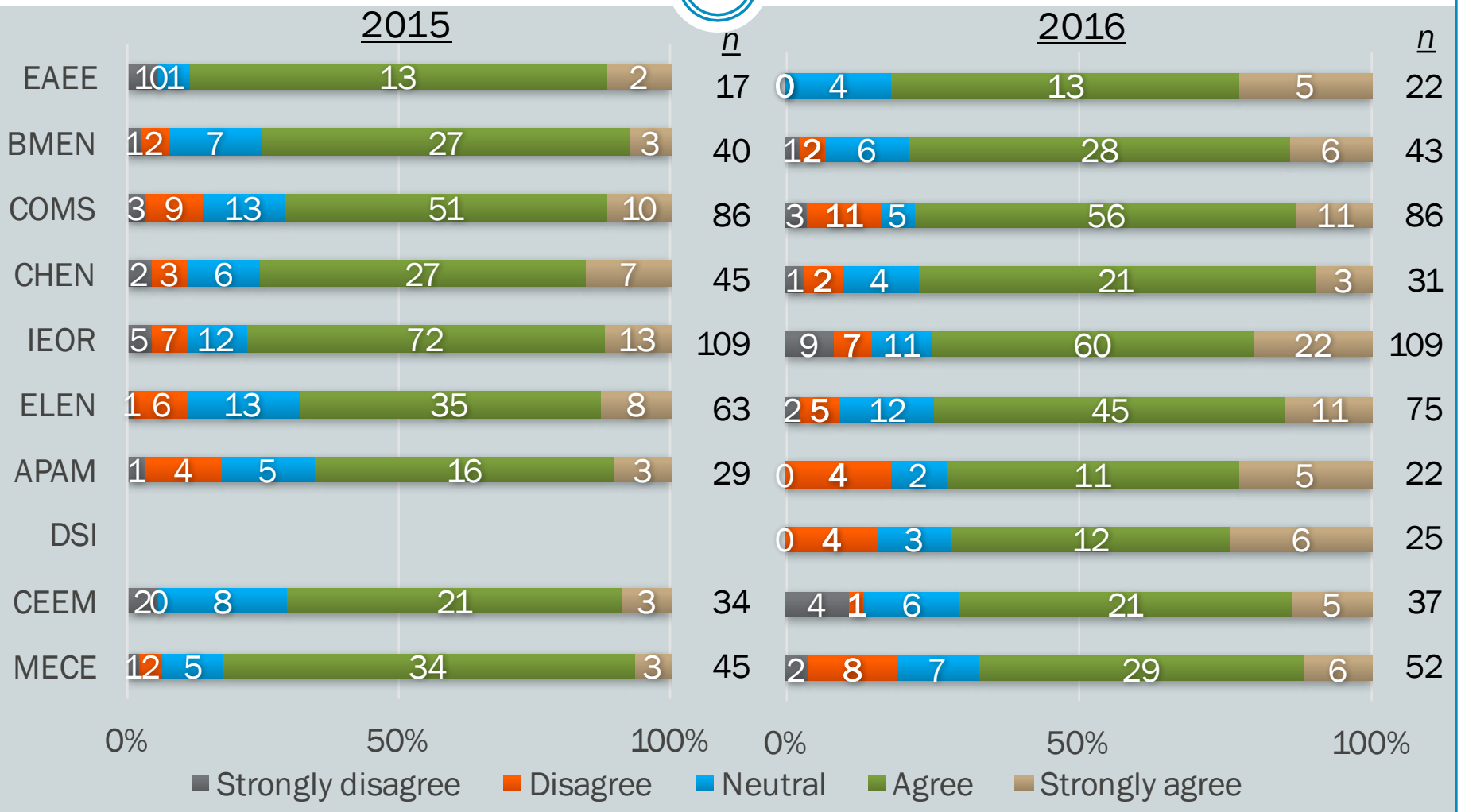


Error bars are the standard error of the mean

Student Satisfaction by Department



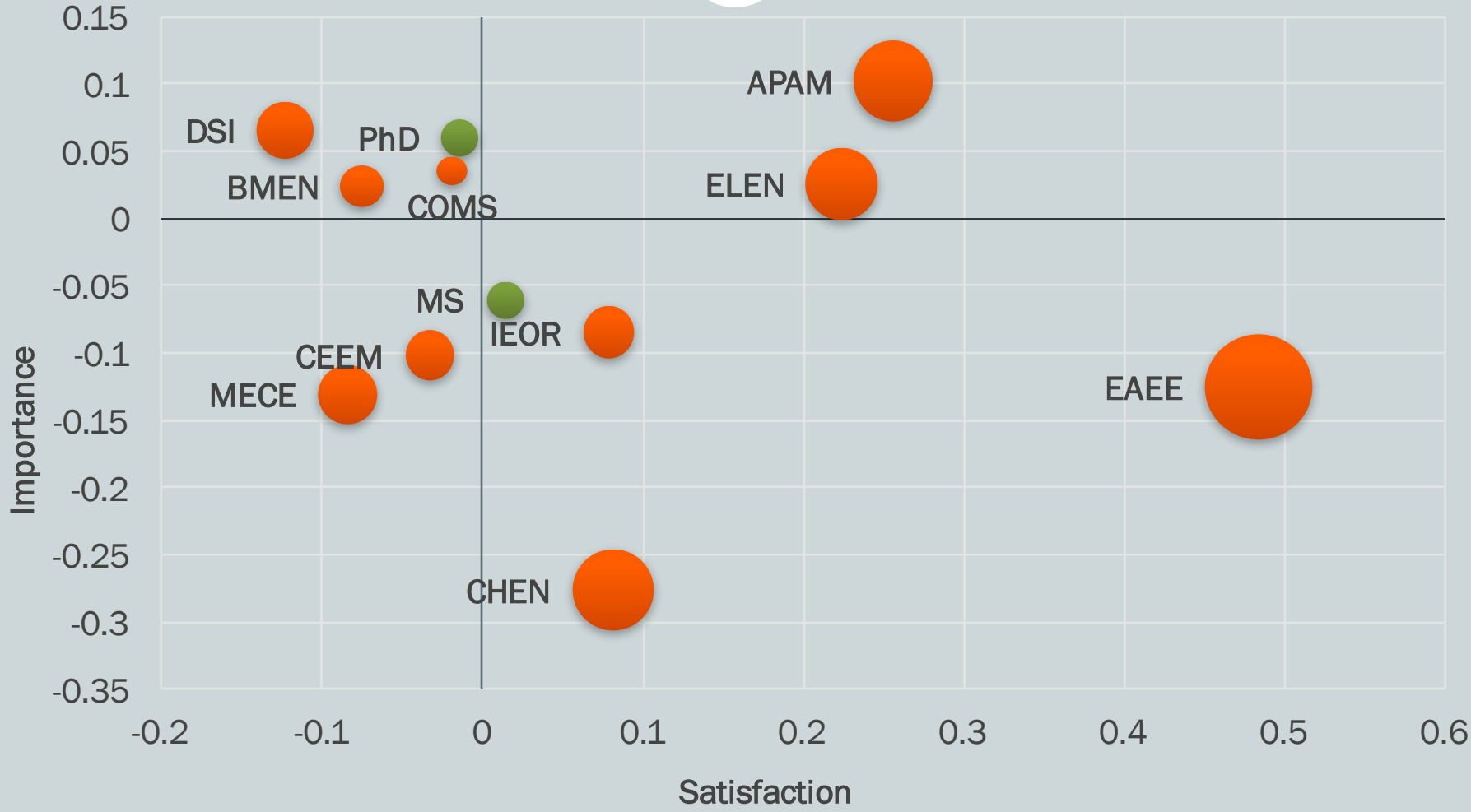
Student Satisfaction by Department



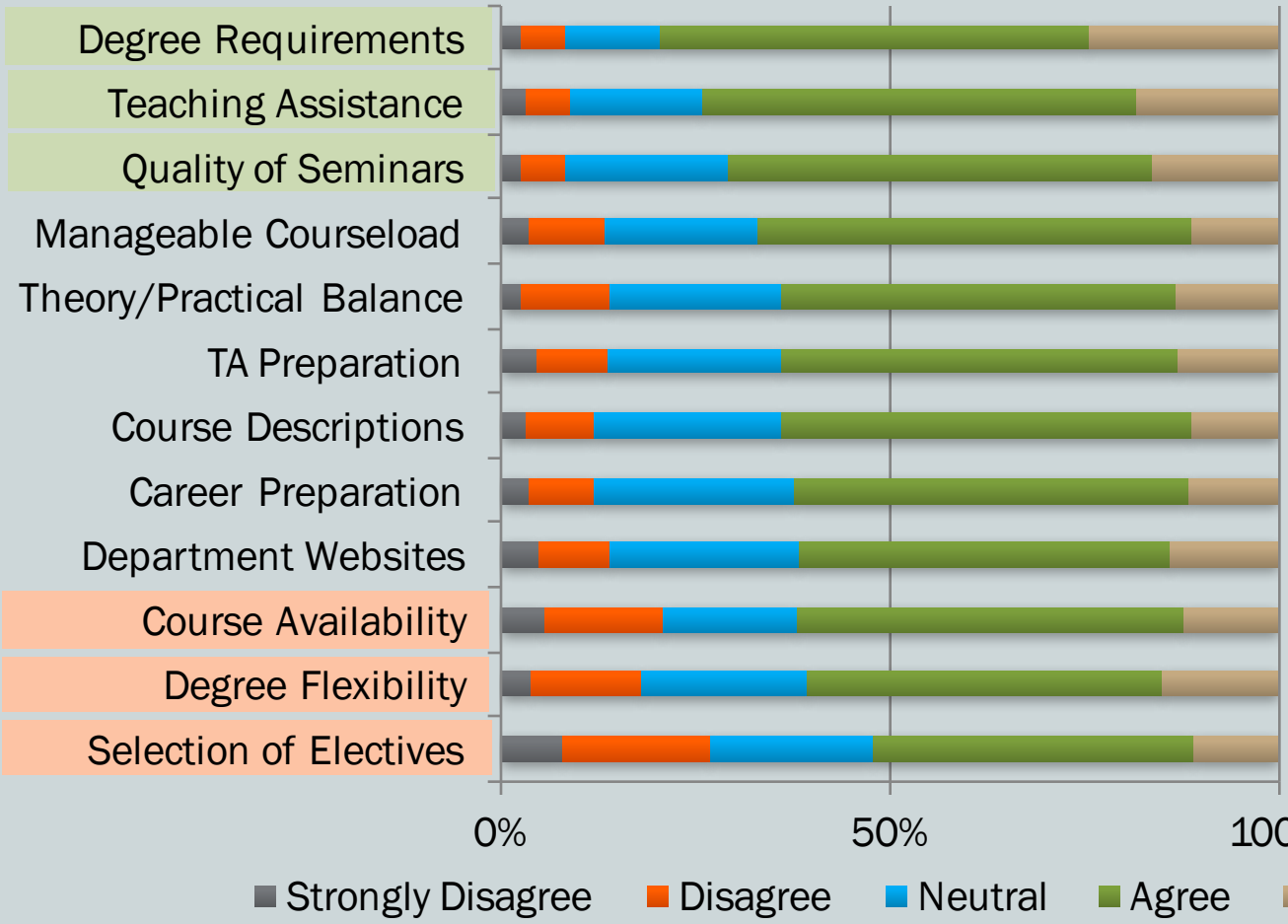
Academics

STUDENT SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMICS AND COURSEWORK

Academic Satisfaction

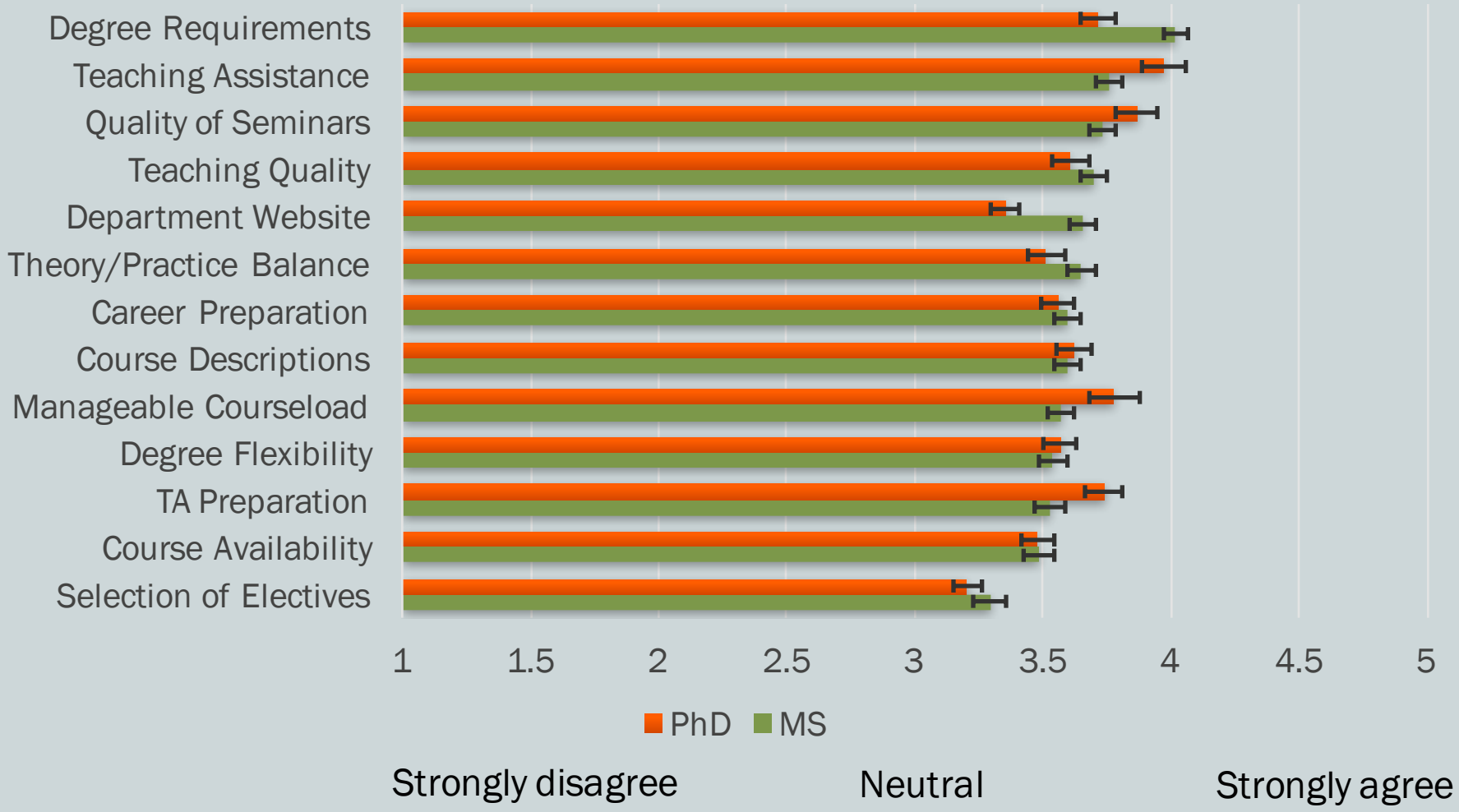


SEAS Classes and Academics



	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
Degree Requirements	8%	12%	80%
Teaching Assistance	9%	17%	74%
Quality of Seminars	8%	21%	71%
Manageable Courseload	13%	16%	70%
Theory/Practical Balance	13%	20%	67%
TA Preparation	14%	22%	64%
Course Descriptions	14%	22%	64%
Career Preparation	12%	24%	64%
Department Websites	12%	26%	62%
Course Availability	21%	17%	62%
Degree Flexibility	18%	21%	61%
Selection of Electives	27%	21%	52%

