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Faculty Senate - October 20, 2008 Meeting Agenda

Faculty Senate

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**SENATE MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008
3:30 P.M. UNIVERSITY CENTER
SHILOH ROOM**

Agenda

John Nolt, President
Suzanne Kurth, Secretary to the Senate

Becky Jacobs and Carl Pierce, Co-Parliamentarians
Toby Boulet, President-Elect

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Establishment of Quorum (S. Kurth)
Senate President's Report (J. Nolt)
Chancellor's Report (J. Simek)
Provost's Report (S. Martin)

MINUTES

Faculty Senate Meeting, September 8, 2008 (for approval)
Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting, October 6, 2008 (information item)

MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Minutes from the Graduate Council of September 25, 2008, were distributed to Senators electronically prior to the meeting and available at (<http://gradstudies.utk.edu/GraduateCouncil/Minutes/GCMinutes09252008.pdf>)
Minutes from the Undergraduate Council of September 16, 2008, were distributed to Senators electronically prior to the meeting and available at (<http://web.utk.edu/~ugcouncil/docs/minutes/UGCMin91608.pdf>)
Implementation of these minutes takes place after approval of the Faculty Senate.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

Note: materials from the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils contain material on program closures. Please read these carefully. These materials will be discussed under the heading "MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY"

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Budget and Planning Committee; Faculty Salary Data Report (D. Bruce)

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discussion with Athletic Director Mike Hamilton (M. Holland)
Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS) membership (J. Nolt)

ADJOURNMENT

ATTACHMENTS:

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, September 8, 2008 (for approval)
Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, October 6, 2008 (forthcoming—information item)
Faculty Salary Data Report
Constitution of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates
Graduation Success Rate Email

DISTRIBUTED BY:

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PRESIDENT'S OFFICE:

John Nolt
Department of Philosophy
974-7218; nolt@utk.edu

The University of Tennessee Faculty Senate
MINUTES
September 8, 2008

Those absent were: Lt. Col. Michael Angle, Alvaro Ayo, Roberto Benson, Stephen Blackwell, Bill Blass, Thomas Boehm, Bill Bradshaw, Cathy Cochran, Daniela Corbetta, Steven Dandaneau, Jim Drake, Lee Han, Tricia Hepner, Russel Hirst, Bill Hofmeister, Roxanne Hovland, Yuri Kamychkov, Scott Kinzy, John Koontz, Jun Lin, John Lounsbury, Norman Magden, Murray Marks, John McRae, Jay Pfaffman, Lloyd Rinehart*, W. Tim Rogers, Rupy Sawhney, Montgomery Smith, Johanna Stiebert, Matthew Theriot, Patricia Tithof, Michelle Violanti, Peiling Wang, Michael Wirth, Yang Zhong, Svetlana Zivanovic*

*Alternate Senators: Carol Jones for Svetlana Zivanovic, Randall Pierce for Lloyd Rinehart

J. Nolt called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Establishment of Quorum (S. Kurth)

S. Kurth confirmed that a quorum was present.

Announcements (J. Nolt)

J. Nolt introduced President-Elect T. Boulet, Co-Parliamentarians B. Jacobs and C. Pierce, Secretary S. Kurth, Information Officer, S. Ohnesorg, and Past-President D. Patterson. He requested that caucus chairs send their contact information to S. Simmons (ss@utk.edu). He alerted faculty to a number of events that would be held for "Make Orange Green Week." Athletic Director M. Hamilton is scheduled to speak at the October 20 Senate meeting. Senators were encouraged to send questions in advance of the meeting to Athletics Committee Chair M. Holland (msholland@utk.edu). He announced the goal of keeping the Senate paperless as much as possible.

Senate President's Report (J. Nolt)

J. Nolt noted the University's financial woes had led to various actions. The Faculty Senate objected to the program terminations proposed in late spring on the basis of the Senate's designated authority to approve actions on academic programs. Consideration of the program closures was delayed until the Board of Trustees meeting on October 23 and 24. Interim Chancellor Simek announced in August that the Audiology and Speech Pathology programs would be continued in some form, although not necessarily as part of the Knoxville campus. The bodies delegated academic program review authority, the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils, were engaged in the process of reviewing the programs proposed for termination. The councils are scheduled to report the results of their reviews at the October 20 Faculty Senate meeting.

Nolt depicted the budget situation for the coming year as dire. The Chancellor asked the Deans to consider various scenarios. Additional program closures might be proposed. A new task force was scheduled to begin meeting to establish criteria for identifying programs for closure. Nolt noted that Past President Patterson had proposed differential tuition for UTK in his comments to the Board and the Senate would continue to advocate for it throughout the year. Also, in concert with the campus administration the Senate would advocate for increased energy efficiency, as the campus is particularly vulnerable to rising energy costs. He noted again the energy conservation program, called "Switch Your Thinking" being initiated later in the week. Former Chancellor Crabtree committed the campus to the long-term goal of climate neutrality. Under that plan, ideas about energy conservation would be introduced into the curriculum.

The search for a new Chancellor was underway. Senators were encouraged to attend the public forums that would be held for all candidates or to listen to the webcasts. Nolt suggested that Senators consult with their colleagues at the candidates' home institutions.