SEAS Classes and Academics



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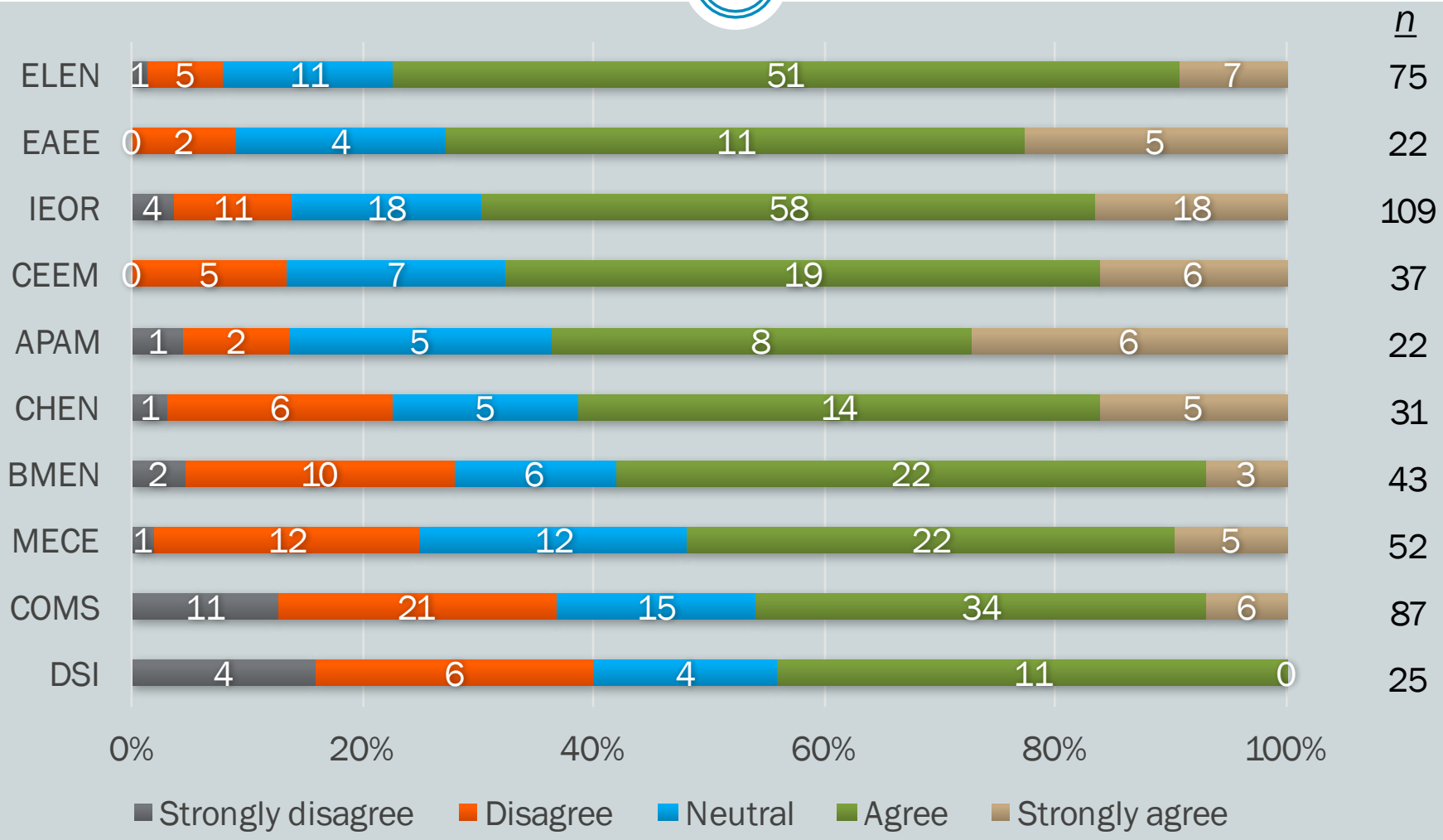
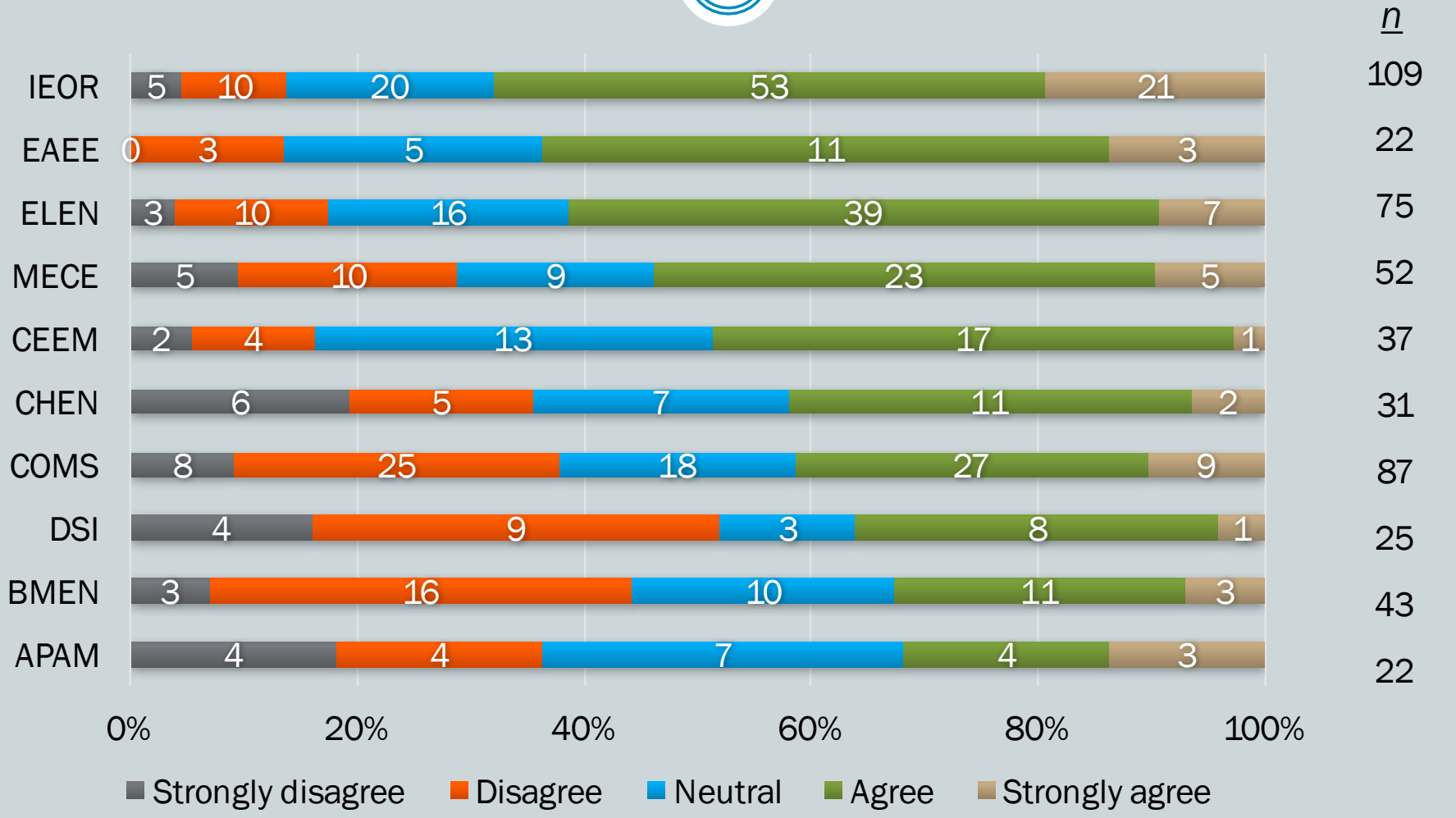
Course Availability to Fulfill Degree Requirements

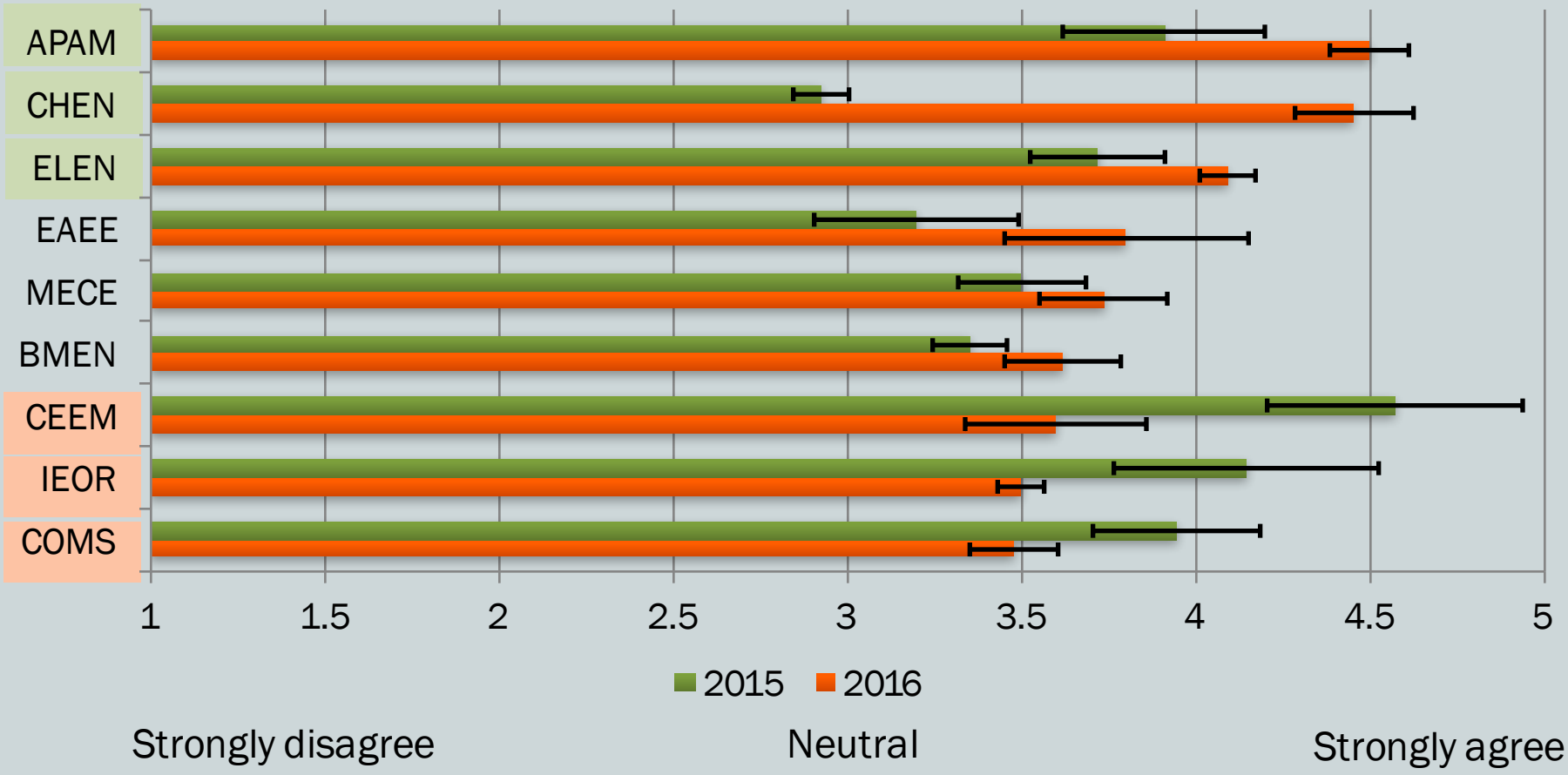


Selection of Electives



PhD Advisor Mentorship

"The level of mentorship and guidance provided by my advisor is adequate."



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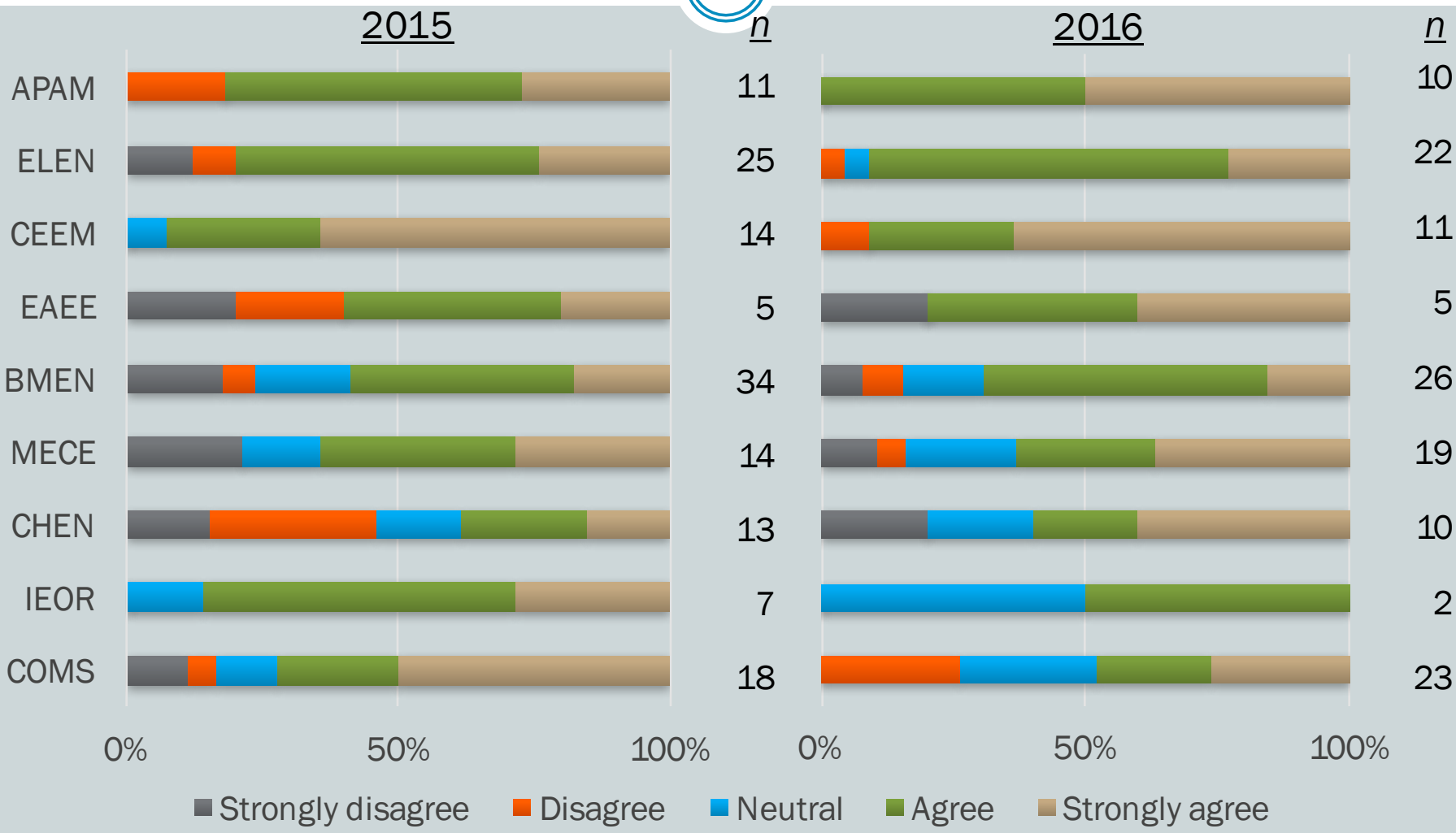
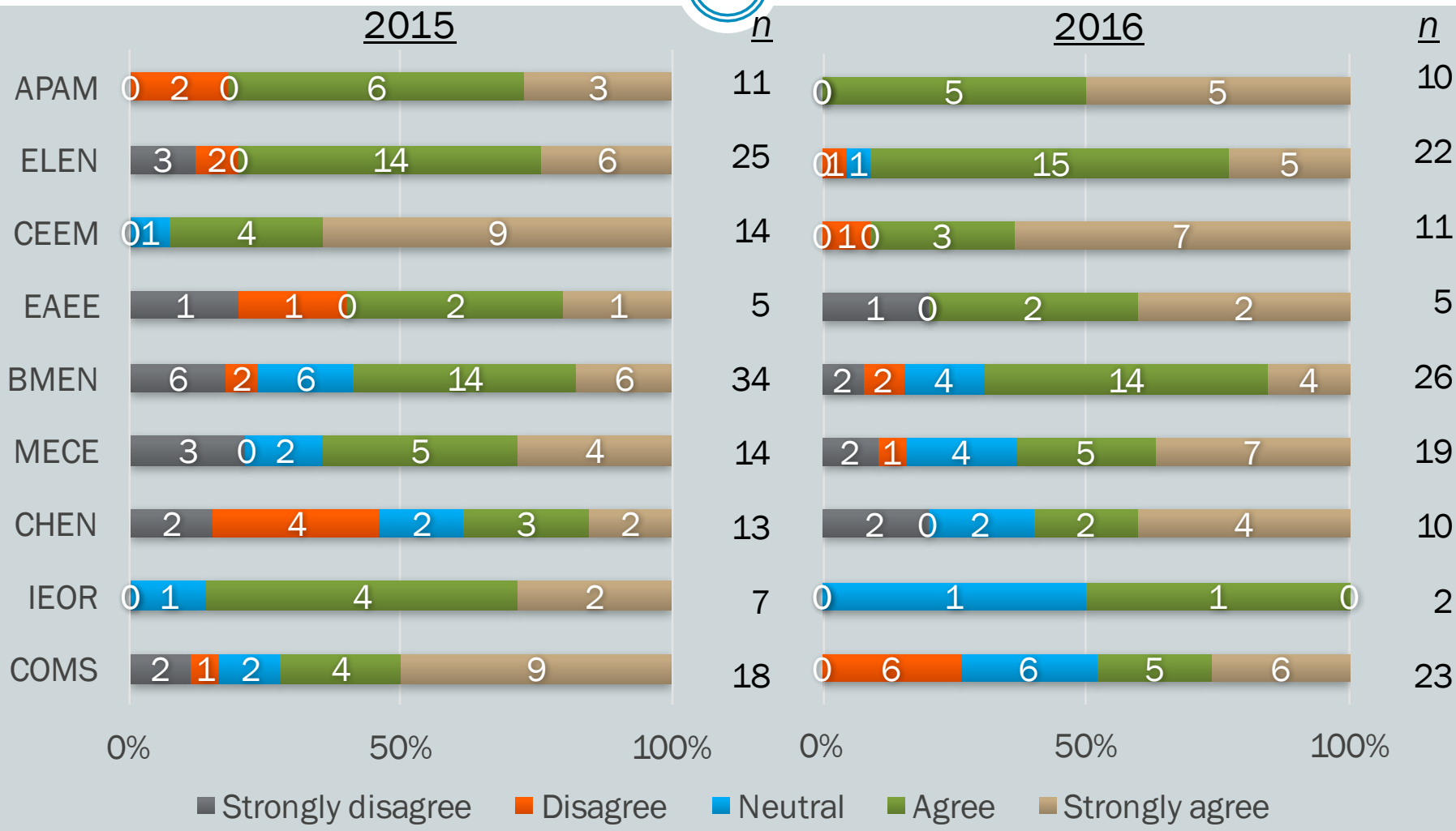
PhD Advisor Mentorship

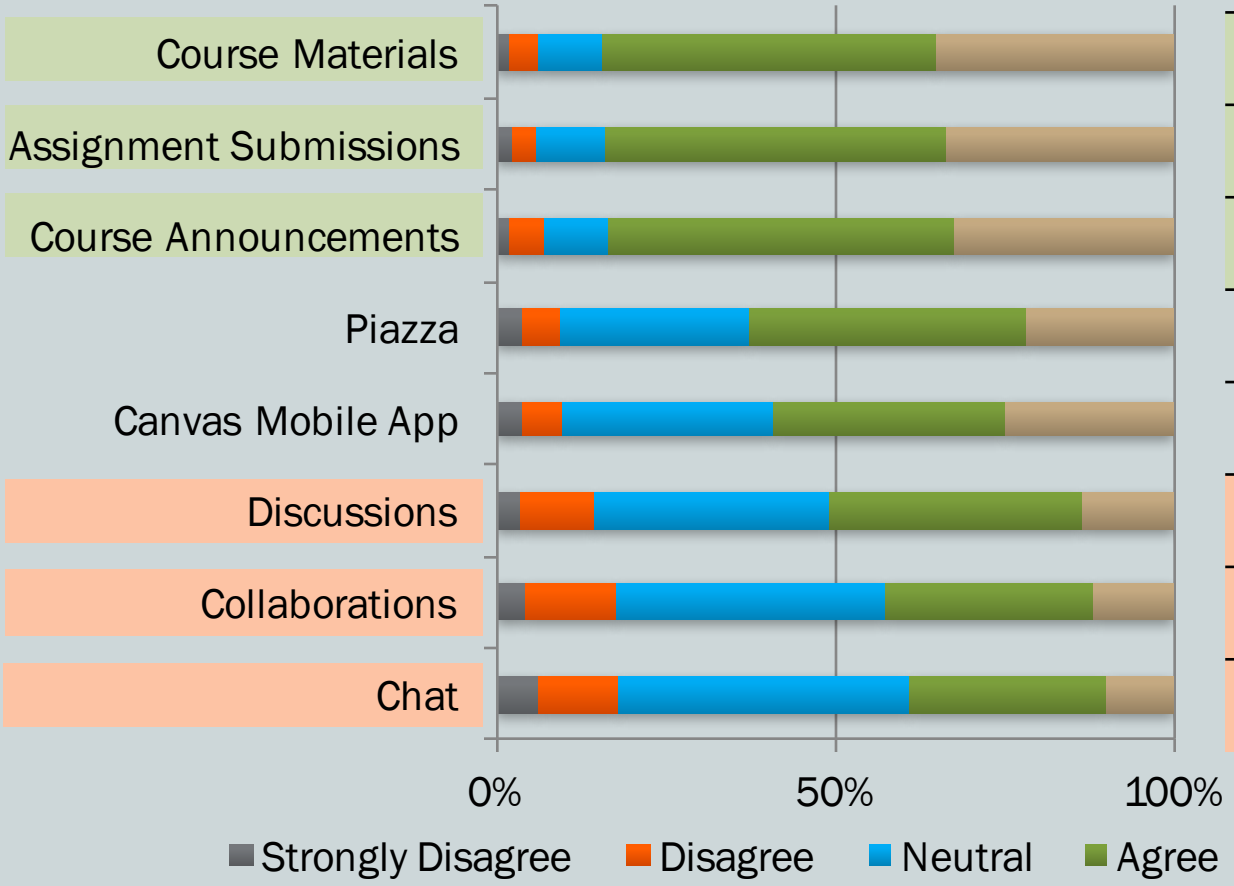


PhD Advisor Mentorship



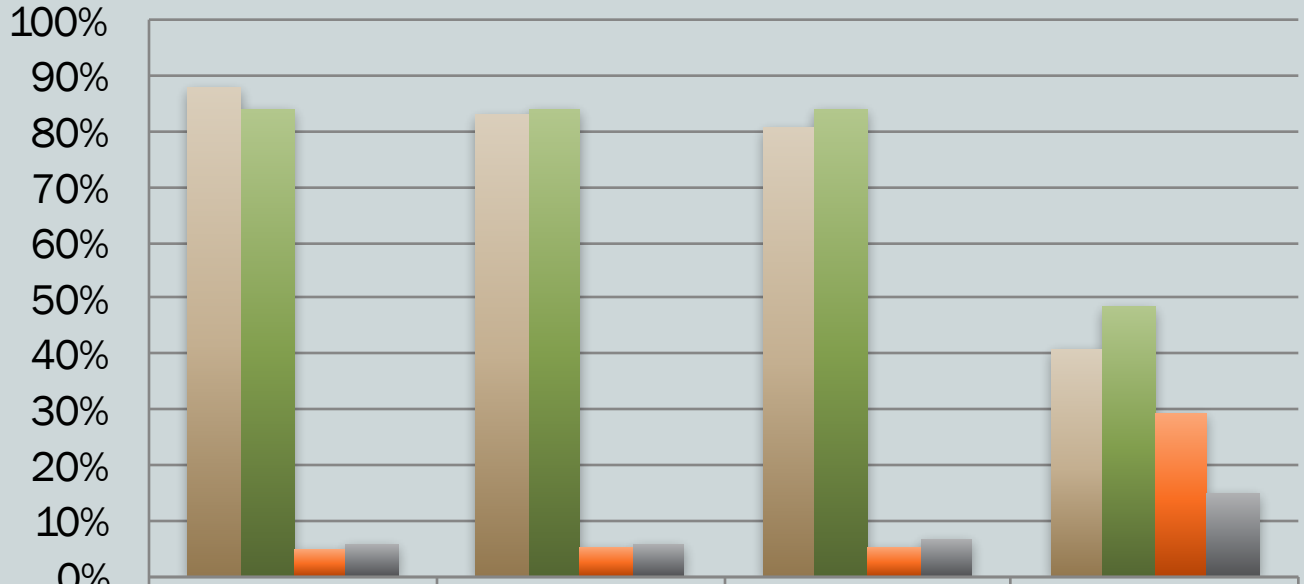
New CourseWorks

“I find the following features of Canvas useful”:



Disagree	Neutral	Agree
6%	9%	84%
6%	10%	84%
7%	9%	84%
9%	28%	62%
10%	31%	59%
15%	34%	51%
18%	40%	43%
18%	43%	39%

New CourseWorks (Canvas) versus Old CourseWorks (Sakai)



	Course materials	Assignment submissions	Course announcements	Communication features
Courseworks is convenient	88%	83%	81%	41%
Canvas is convenient	84%	84%	84%	49%
Courseworks is inconvenient	5%	5%	5%	29%
Canvas is inconvenient	6%	6%	7%	15%

New CourseWorks: Comments

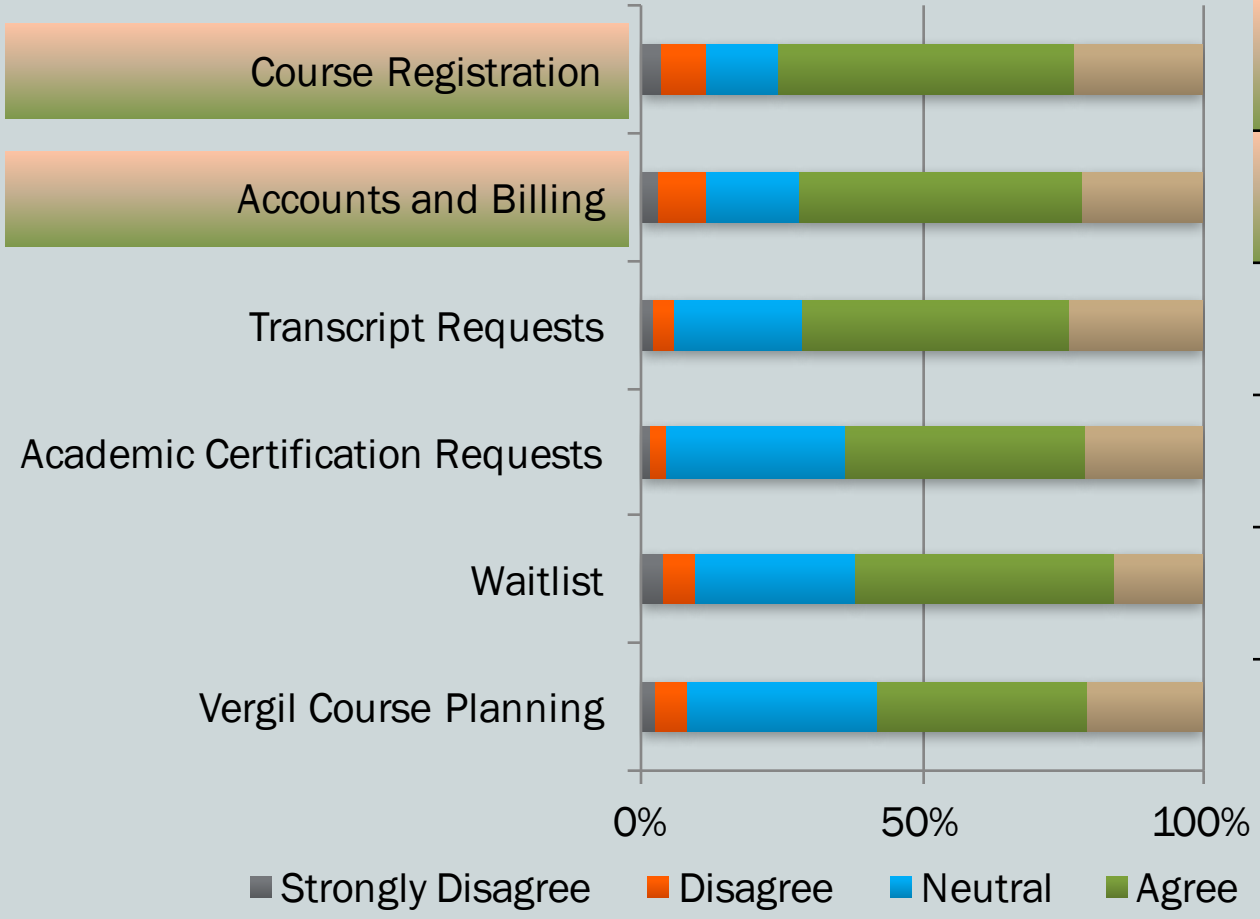
- User Experience
  - “The method to log on is so tedious and redundant. I have to click many times in order to enter one course's page.”
  - “Don't understand the rationale behind using box (which is horribly slow, laggy and at times outright buggy) as the default pdf file viewer.”
  - “Announcements don't read well-courses all mixed up together, old announcements continue to be marked new.”
  - **“The mobile app makes all the difference! I love it!”**
  - “Still cannot ask for the desktop version of Canvas; Cannot submit any Word or PDF file through the mobile access(Canvas app)”
  - **“Canvas can establish groups. It is really cool.”**

New CourseWorks: Comments

- Use by professors/instructors
  - “Professors still aren't quite sure how Canvas works, or still aren't familiar with the system. The location of course content isn't as intuitive as with Courseworks.”
  - “Many functions were underutilized. Students and lecturers should be familiarized with the various features.”
- TA Experience
  - “When using Canvas as TA, it would be nice if editing of the grade book was embedded in the site, not through Excel downloads/re-uploads”
  - “Sending emails to specific people is impossible - can't even look up the students uni.”
  - “When you send an email to the class as a TA on Canvas, you don't get that email yourself as you did on the older courseworks. This is really inconvenient [*sic*] and needs update asap!”
  - “Grading tools are horrible.”

Student Services Online

"I find the following features of SSOL useful":



Disagree	Neutral	Agree
12%	13%	75%
12%	17%	72%
6%	23%	71%
4%	32%	64%
10%	28%	62%
8%	34%	58%

SSOL: Comments

- “I found billing difficult -- the names of the items being billed are not intuitive and things are not itemized clearly. Sometimes multiple items are grouped together as one item.”
- “There is time lag for the waitlist. And it is kind of hard to know the sequence.”
- “Very annoying that registration database is frequently offline so I can't even check registration status for courses between registration appointments a lot of the time”
- “Looks outdated”
- “Wish it was easier to get an unofficial transcript”
- “Vergil is a good idea, poorly executed. I am restricted to only take courses from certain departments, but you cannot search by department!”

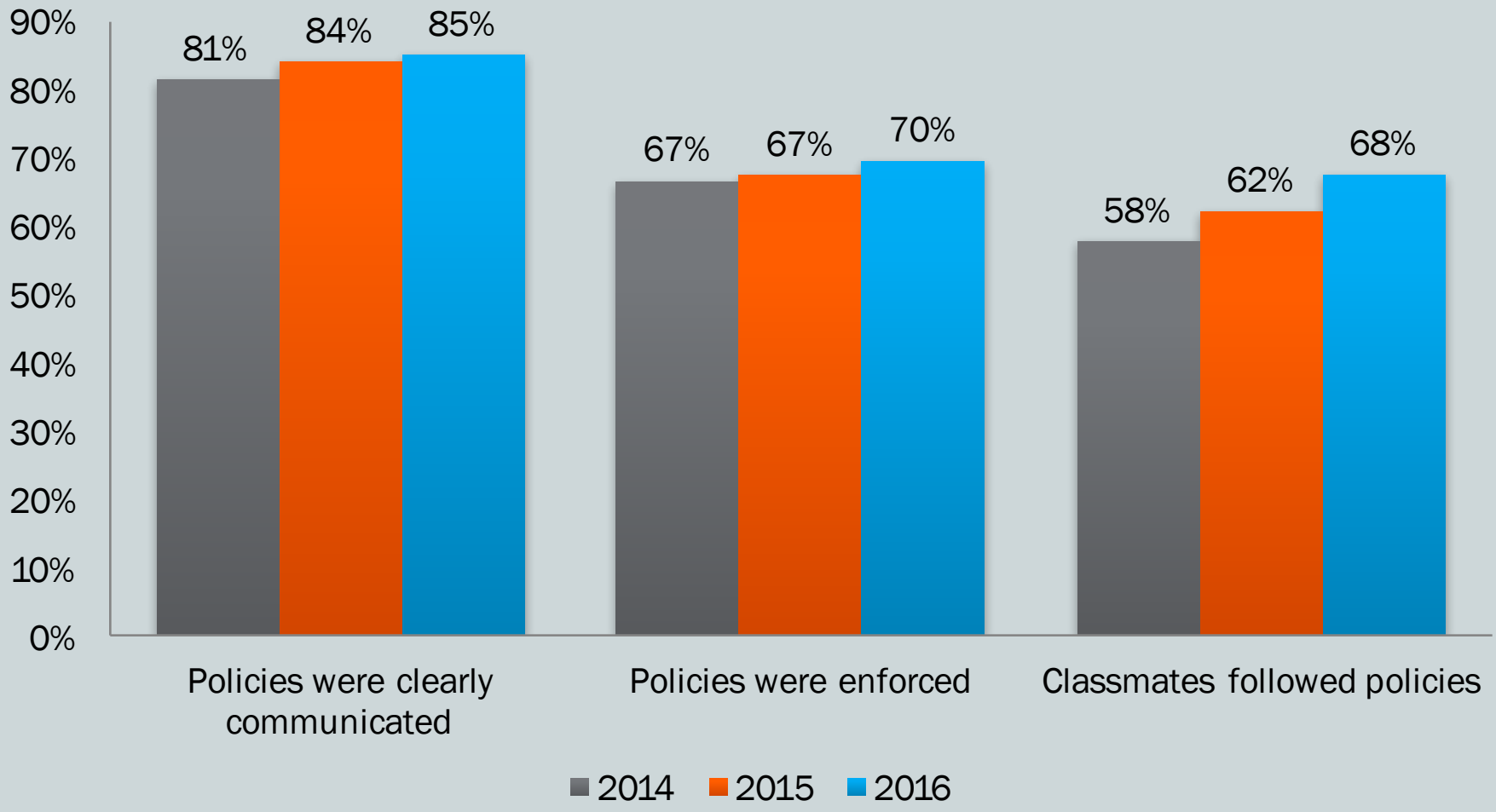
Academic Integrity

Code of Honor

- Academic Code of Honor passed in March 2014 by COI, EGSC, and ESC
- Presented to incoming students at orientation of August 2014
- Added the online Academic Integrity Module in August 2015

"We, the engineering graduate students of Columbia University, pledge to uphold the values of integrity, honesty, and dignity in the pursuit of common scholastic goals, both at Columbia and beyond."

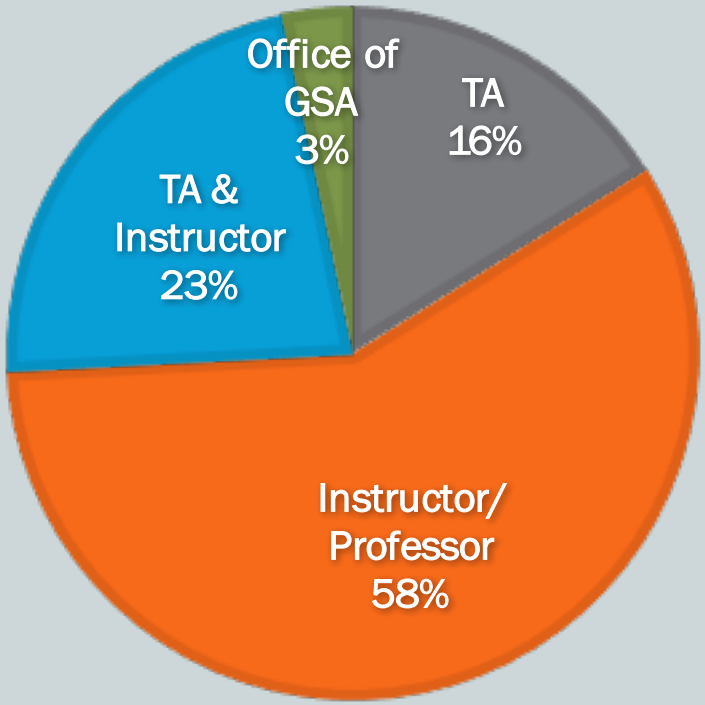
Academic Integrity Policies



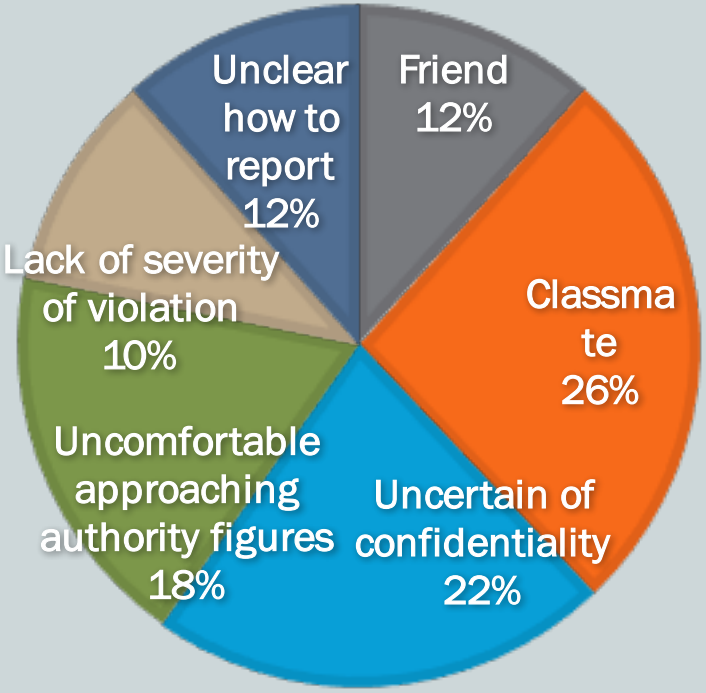
Academic Integrity: Reporting

18.2% of students (n=80) have observed an academic integrity violation.

Violations reported to:

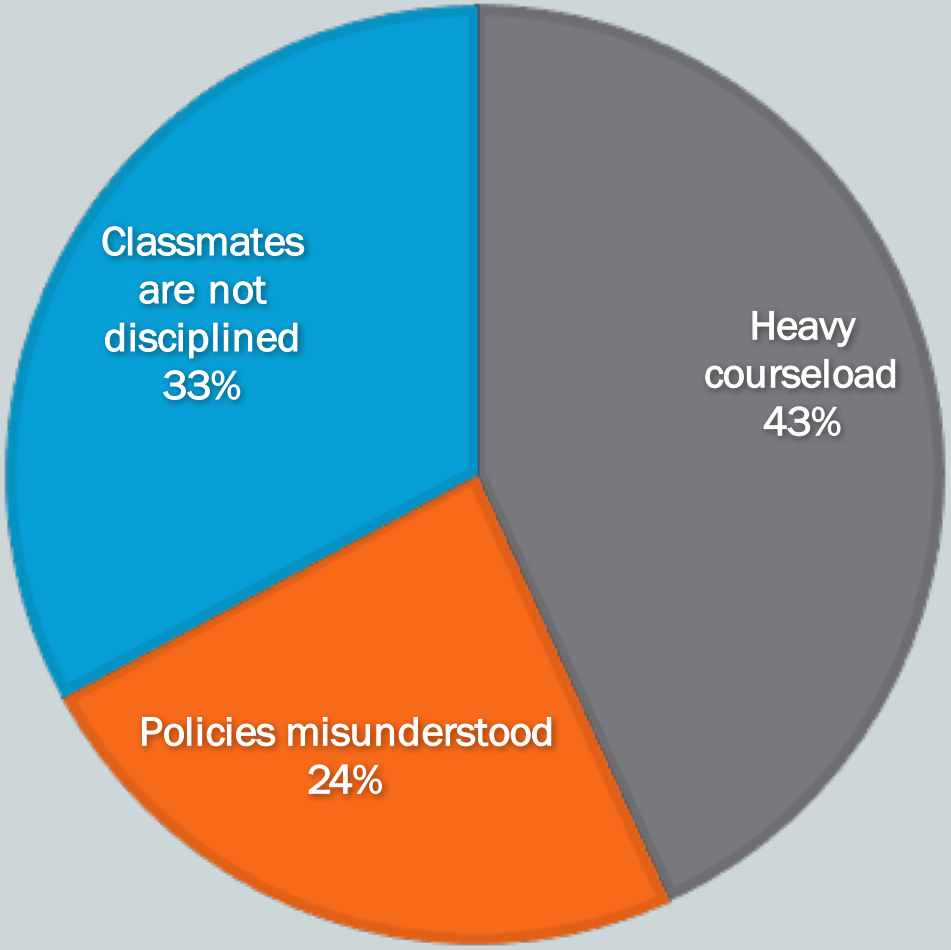


Reason for not reporting:



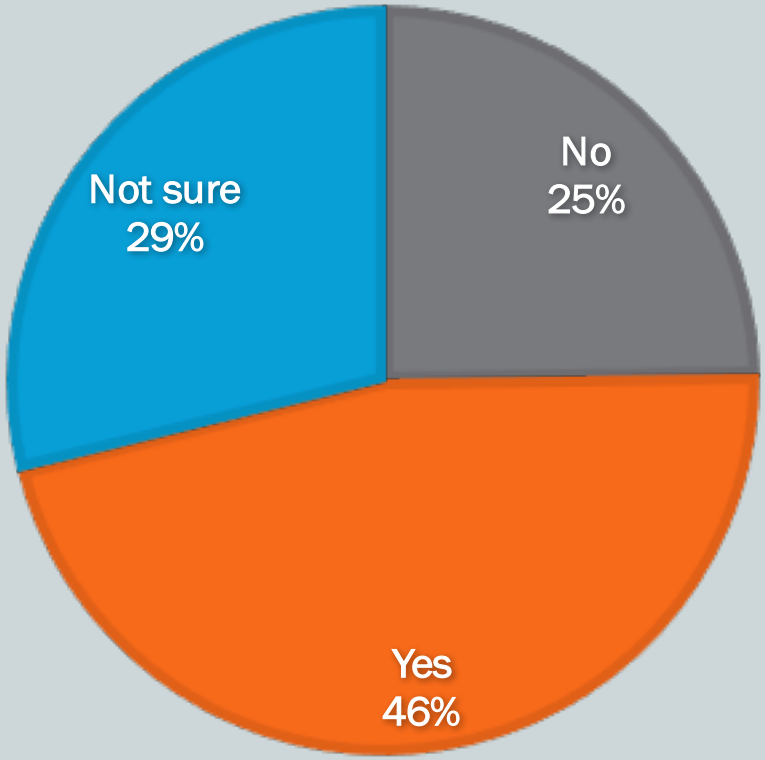
Academic Integrity: Rationale

32% of students provided reasoning as to why they may violate the Academic Integrity policies.