The last Faculty Senate meeting ended in controversy. A debate over conducting a survey to evaluate the President ended when a quorum was lost. Nolt said in his view and the Executive Committee's it would be counterproductive to pursue conducting a survey as relations with the system had improved. Under the leadership of J. Poore, IT problems were being resolved. The appointment of L. Hendricks as Vice President was another helpful step. Some consultation about the future of Cherokee Farm has taken place. Nolt and Patterson consulted with Vice President Zacharia, although much remains unclear. Nolt expressed concern that a new master plan may represent a weakening of institutional commitment to sustainability, that the planning committee meets irregularly, and that resources might be diverted from fulfilling the campus mission to developing the Cherokee Farm.

A new initiative involves evaluation of the Senate, as the Senate does not do some things well. At the suggestion of C. White, Nolt appointed a Task Force on Senate Effectiveness over the summer. White serves as Chair of the Task Force composed of faculty and administrators. The Task Force has met and the goal is to have it report to the Senate before the end of the academic year. To keep accurate records Senators need to pick up their nameplates and alternates need to sign in and indicate for whom they are substituting. Senators were encouraged to limit making impromptu resolutions from the floor after committees have extensively worked on proposals and to express their concerns prior to Senate meetings (e.g., via e-mail and the listserv). Written copies of any such resolutions should be given to the Secretary.

President's Report (J. Petersen)

The President commended the Chancellor's Search Committee for the excellent job it did. At the request of the Search Committee he would be meeting with the candidates to answer questions during their visits. He said he was glad to see the Senate's paperless agenda. He noted that J. Poore was doing a great job with IT supporting the assessment that the problem was not the quality of UT's IT personnel, but rather one of leadership.

The budget is an issue. Petersen indicated he was an advocate of strategic cuts. He concurred that the proposed program cuts represented a rushed issue and that pulling the trigger on reductions was a complicated matter. This year the University was out in front of the curve already making plans for a base budget reduction for next year. He noted that the question of differential tuition had been brought up. He suggested that talking about percentages was probably not a good tactic as the percentage was low this year. He recommended looking at states like North Carolina to formulate the differential tuition argument. Comparable institutions that are funded through state appropriations constitute the best comparisons. The University cannot manage another year with a 6% tuition increase and the legislature has been informed that that is the case. He announced that the next day he would be meeting with various constituencies around the state and letting them know that the University's people were not receiving competitive compensation packages.

He lauded Oak Ridge National Laboratory noting that it was an asset that other institutions would like to have. The current strategy is to build larger projects. Emphasis should be on the fees being generated by projects, as they are not taking away resources but rather adding them. Currently, partners in Memphis are being connected with ORNL.

He said there was a commitment to make Cherokee Farm a sustainable green campus. Gresham Smith would look into that and might bring in a consultant. The project needed to be underway. Three buildings are planned with additional buildings possible. The University needs to promote research, i.e., it was flat the past three years. B. Fenwick has been working on it.

He reviewed various personnel changes. Everyone knows what J. Poore has done. L. Hendricks brings a different orientation to Human Resources, an emphasis on helping units look forward through strategic planning. He was sad to lose B. Levy.

The University faces many challenges, but there are opportunities. Most community colleges in the state are jammed. The University needs to a better job of getting those students into UT. Articulation needs to be improved. Differential tuition is something to consider. There are a number of different unique pieces. One year there was differential tuition. Compared to other states, Tennessee is actually in the minority in that UT's tuition and Board of Regent schools' tuition are so closely bunched. The state has a history of making higher end enterprises (e.g., UTK and Memphis) less or under compensated. He cautioned against invoking the lottery scholarships in making an argument for higher tuition as legislators see it as an aid.

T. Wang asked about articulation, specifically whether a task force would track what happens to transfer students after they arrive on campus. She then requested that such tracking occur. Petersen replied that based on anecdotal information the students transferring from Pellissippi State do as well as other students, noting that not all community college students are admitted to UT. Governor Bredesen has been concerned about transfer students wasting time retaking credits.

Interim Chancellor's Report (J. Simek)

J. Simek addressed the environment/energy issue noting the "Switch Your Thinking" campaign aimed at voluntary conservation. He elaborated that it would probably be followed by mandatory changes. He explained that if energy costs were not controlled they would serve as permanent budget cuts. The new coal contract was effectively a 1 or 2 million dollar budget cut. The recent TVA rate increase represents another substantial problem.

R. Leon asked why the Senate meeting room and others on campus were freezing. Simek explained that the monitoring system was archaic. D. Barlow said they were concerned about what to do. There is a need for energy managers to evaluate buildings. P. Crilly said some buildings like Ferris Hall were hot in the winter. J. Kovac pointed out that control problems notwithstanding, the current situation in part reflected years of deferred maintenance (lack of caulking and replacement windows). Simek replied that planned renovations include energy saving changes, e.g., replacement windows. He noted that people have made all kinds of personal comfort accommodations (e.g., heaters, fans, refrigerators) that consume considerable energy. Nolt encouraged people to send comments to him and M. English, Co-Chairs of the Committee on the Campus Environment.

Simek encouraged Senators to go see the Chancellor candidates. He asked that Senators be positive in their comments, while communicating a clear picture to candidates.

Interim Provost's Report (S. Martin)

S. Martin noted that as a member of the Chancellor's Search Committee, she would like for Senators to provide their opinions on the candidates. Student retention is important. This summer a new program prepared 55 academically qualified students who face some challenges. She also noted the new Haslam Scholars and study abroad efforts. She reported the Enrollment Management Committee is going to focus on transfer students, i.e., articulation. S. Gardial is working with the Faculty Affairs Committee and the task force focused on program reductions.

MINUTES

Faculty Senate

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of April 21, 2008, were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee

The minutes of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting of August 25, 2008, were available as an information item.

MINUTES POSTED ELECTRONICALLY

Graduate Council

The minutes of the Graduate Council meeting of April 21, 2008, were moved, seconded, and approved.

Undergraduate Council

The minutes of the Undergraduate Council meeting of April 22, 2008, were moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS

There was no previous business.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Faculty Affairs Committee (J. Heminway)

Last spring the Senate approved substantial changes in the *Faculty Handbook* with reference to the Ombuds position (e.g., three part-time faculty members to one full-time non-faculty person, a service for staff as well as faculty). J. Malia has served on the search committee. Malia reported that there had been 9 telephone interviews. Three people will be invited to campus with the goal of having someone no later than the beginning of the next term.

Heminway stated that the Committee had three focuses this year:

- One was examination of the *Faculty Handbook* and the *Manual for Faculty Evaluation* to address issues such as department head evaluations. She noted that any changes would require two readings, so Senators would have ample opportunity to submit their comments before any changes would be voted on.
- The annual evaluation process would be another focus.
- Cumulative Performance Review is the third focus as the *Faculty Handbook* does not conform with the Board of Trustees' guidelines.

Send comments to jheminwa@utk.edu.

NEW BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Differential Tuition Resolution (D. Patterson)

D. Patterson introduced a differential tuition resolution. The proposal would be from the Faculty to the Chancellor and President for the October Board of Trustees meeting. He corrected Nolt saying that he did not make the differential tuition proposal to the Board of Trustees.

J. Malia pointed out that President Petersen noted the need to collect data and asked what had been done. Patterson replied the Chancellor's office would collect the data. A question was raised about whether the wording should be about differential tuition or differential rate of tuition increase. Patterson said he had Googled the topic and found both wordings. The resolution passed unanimously.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville Faculty Senate Resolution on Differential Tuition for The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

WHEREAS, in accordance with the UT-Knoxville Faculty Handbook, "the faculty role in campus-wide governance is through the senate;" and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Handbook conveys to its constituency the responsibility "to consider, advise, and recommend to the administration policies about a wide range of issues affecting the general welfare of the faculty;" and

WHEREAS, UT Knoxville is both the flagship campus of The University of Tennessee and its only Research University institution as designated by the Carnegie Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with the provision of education and the conduct of research are necessarily higher at research universities; and

WHEREAS, differential tuition rates for research universities is a widely accepted practice in multiple states;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Faculty Senate respectfully requests that President Petersen and Interim Chancellor Simek present The University of Tennessee Board of Trustees with a proposal for a differential rate of tuition for The University of Tennessee Knoxville at the Trustees October 2008 meeting, and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this Resolution become part of the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held on September 8, 2008.*

Note: The University of Tennessee, Knoxville is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as RU/VH: research university with very high research activity. This is the highest research designation for a public university in the state of Tennessee. By comparison The University of Memphis is designated as RU/H: a research university with high research activity and The University of Tennessee, Chattanooga is designated as Master's L: Masters Colleges and Universities, larger programs.

Recognition of Former Parliamentarian O. Stephens

Patterson presented a resolution recognizing the service of O. Stephens that was approved by unanimous consent.

*The University of Tennessee
Faculty Senate*

WHEREAS, Dr. Otis Stephens has admirably and worthily served as Parliamentarian to the Senate for five full academic years over two terms; and

WHEREAS, he has become the leading authority and voice with respect to all parliamentary procedural matters, be it simple or a myriad of complexity; and

WHEREAS, he is well-known as one of the United States' preeminent scholars of American Constitutional Law, authoring five books on the subject, as well as numerous other articles and book reviews; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, he has humbly and graciously served as a leading advocate for the blind and visually-impaired community nationwide, receiving the American Foundation for the Blind's highest possible honor for his efforts in promoting service delivery to the blind, as well as for his accomplishments in furthering Braille literacy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Tennessee Faculty Senate expresses its sincere appreciation to

Dr. Otis Stephens

For his exemplary leadership and service not only to the Senate as its long-time Parliamentarian, but for his revered and profound contribution to the greater good of The University of Tennessee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be presented to Otis Stephens, and that the Resolution become part of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on September 8, 2008.

Suzanne Kurth
Secretary

David Patterson
President, 2007-2008

Recognition of Past President D. Patterson

Nolt presented a resolution recognizing D. Patterson that was approved by unanimous consent.

The University of Tennessee
Faculty Senate

WHEREAS, Professor David A. Patterson is a highly respected colleague, teacher, scholar and citizen; and

WHEREAS, he has served with distinction as President of the Faculty Senate during the 2007-2008 academic year, elevating the prestige of the Senate within the University community by his assertive leadership and speaking truth to administrative power at the campus, system and board levels; and

WHEREAS, he has served the interests of faculty, staff, and students by promoting the ideals of shared governance, diversity in hiring, improved management of Information Technology, a sound campus alcohol policy, faculty participation in the development of Cherokee Farm, and differential tuition increases for UT's Flagship Campus and

WHEREAS, he has also served the Senate and the Faculty of this campus as a member of the UT Faculty Council; and

WHEREAS, he has worked tirelessly to communicate the activities of the Senate to faculty and to improve the overall organization of the University for the benefit of faculty, staff, and students;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Tennessee Faculty Senate expresses its sincere appreciation to

Professor David A. Patterson

for his exemplary leadership and service to the Senate and the University of Tennessee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be presented to Professor David A. Patterson and that the Resolution become part of the minutes of the Senate meeting held on September 8, 2008.