Academic Integrity: Reporting

"Do you believe that peer reporting should play a role in enforcing Academic Integrity policies?"

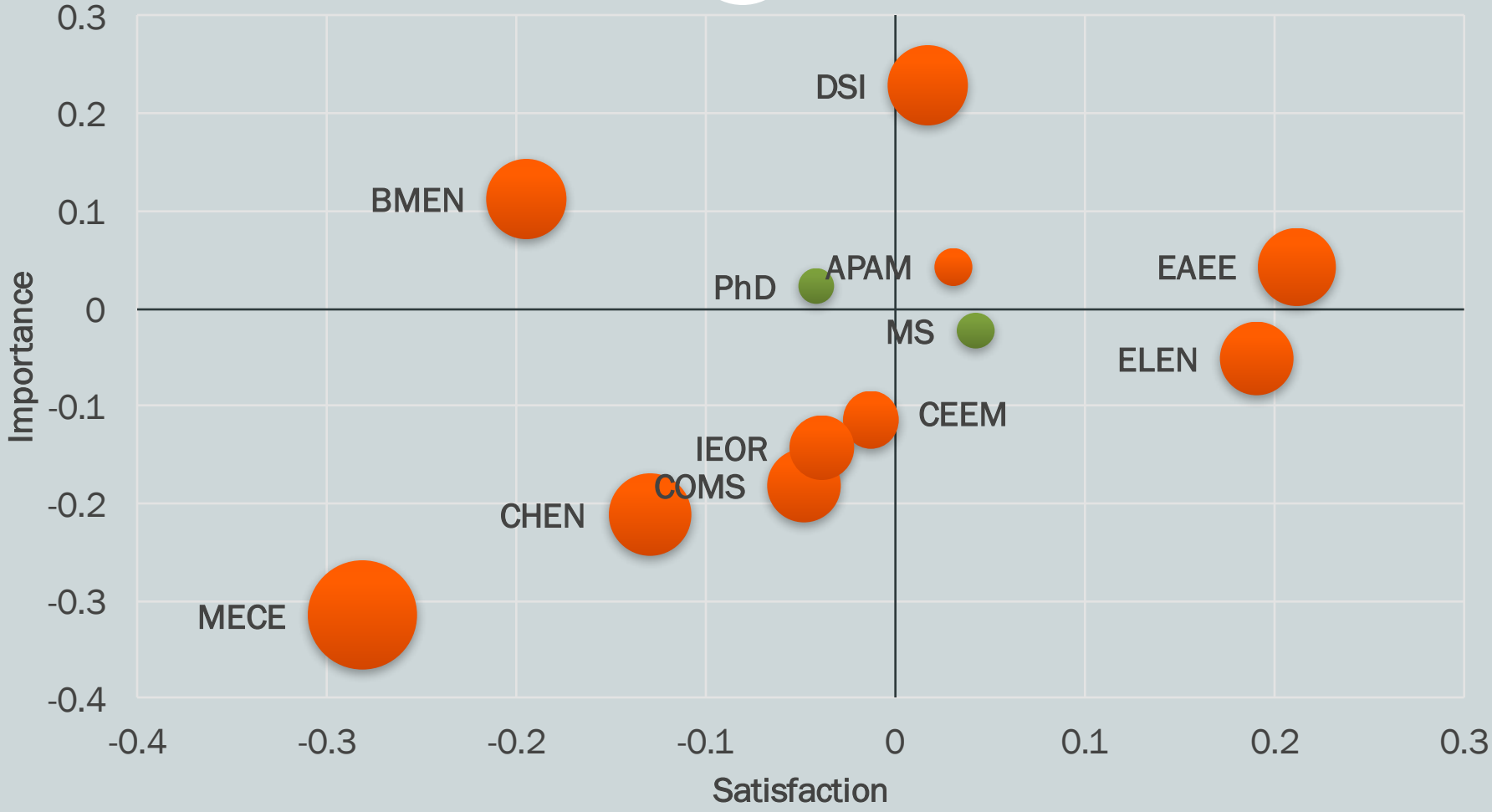


Academic Integrity: Comments

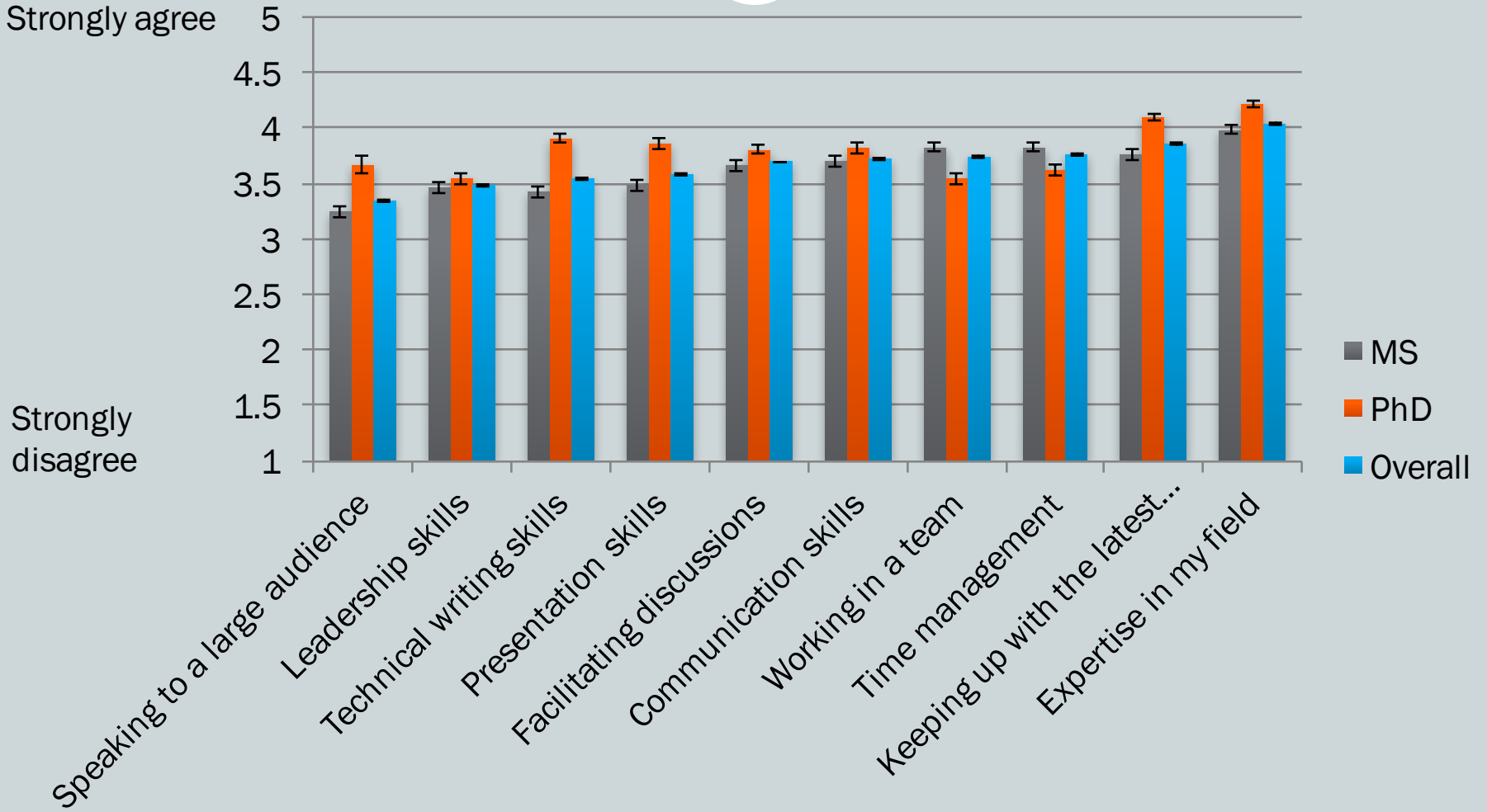
- Cultural
  - 2016: “From my experience, it seems certain aspects of Academic Integrity are not followed by all students due to **cultural norms.** During exams, the same groups of students are consistently the ones communicating during exams in the back of the room.”
  - 2015: “A specific session should be held for international students due to **cultural differences** in the concepts surrounding academic integrity violations.”
  - 2014: “[…] perhaps making Academic Integrity policies available in as many **native languages** as feasible would ensure that all students come to a similar understanding of the Academic Integrity Policies.”
- Suggestions
  - “More transparency on actions that have been taken.”

Professional Development

Professional Development Satisfaction



Improved/Enhanced Skills at SEAS

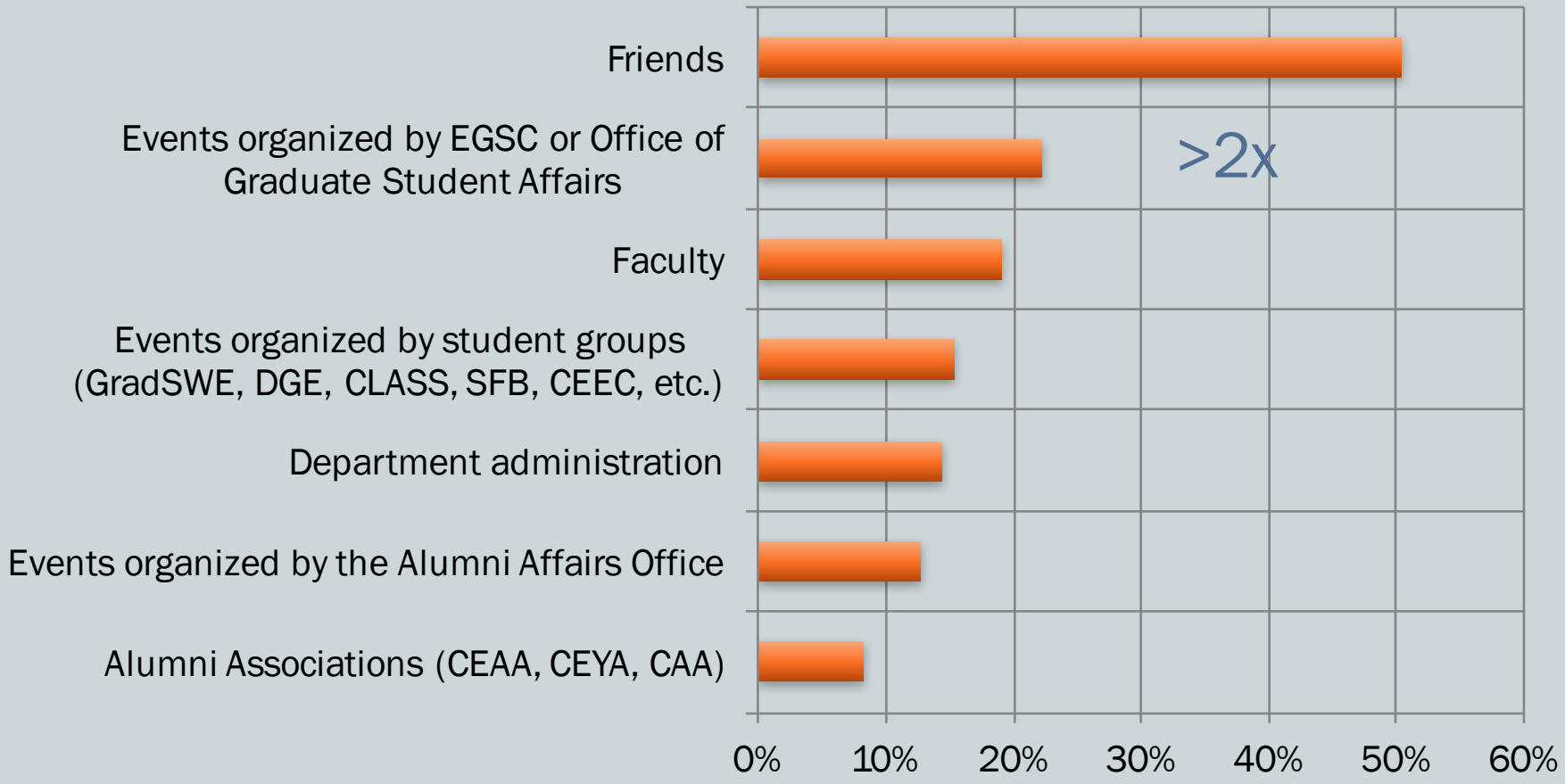


Career Development

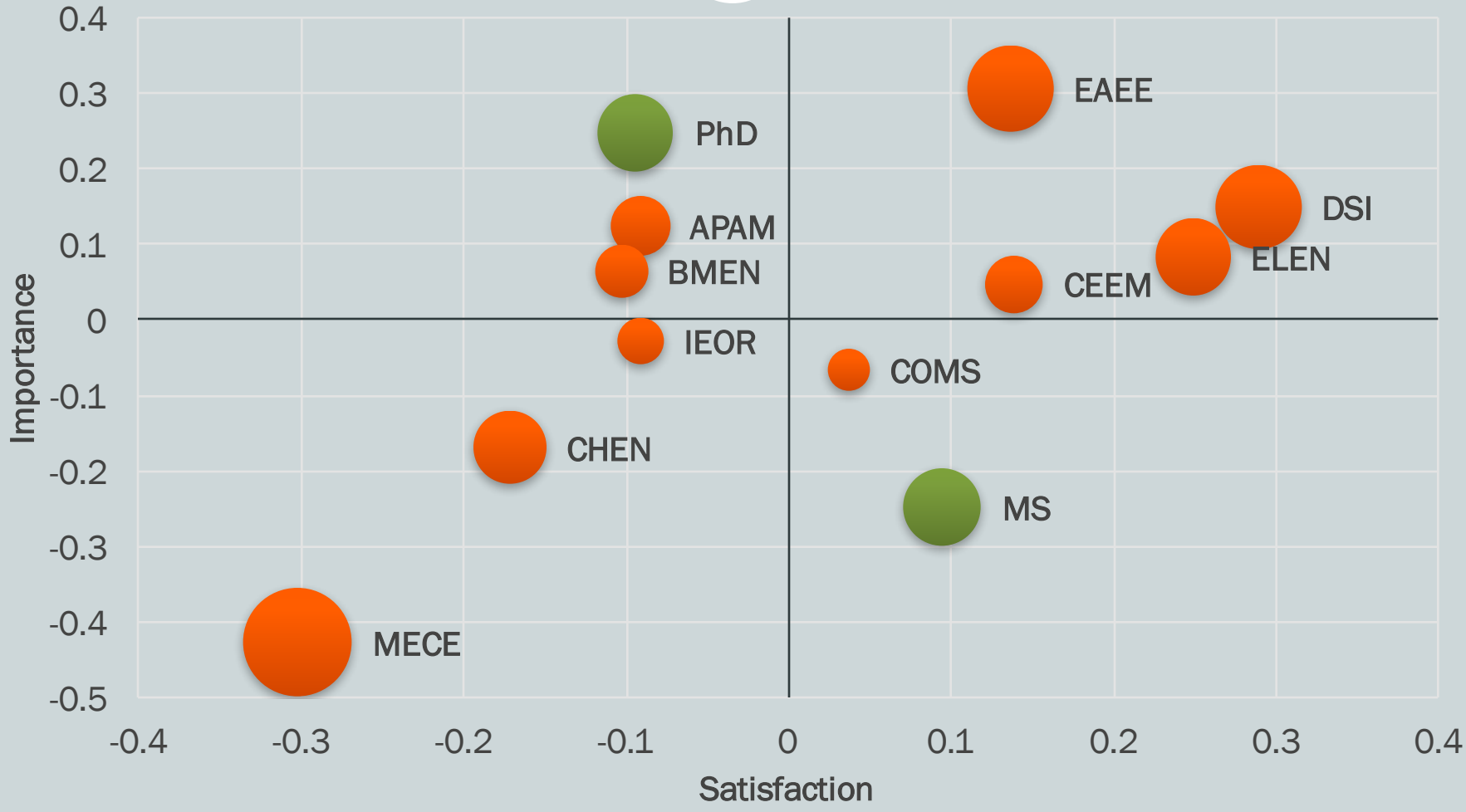
NETWORKING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Alumni Networking: Connections

74.0% of students are actively developing alumni contacts.