Suzanne Kurth
Secretary

John E. Nolt
President

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 4:58 p.m.

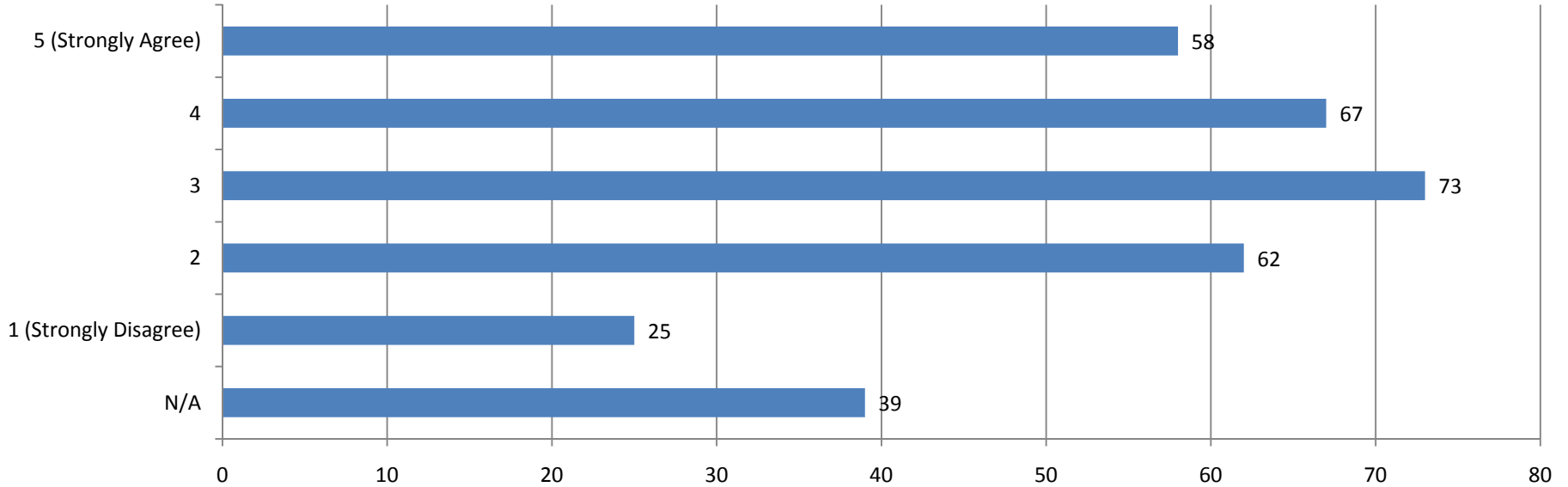
Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne B. Kurth, Secretary