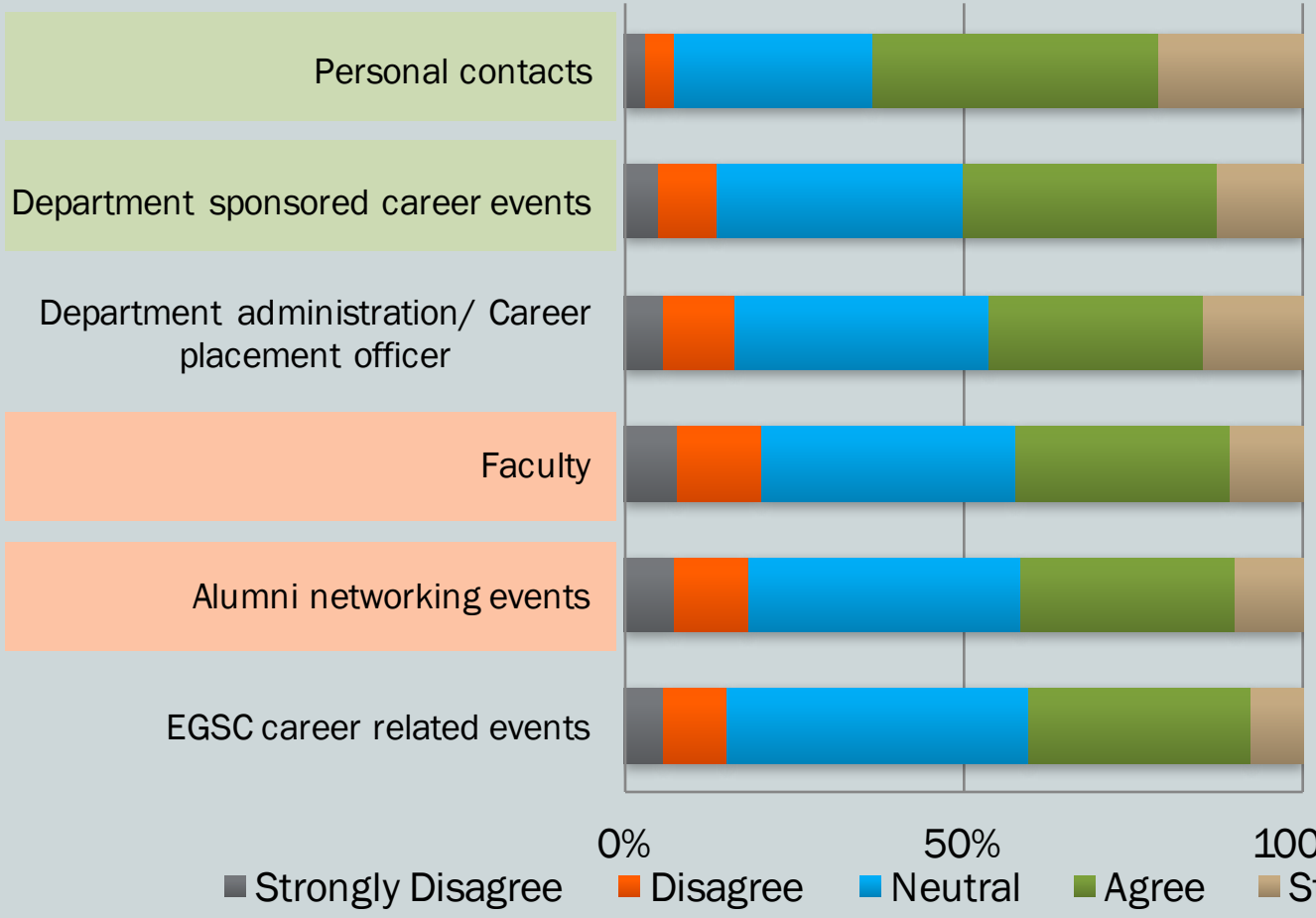


Career Development Satisfaction



School and Department Career Activities

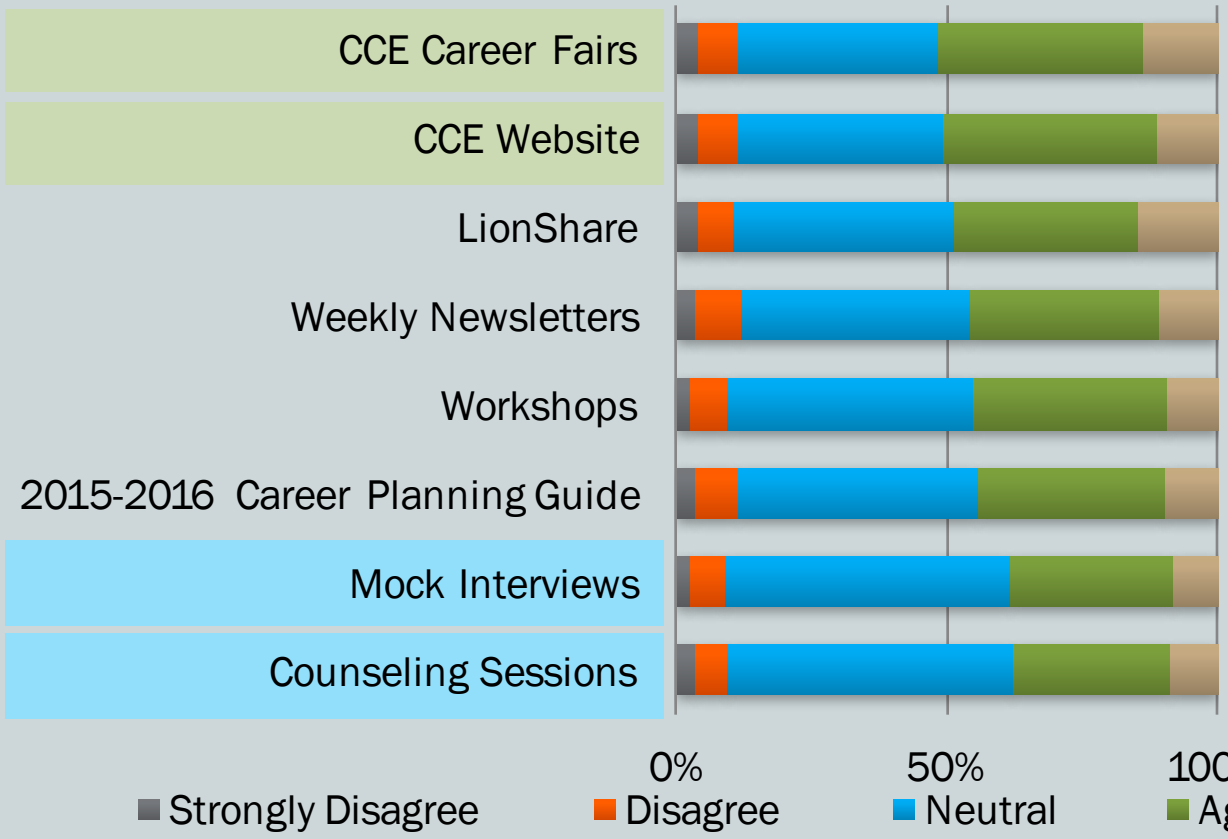
"The following have been useful in my job search":



	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
Personal contacts	7.2%	29.5%	63.4%
Department sponsored career events	13.7%	36.2%	50.1%
Department administration/ Career placement officer	16.4%	37.5%	46.1%
Faculty	20.2%	37.5%	42.3%
Alumni networking events	18.1%	40.4%	41.5%
EGSC career related events	14.9%	44.6%	40.4%

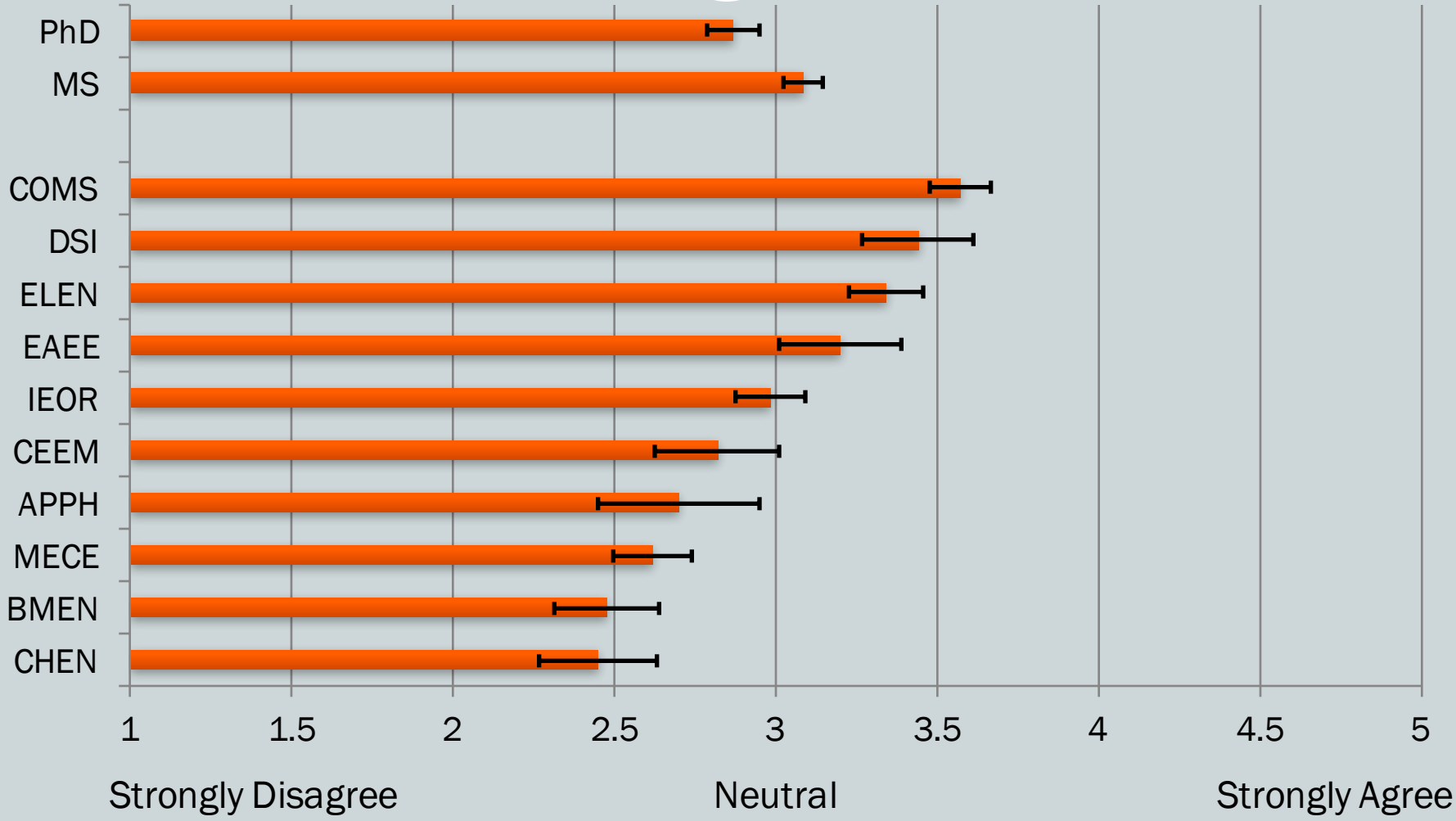
Center for Career Education (CCE)

"The following resources provided by CCE have been useful in my job search and application process:"



	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
CCE Career Fairs	12%	37%	51%
CCE Website	11%	38%	50%
LionShare	11%	41%	49%
Weekly Newsletters	12%	42%	46%
Workshops	10%	45%	45%
2015-2016 Career Planning Guide	11%	44%	44%
Mock Interviews	9%	53%	38%
Counseling Sessions	10%	53%	38%

Relevance of Career Fairs



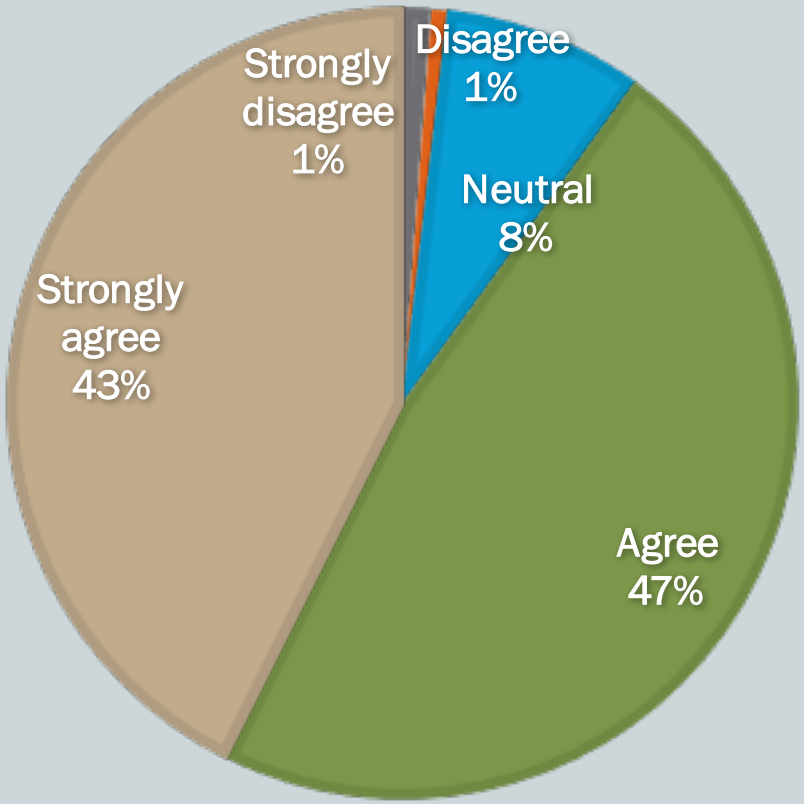
Career Development: Comments

- “My degree isn’t well-represented in career fairs.”
- “Host them at different times of day. I wasn't able to attend any of them this semester because I always had class at that time.”
- “Services for people with experience would be helpful. Most of the jobs are internships.”
- “…separate events for different degree programs…”
- “The more tailored the better. I found immense use from the All-Ivy Sustainability Career Fair. For the large generic ones, I waited in line for over an hour to talk to 1-2 relevant companies.”
- “Efforts to setup a segregated organization of employer tables in the fair, based on the specialization of the hiring pool they are targeting, eg: zones of tables can be allotted for each of Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering etc.”
- “When filtering in the iOS app for the Career fair, it‘d be useful to have the option of not including those employers that do not list details about the desired majors or degrees.”

Student Life

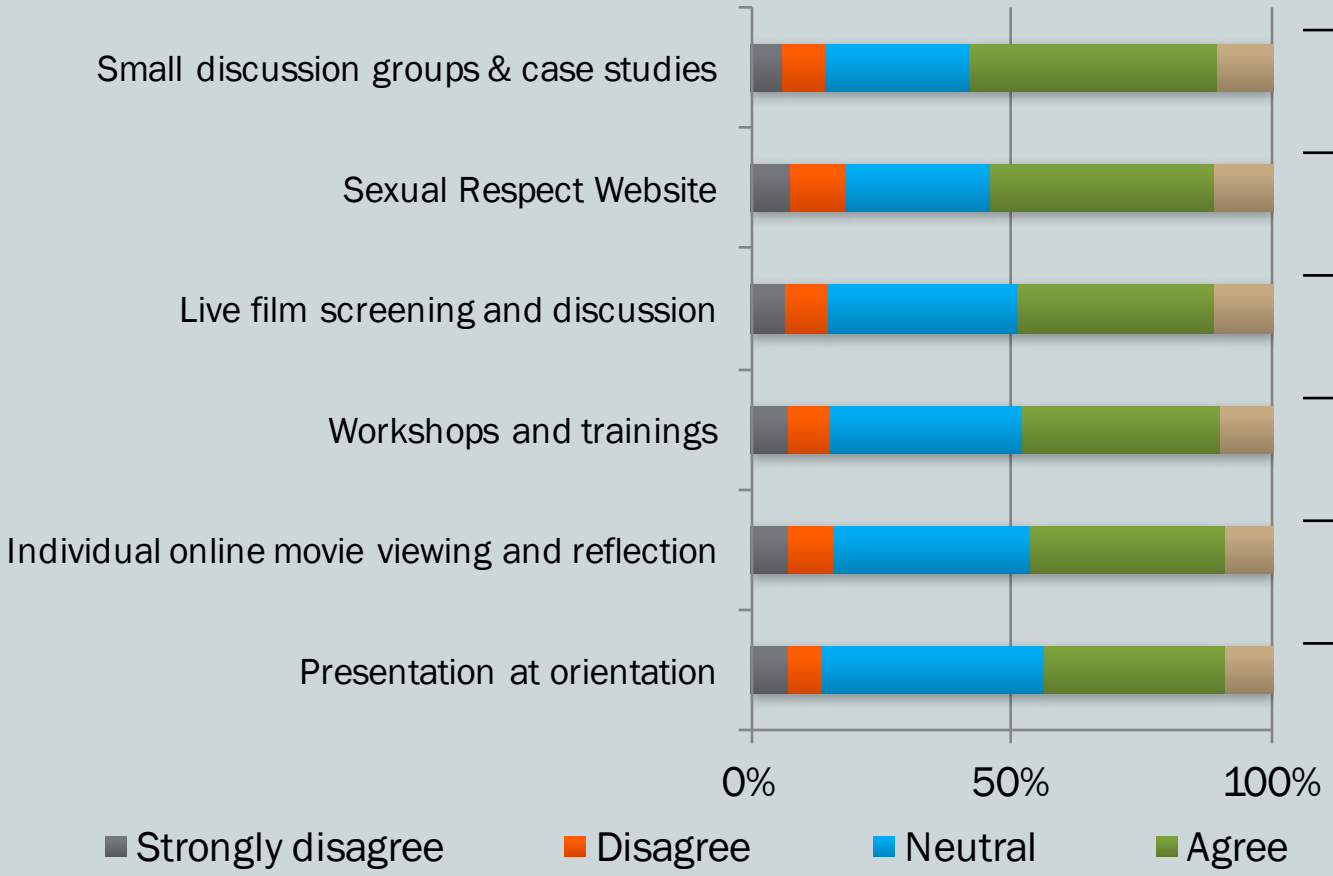
Safety

"I feel safe on campus"