FACULTY SENATE EFFECTIVENESS TASK FORCE

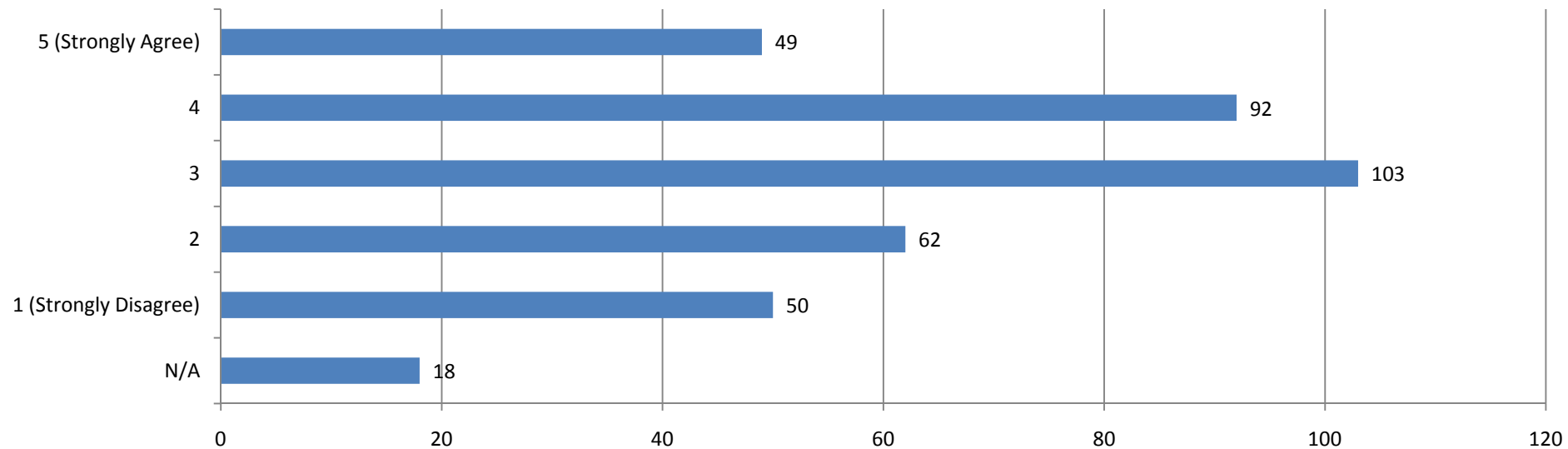
FACULTY SURVEY RESULTS

October 13, 2008

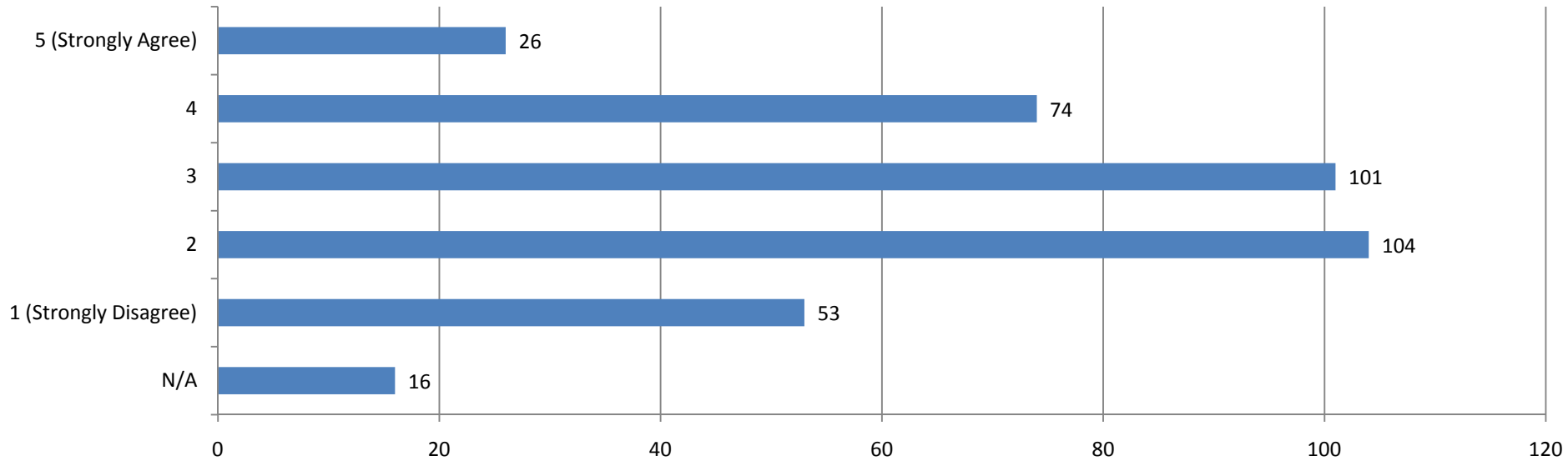
The Faculty Senate plays a vital role in formulating academic policies.



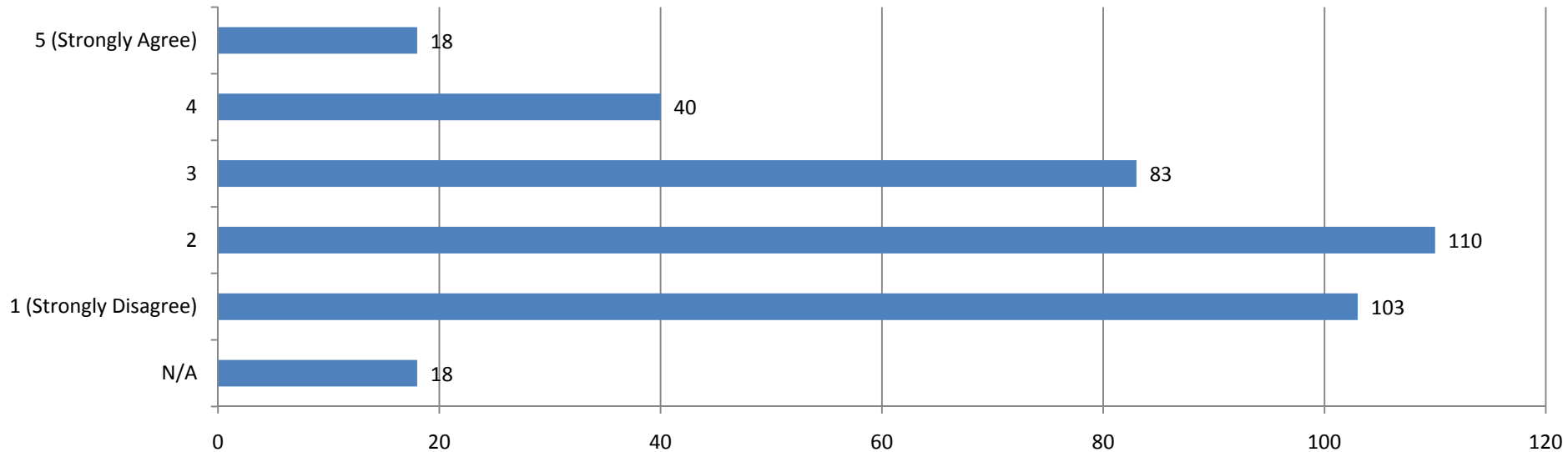
The Faculty Senate represents my interests.