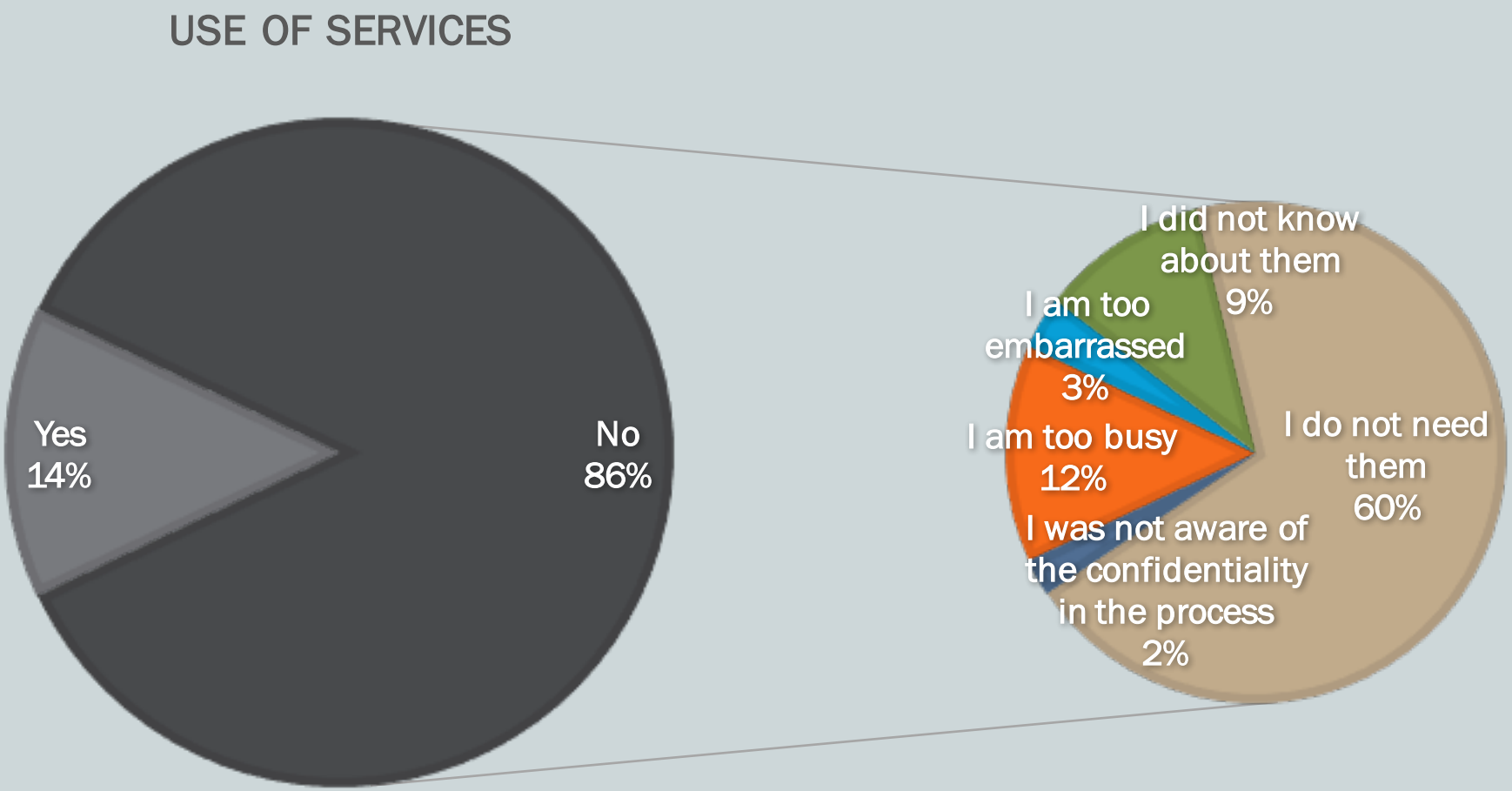
SVR and Gender-Based Misconduct

"I think the following resources are effective":



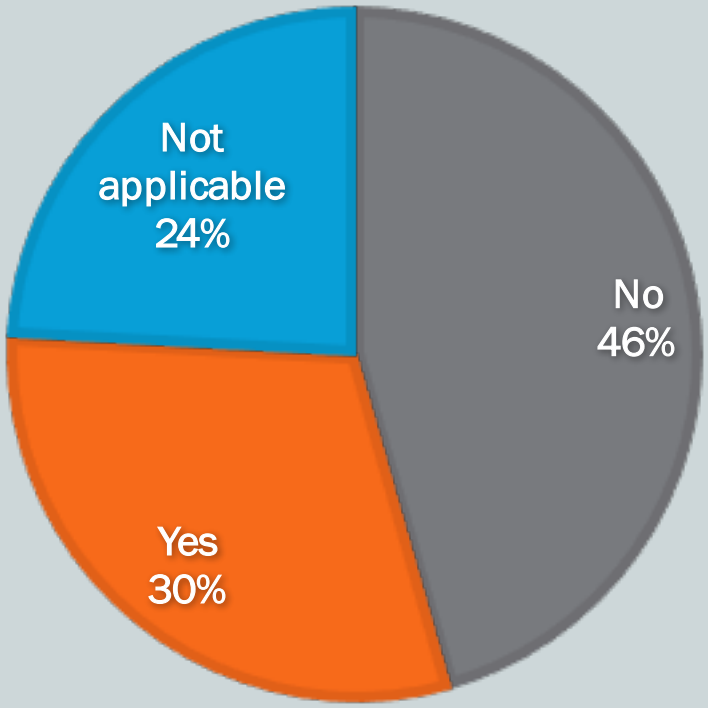
	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
Small discussion groups & case studies	14%	28%	58%
Sexual Respect Website	18%	28%	54%
Live film screening and discussion	15%	36%	49%
Workshops and trainings	15%	37%	48%
Individual online movie viewing and reflection	16%	38%	46%
Presentation at orientation	14%	42%	44%

Health Services: Columbia Psychological Services



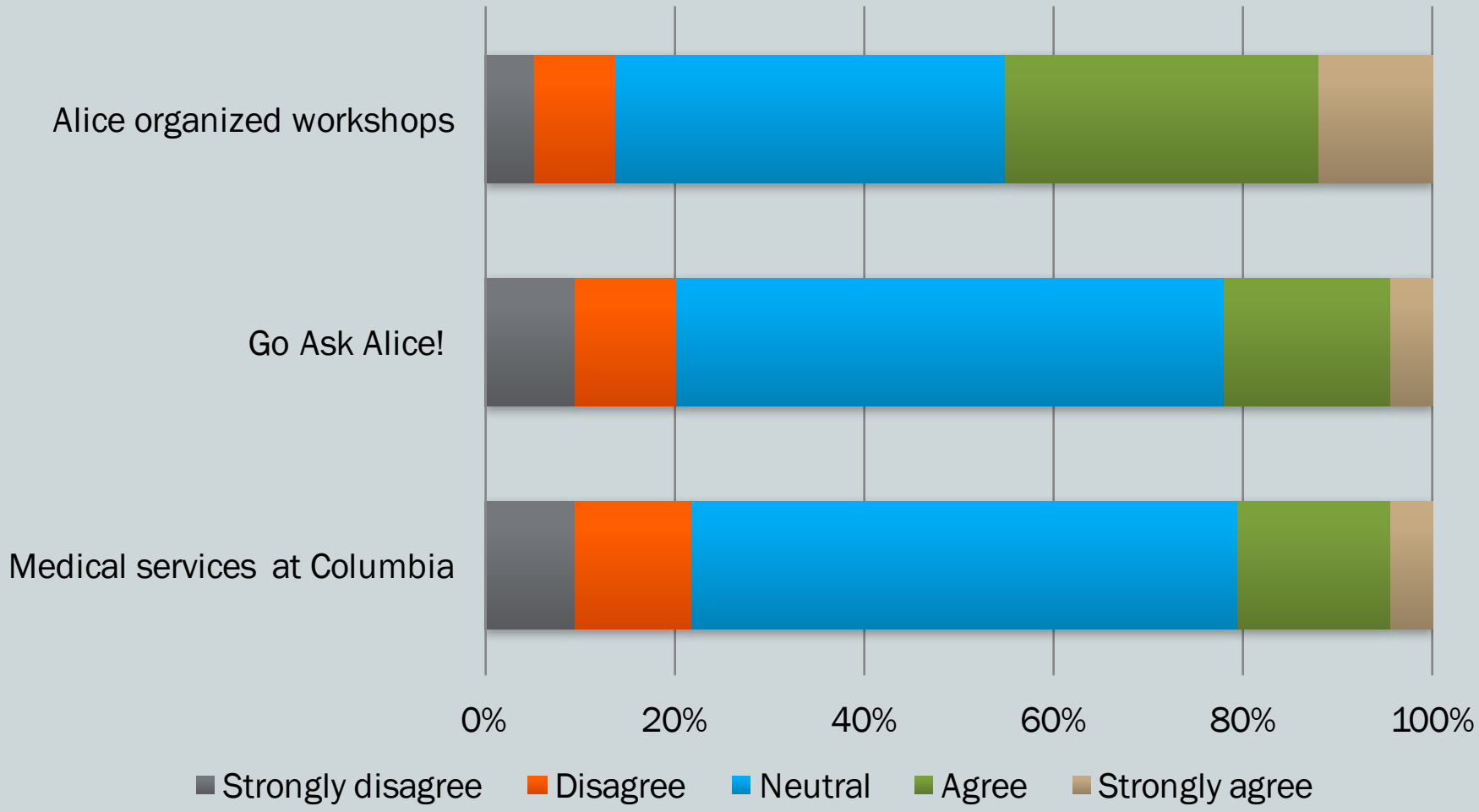
Dental Insurance

Have you ever deferred needed dental work while at Columbia due to lack of dental insurance?



86% of students are enrolled in a voluntary dental plan.

Health Services: Usefulness

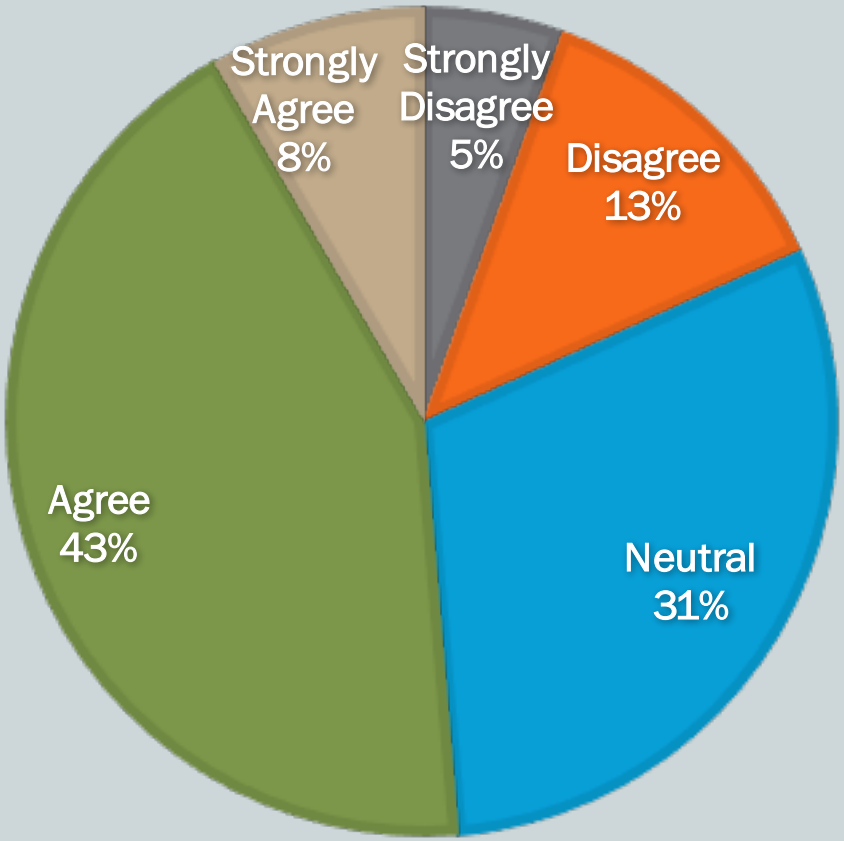


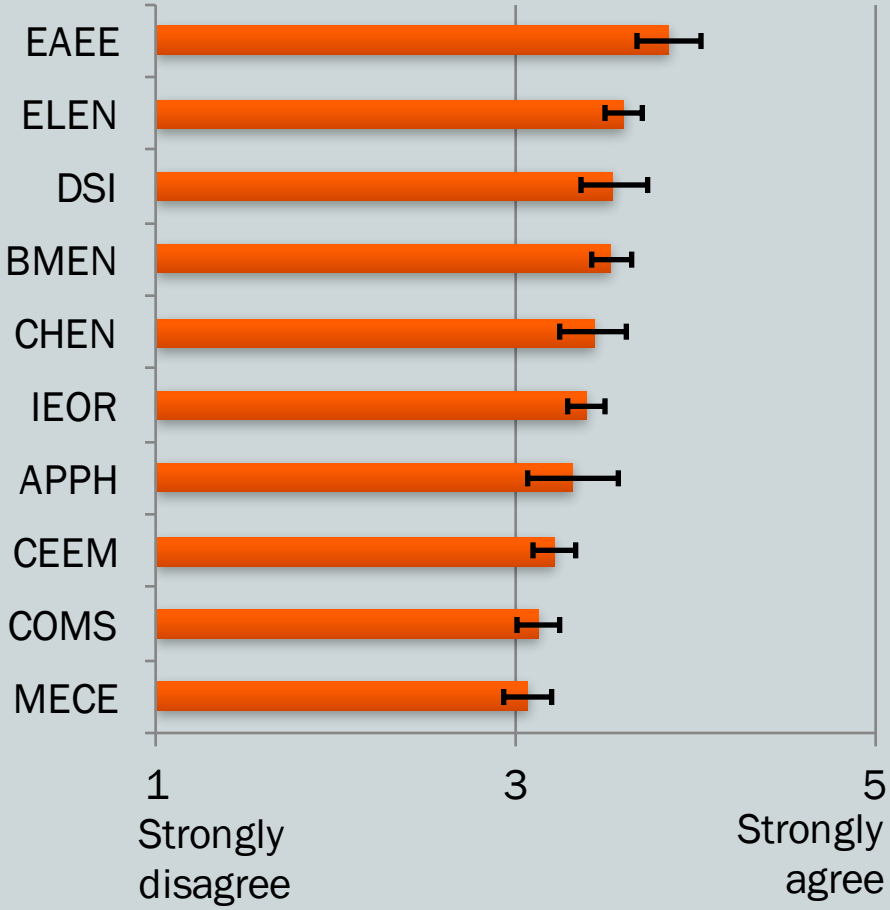
Health Comments

- “The two-to-three-week waiting time is too long.”
- “More dental and vision coverage needed, especially for PhDs. The plan for PhDs needs to be on par with post-docs/staff/faculty.”
- “I need dental! Stress causes me to grind my teeth at night.”
- “Please keep a cheaper option available for students who don't really get sick all that often and don't need medical treatment much.”
- “I chose a better and cheaper insurance than the one provided by Columbia.”

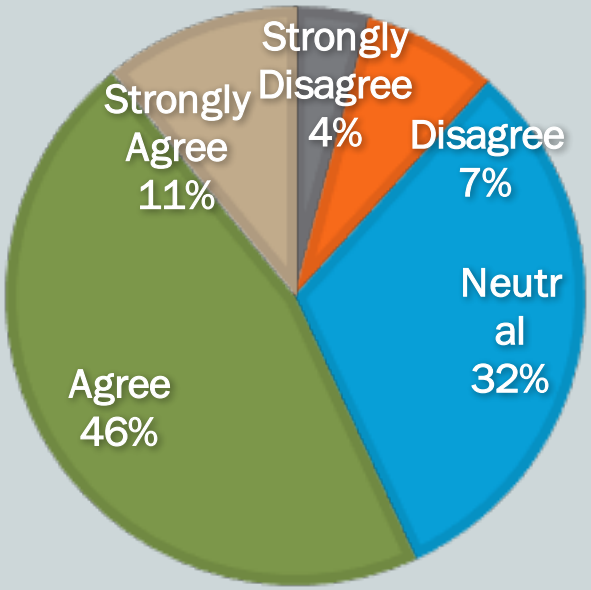
Social: Satisfaction

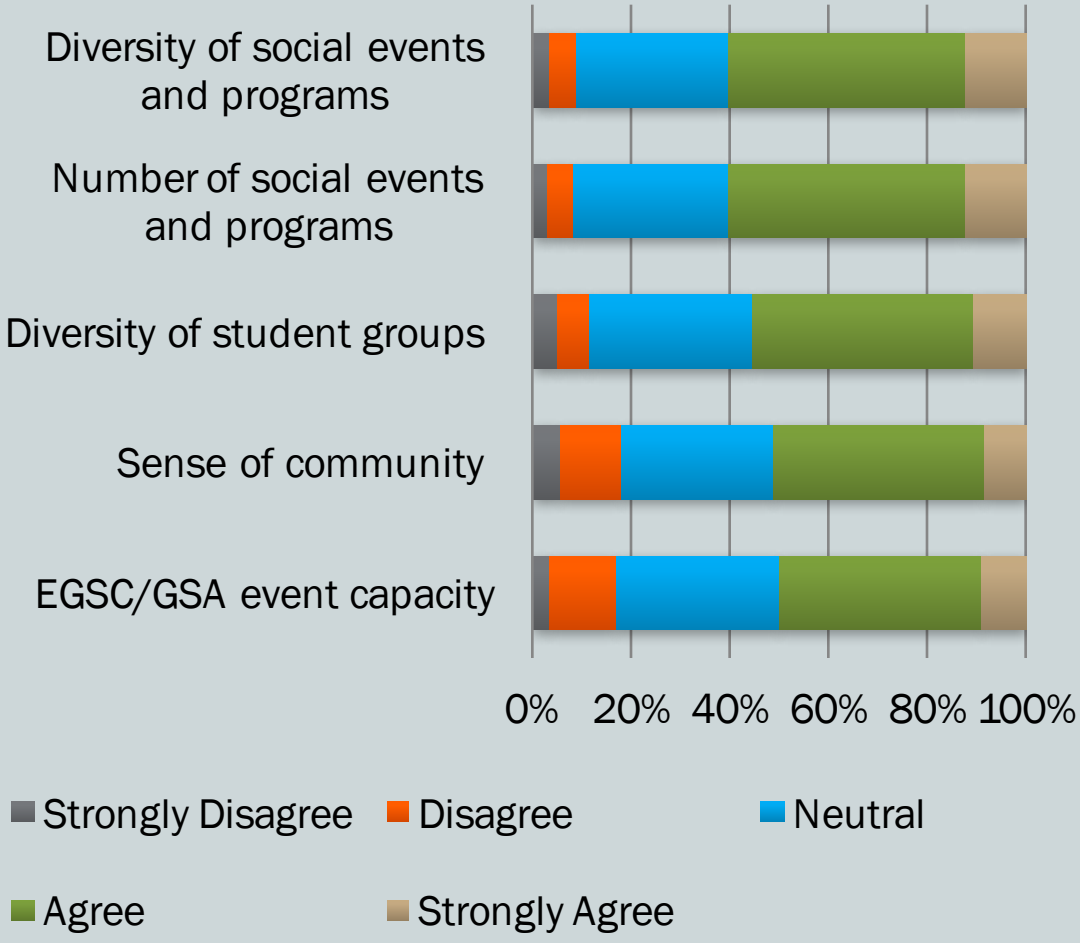
I am satisfied with the overall sense of community:



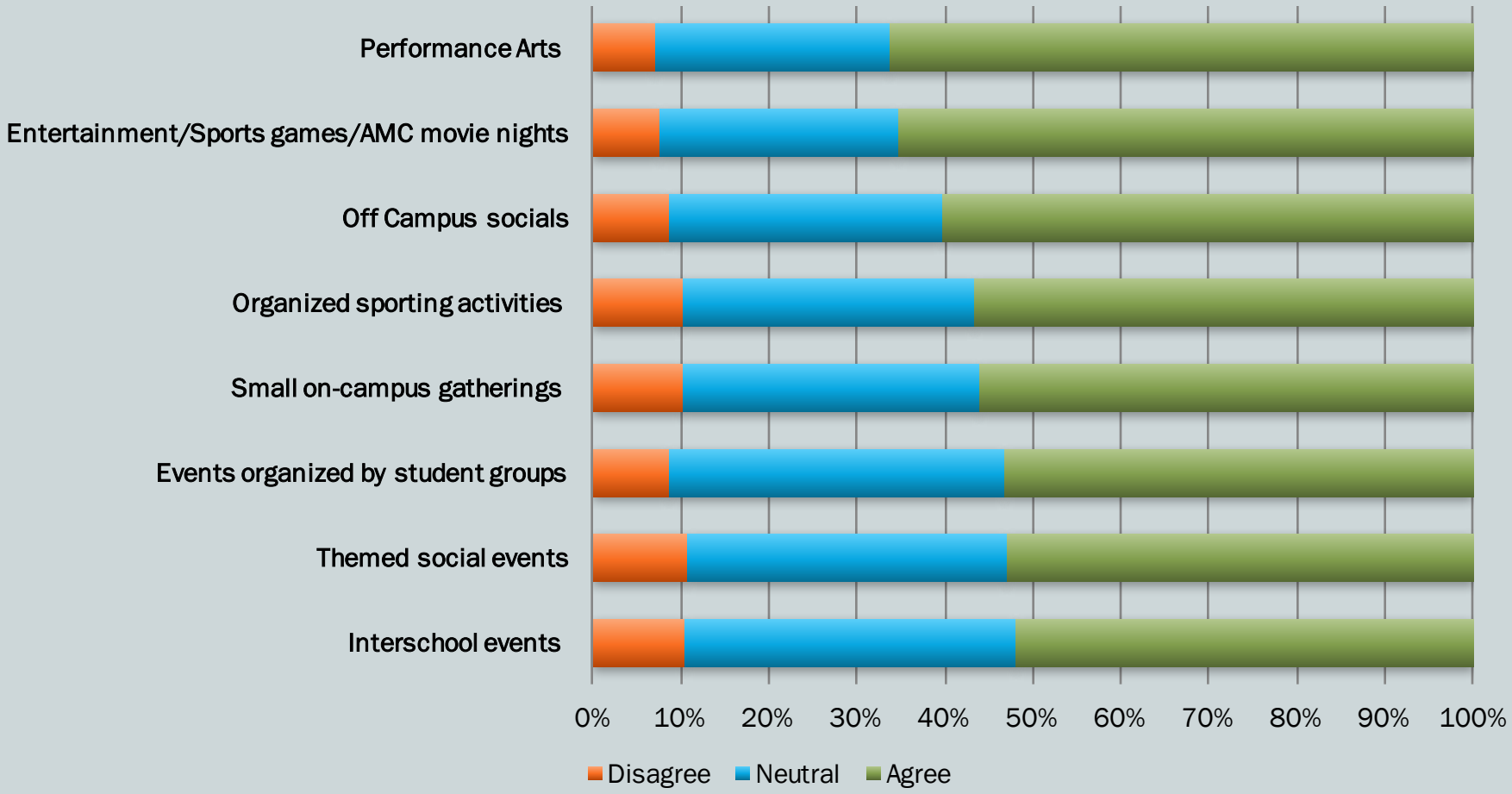


Social: Satisfaction with Community Building Efforts

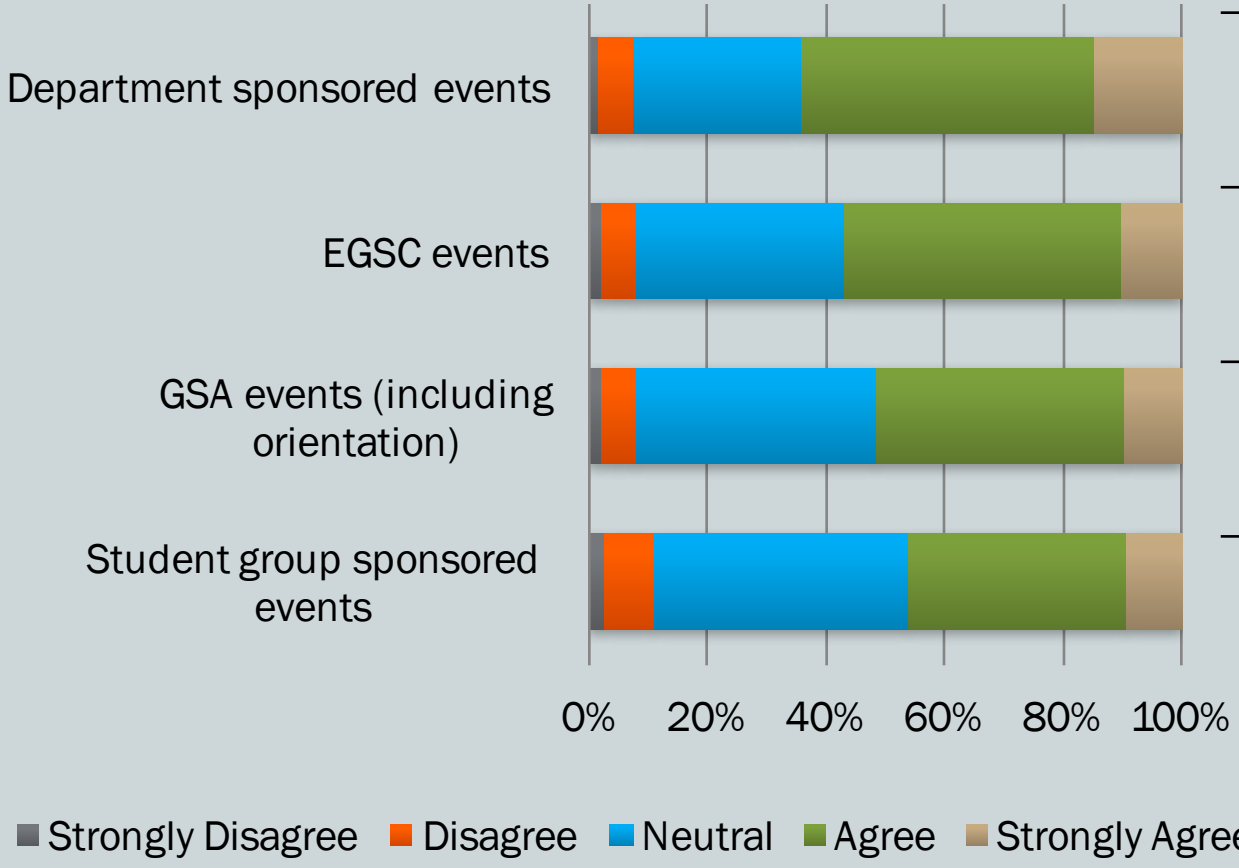




Social: Event Preference



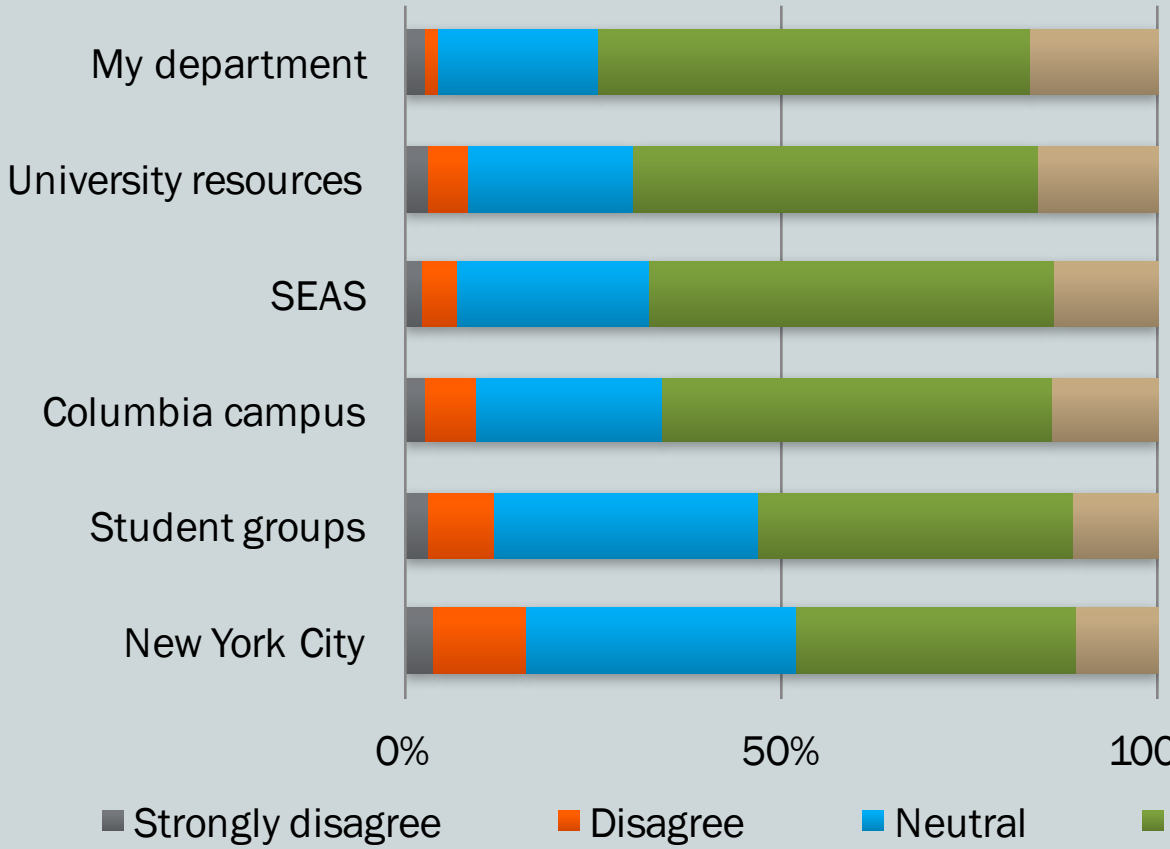
Social: Peer Networking



	Disagree	Neutral	Agree
Department sponsored events	8%	28%	64%
EGSC events	8%	35%	57%
GSA events (including orientation)	8%	40%	52%
Student group sponsored events	11%	43%	46%

Orientation Programming

"Orientation helped me become acclimated with":



Disagree	Neutral	Agree
5%	21%	74%
9%	22%	70%
7%	25%	68%
10%	25%	66%
12%	35%	53%
16%	36%	48%

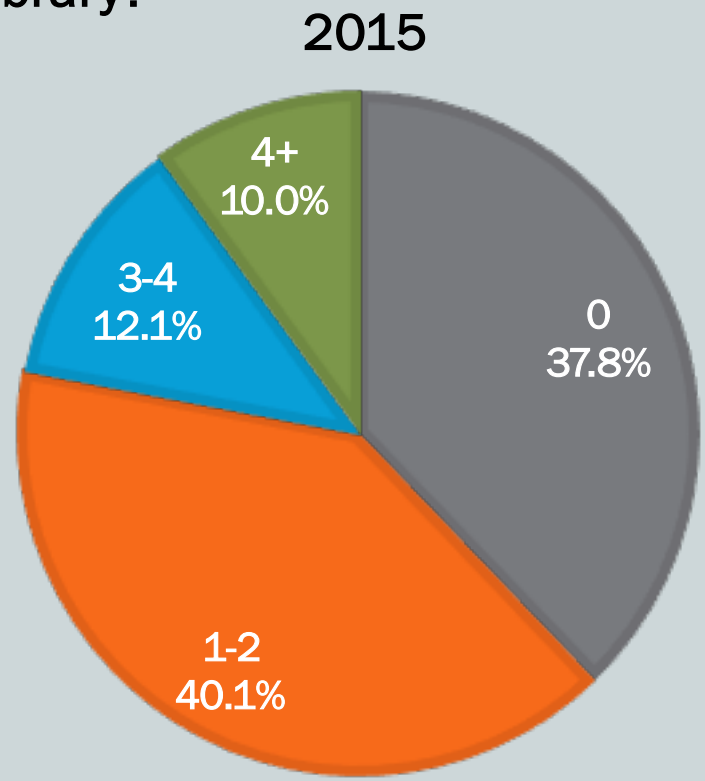
Orientation: Comments

- “It was hard to catch all of the information presented during orientation. There should be a website or handout given that recaps on all of the information that was discussed.”
- “More comprehensive view of resources/student groups on campus.”
- “Anything that would serve as a guide to students on how they can manage their time the best, would be very useful.”
- “Should provide them with suggestions about where to eat good food.”
- “Student-led shopping trips for new students.”
- “Invite more continuing students.”

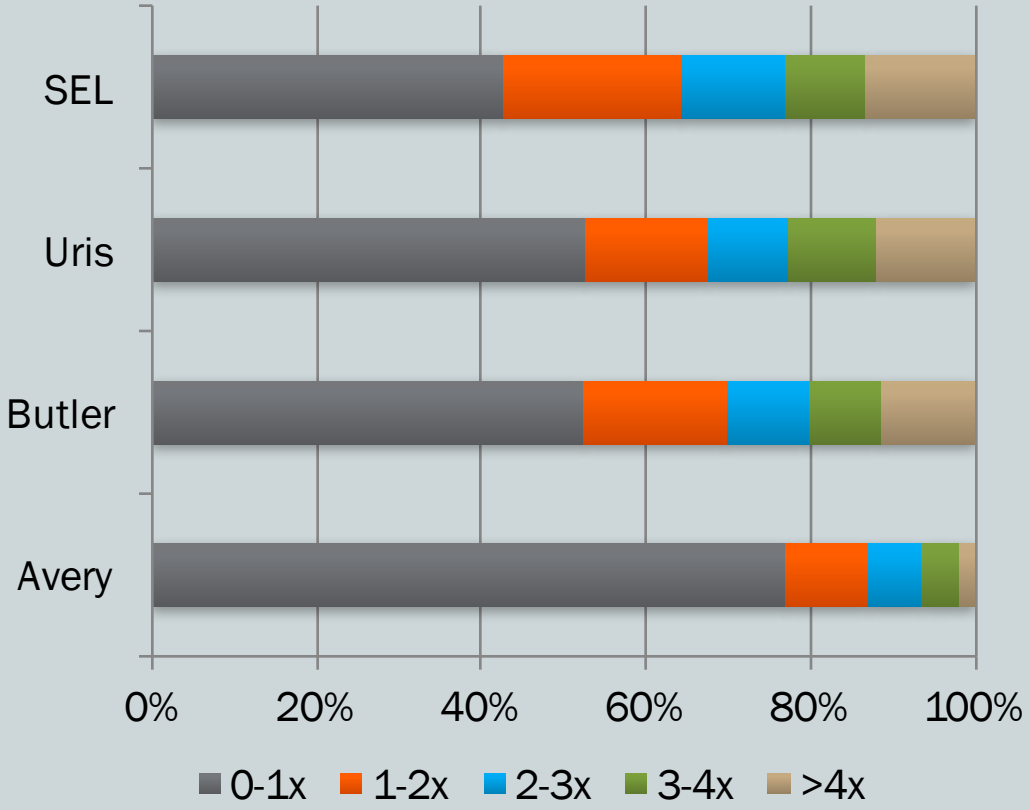
Libraries/Facilities

Library Use

"How many times per week do you frequent the Northwest Corner library?"

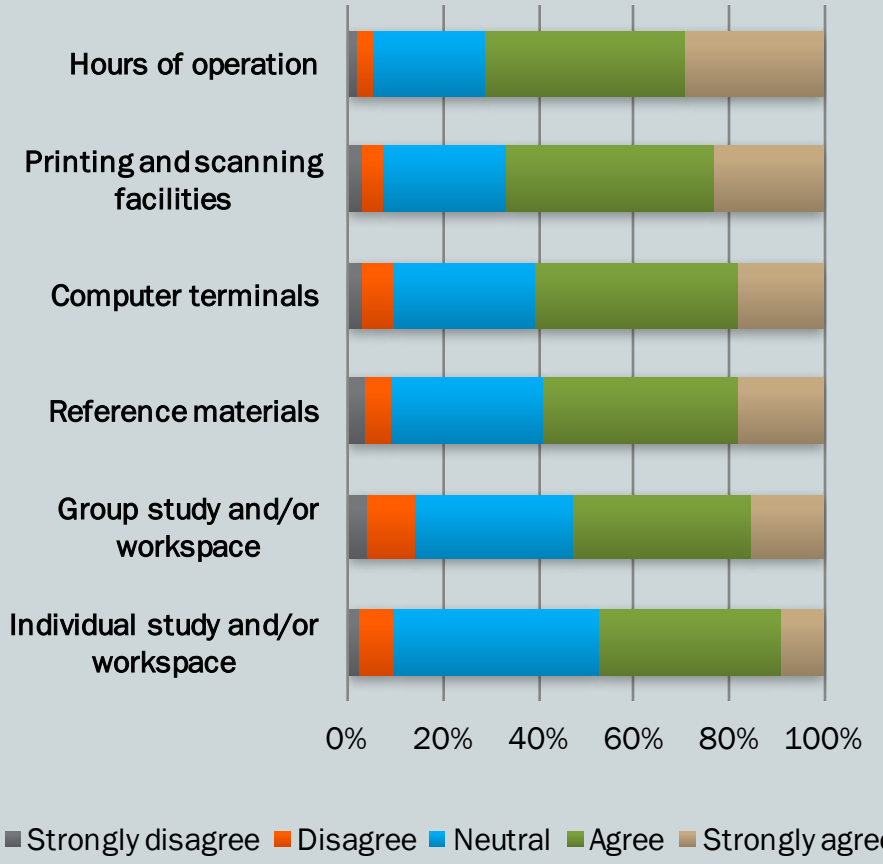


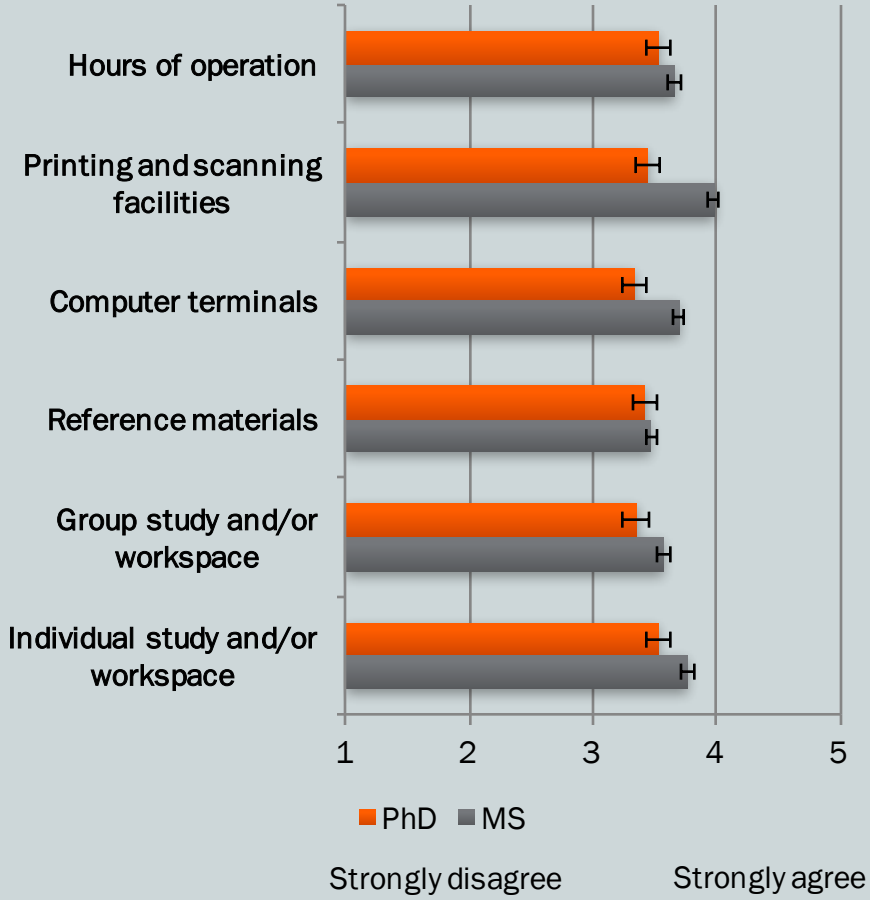
"How many times per week do you frequent the following libraries?"