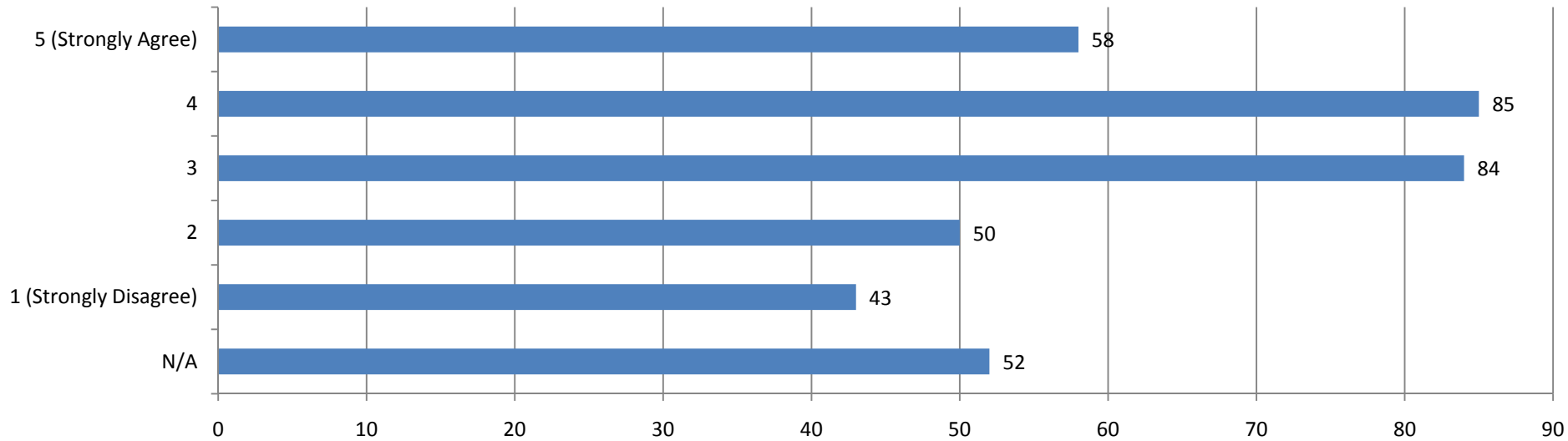
Actions of the Faculty Senate have an impact on administrative decisions.



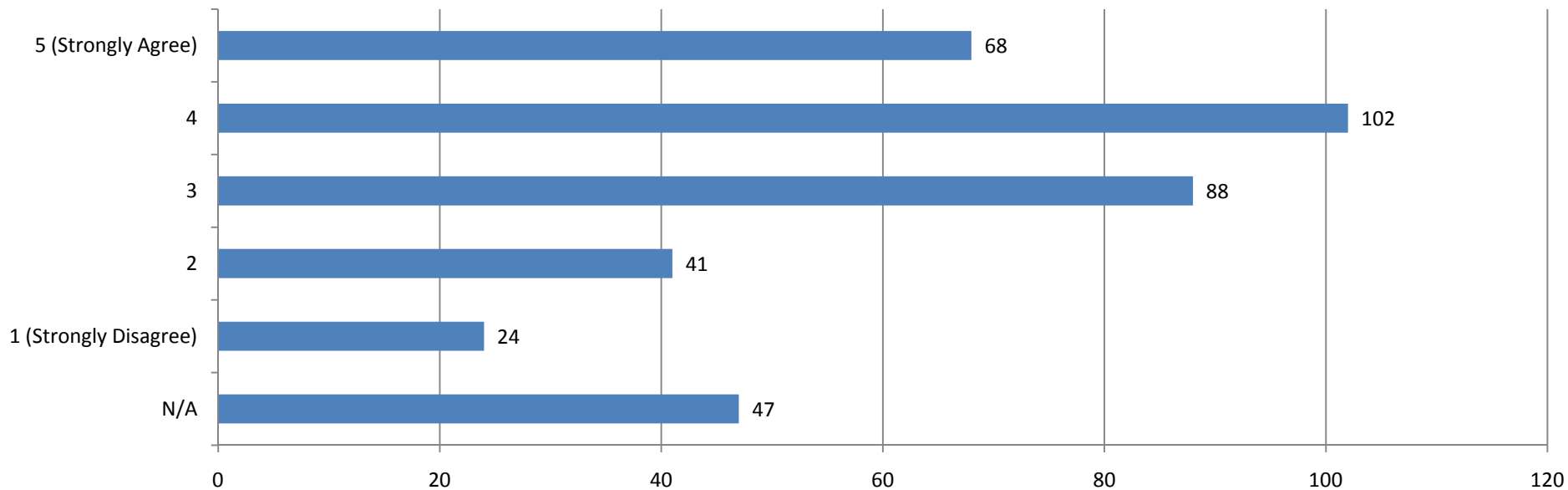
The Faculty Senate plays a vital role in formulating policies for allocation of resources for salaries, equity, and merit pay.



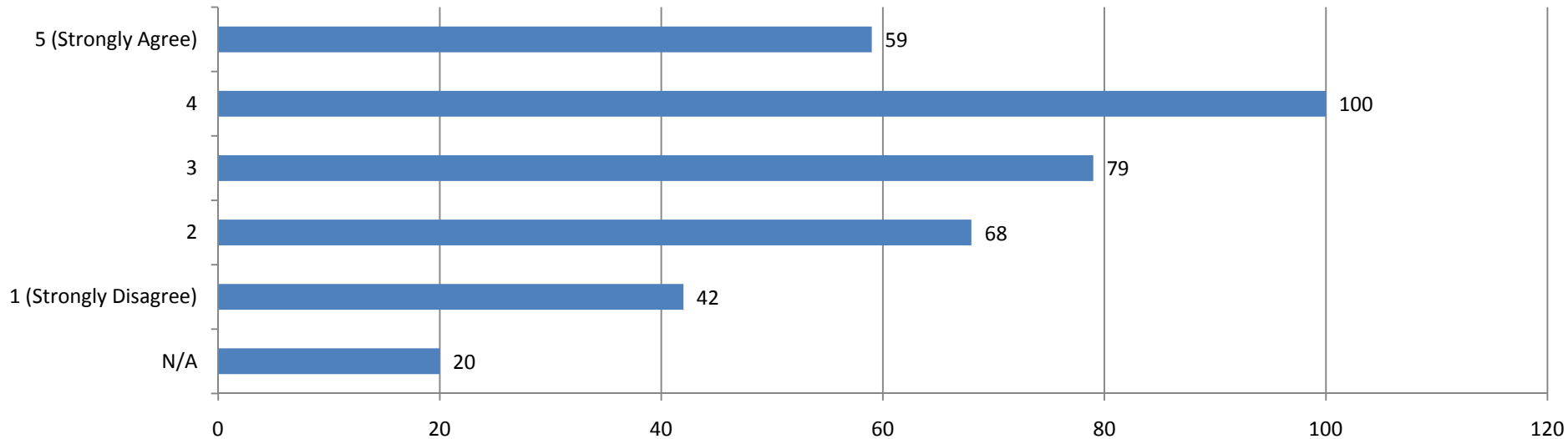
The Undergraduate Council plays a vital role in formulating academic policies.