Library Space Satisfaction

"The following resources at the Northwest Corner Library are useful to me":

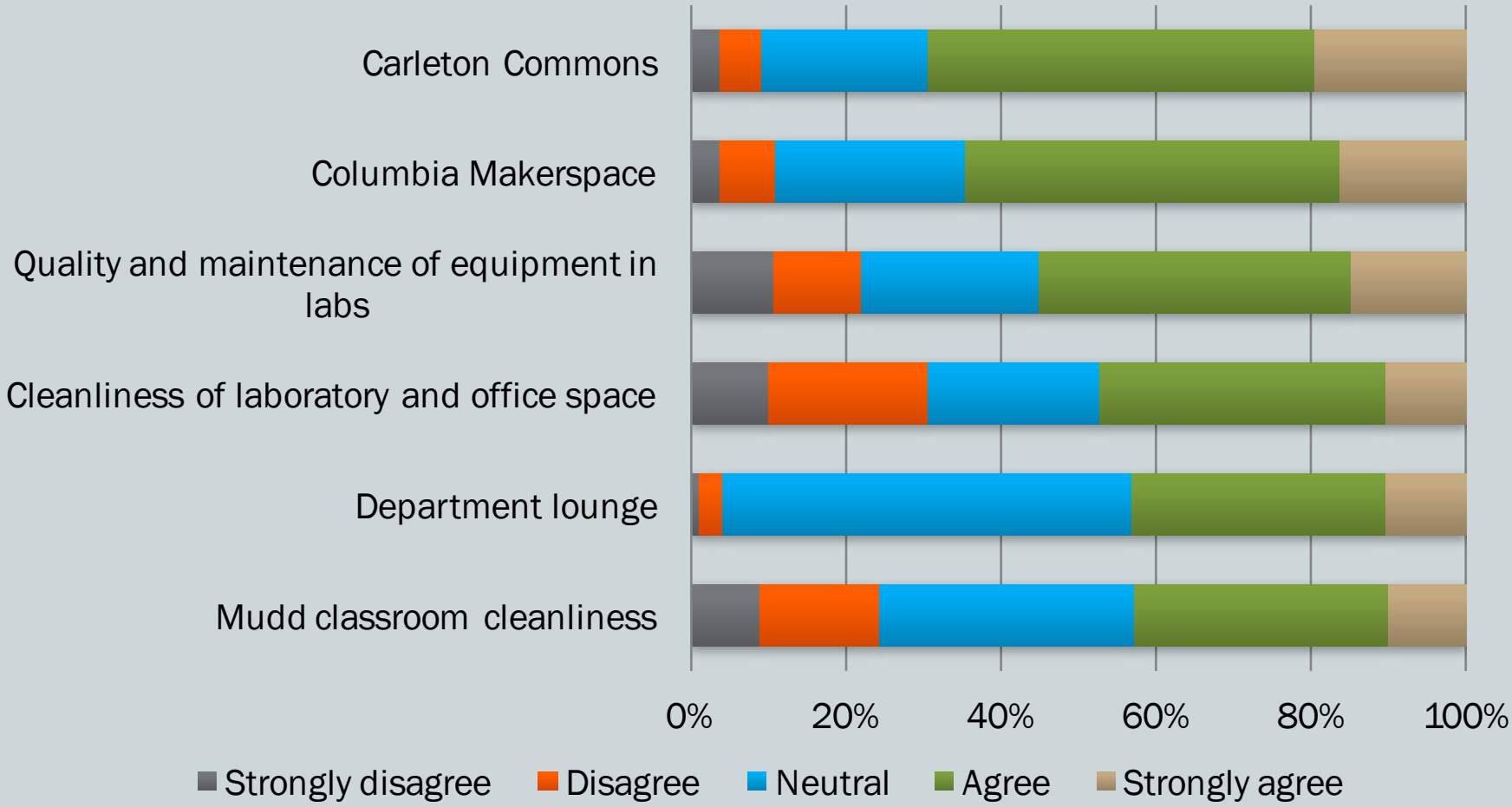




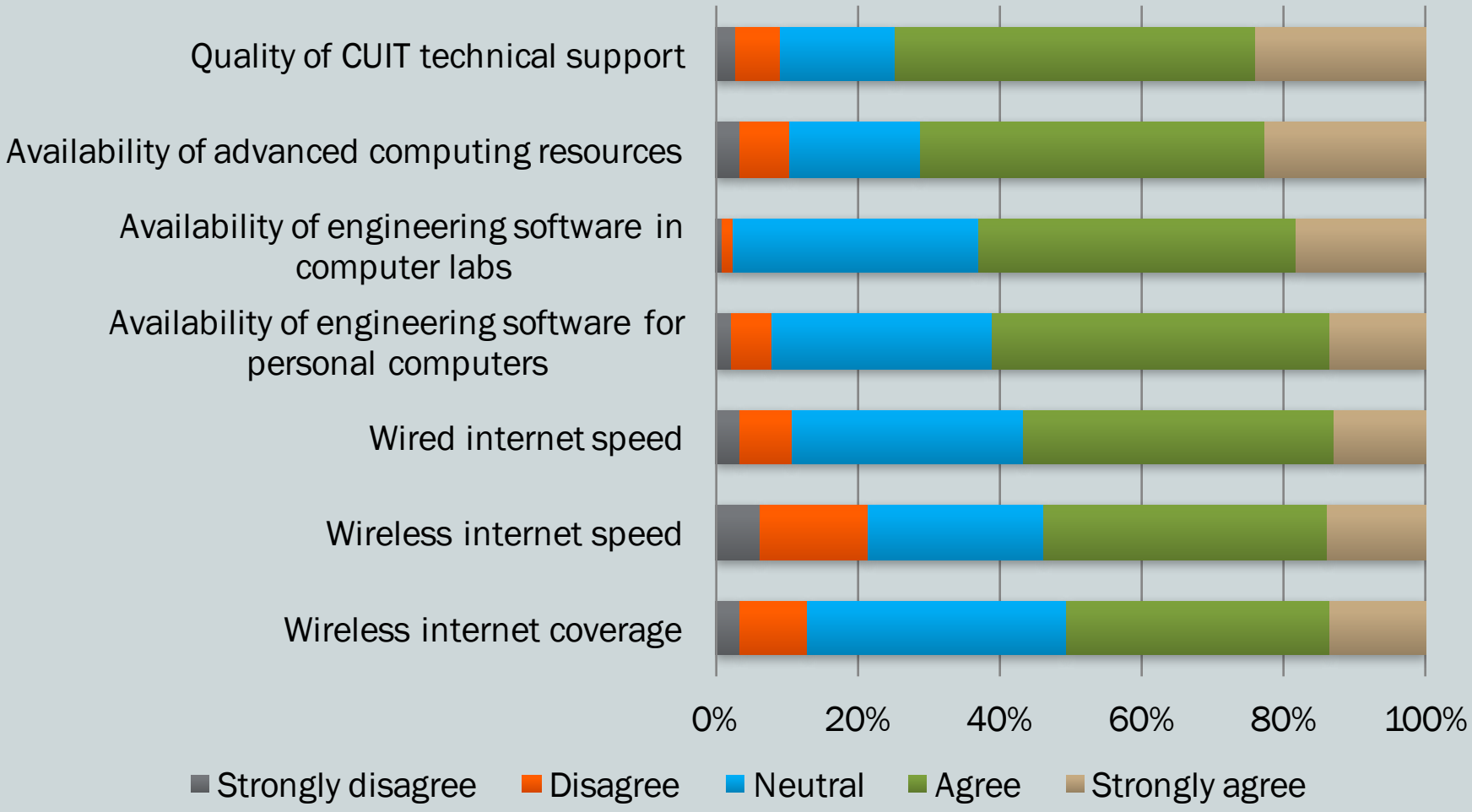
Library Services: Comments

- **"The online resources are a [*sic*] great [tools] for engineers."**
- "Library hours are too short!" "24/7 library during midterms and finals." "Open the engineering library at 8am."
- "I find the amount of study space on campus insufficient. More individual and group study space is needed."
- "More scanning facilities need to be introduced."
- "We need more outlets to plug in our computers"
- "Library computers need engineering software on all computers. Please make Matlab, Solidworks, and CATIA available."
- "Put carpet in the engineering library. I stopped studying there because the sound of people in heavy shoes constantly walking on wood floors was distracting. Also, the soundproofing is inadequate when people speak loudly in the group study rooms."

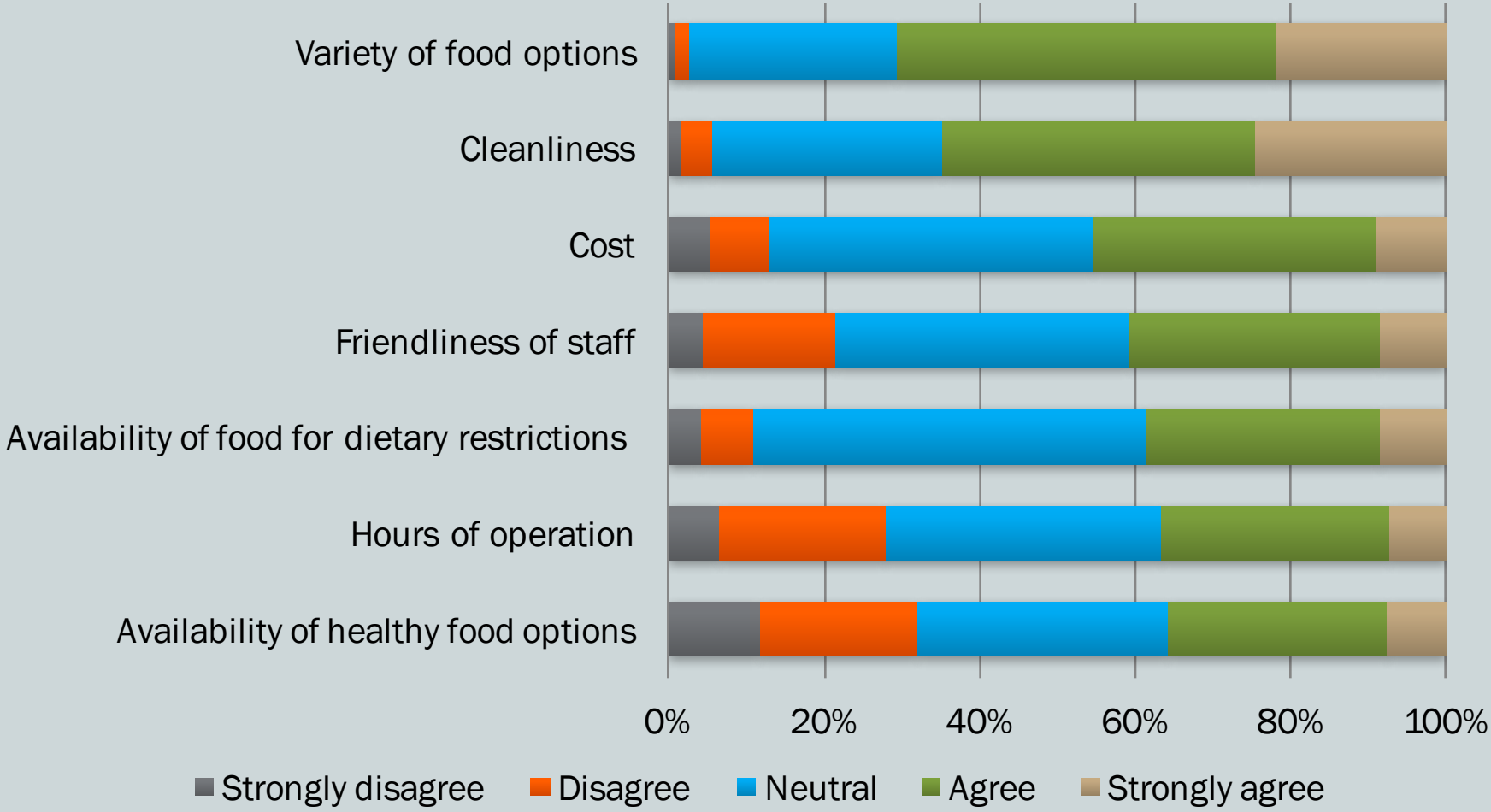
Space Facilities: Satisfaction



Technical Facilities: Satisfaction

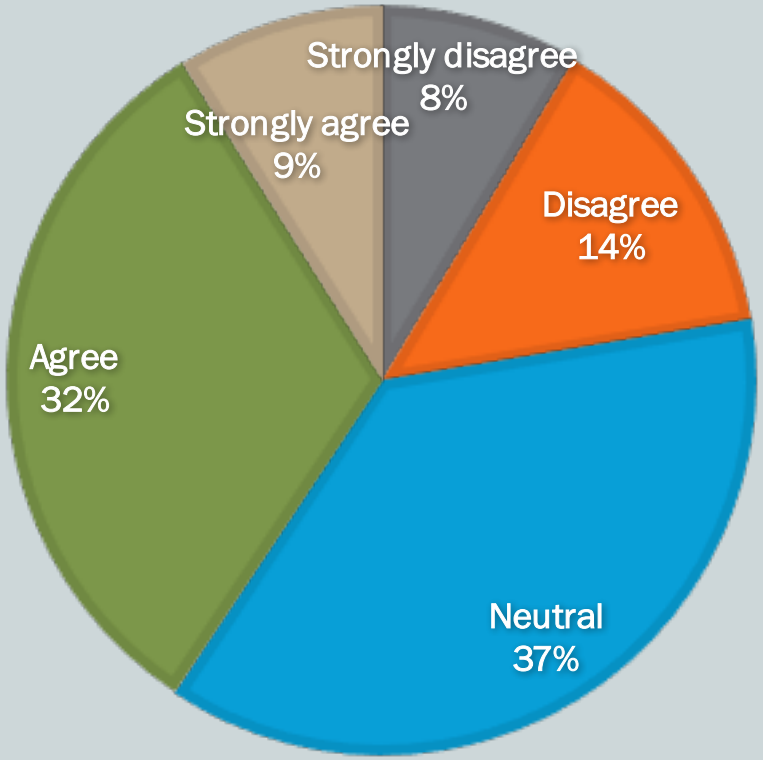


Blue Java Café: Satisfaction

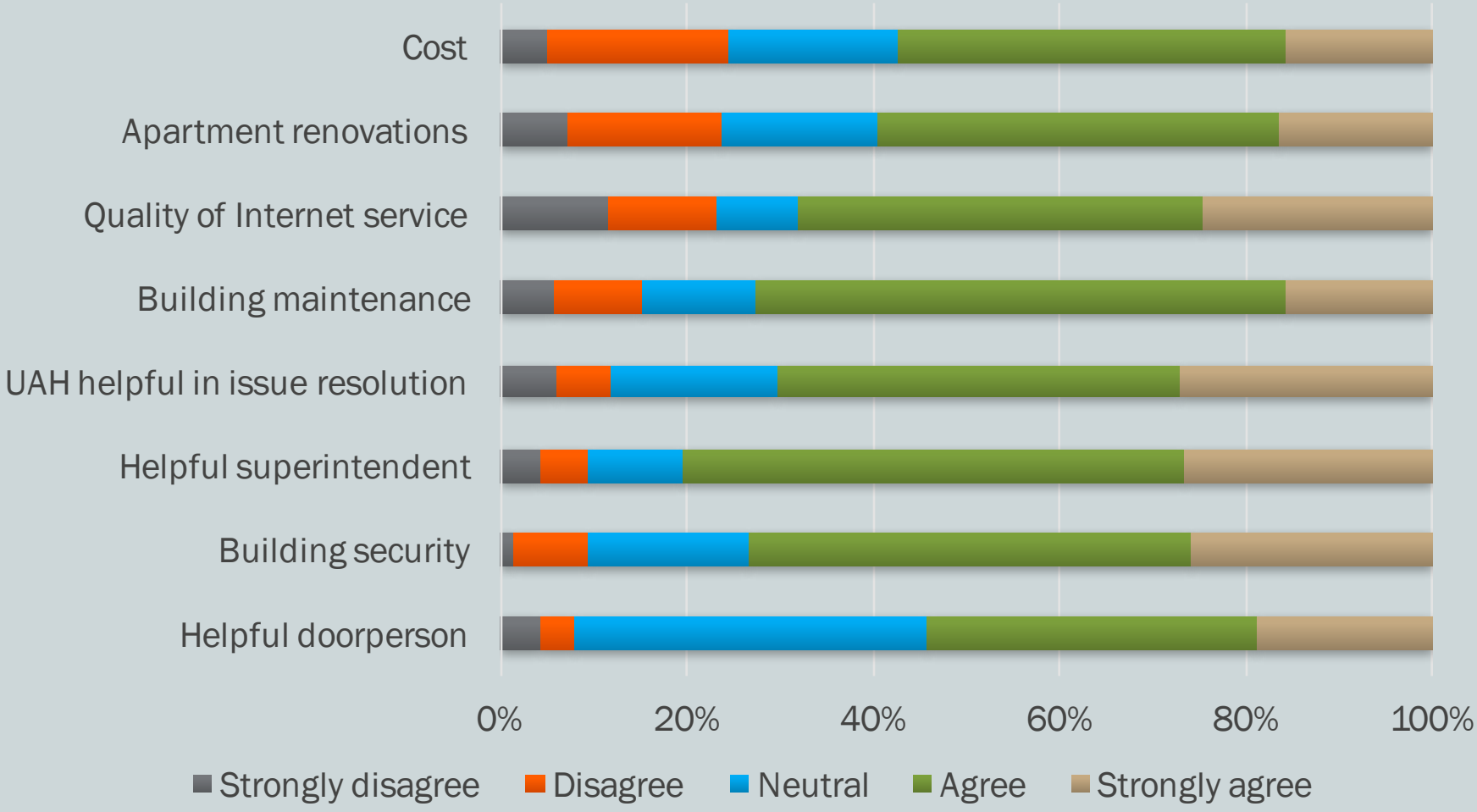


Housing: OCHA

"I am satisfied with the service provided by the Off-Campus Housing Assistance Office (OCHA)":



Housing: UAH


Cost
Apartment renovations
Quality of Internet service
Building maintenance
UAH helpful in issue resolution
Helpful superintendent
Building security
Helpful doorperson
0%
20%
40%
60%
80%
100%
Strongly disagree
Disagree
Neutral
Agree
Strongly agree