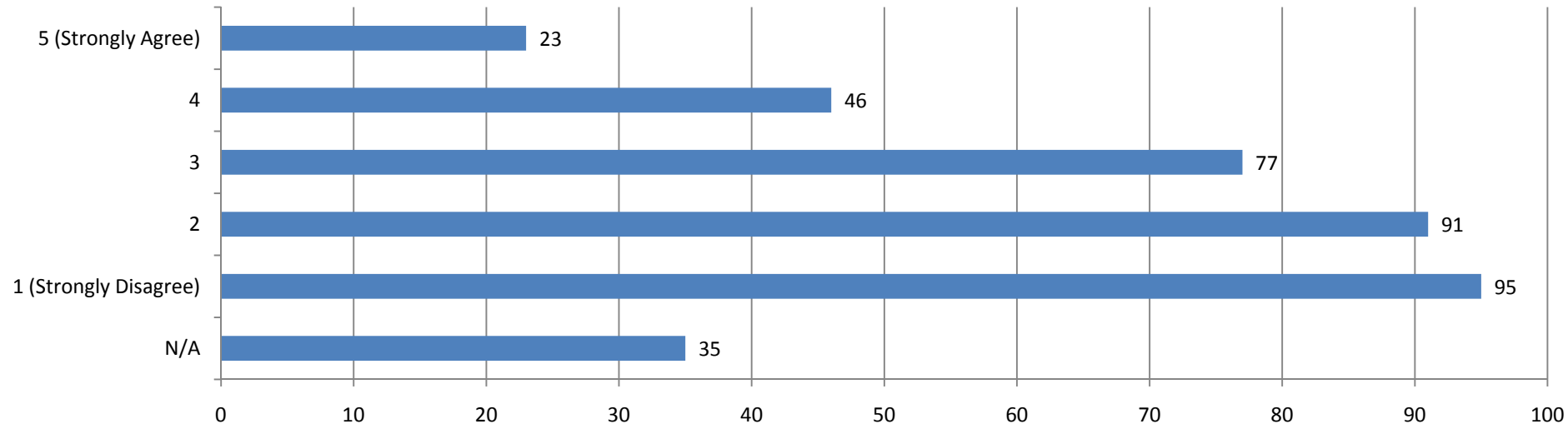
The Graduate Council plays a vital role in formulating academic policies.



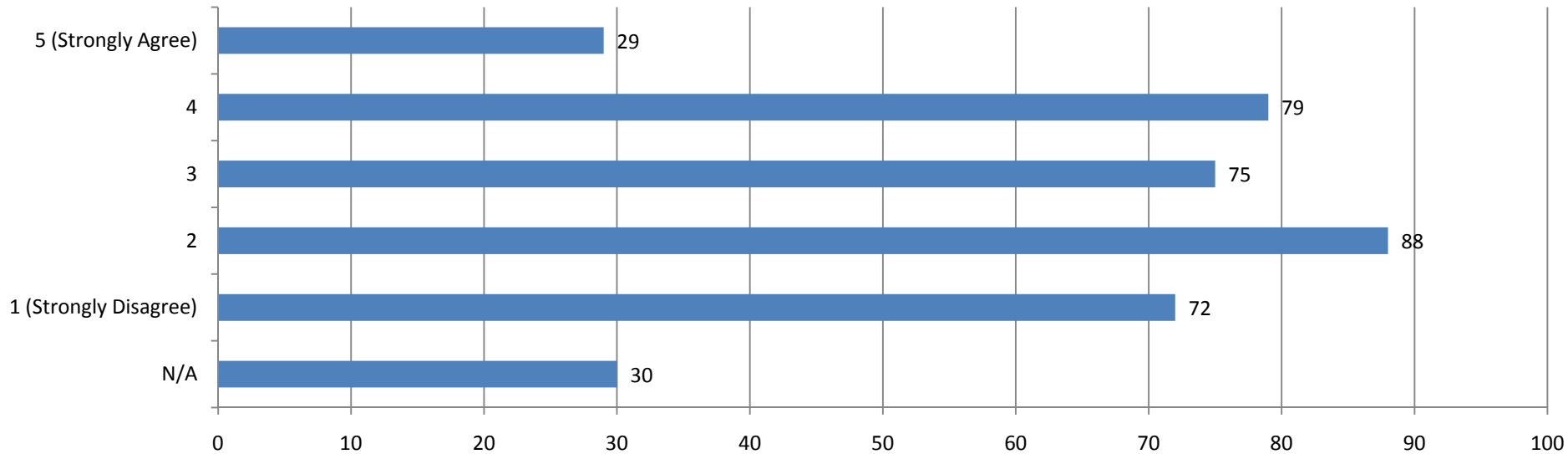
I receive sufficient information about issues that are being addressed in the Faculty Senate.



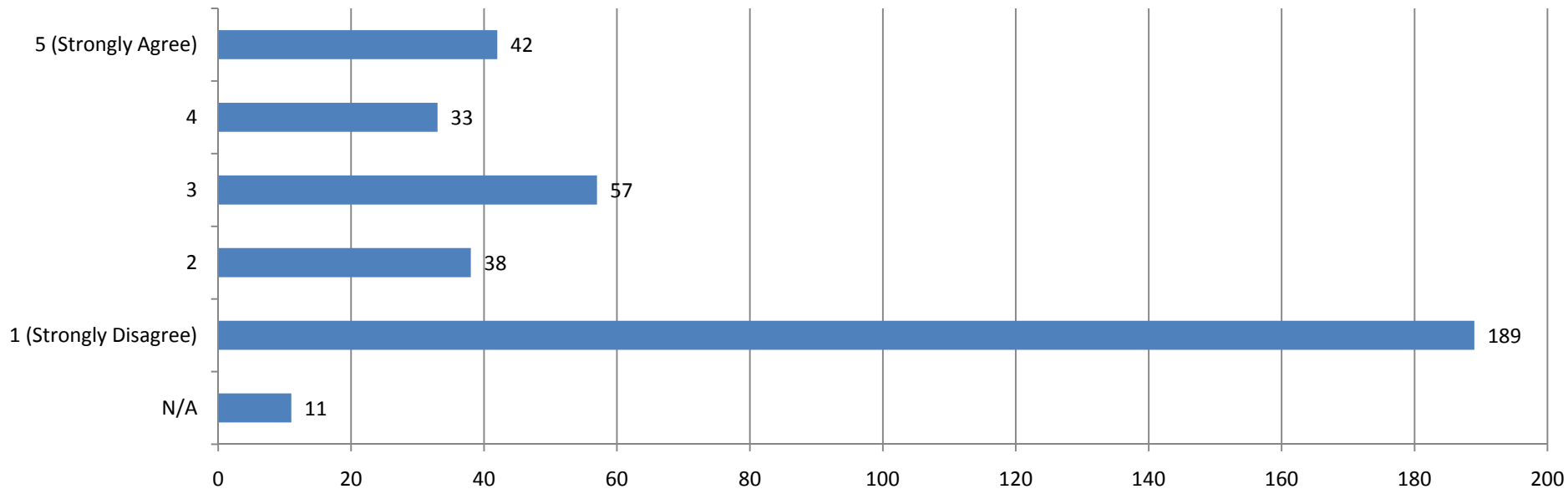
The Faculty Senate plays a vital role in formulating policies for allocation of resources for research.



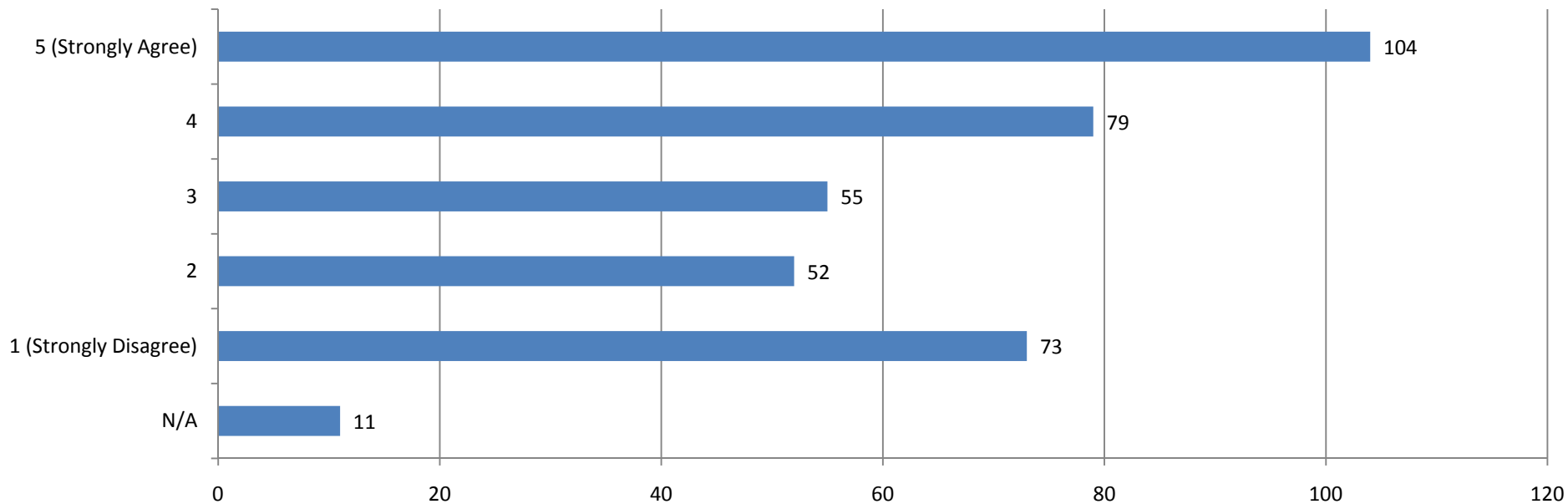
The Faculty Senate plays a vital role in formulating policies for faculty appointment, promotions, and tenure.



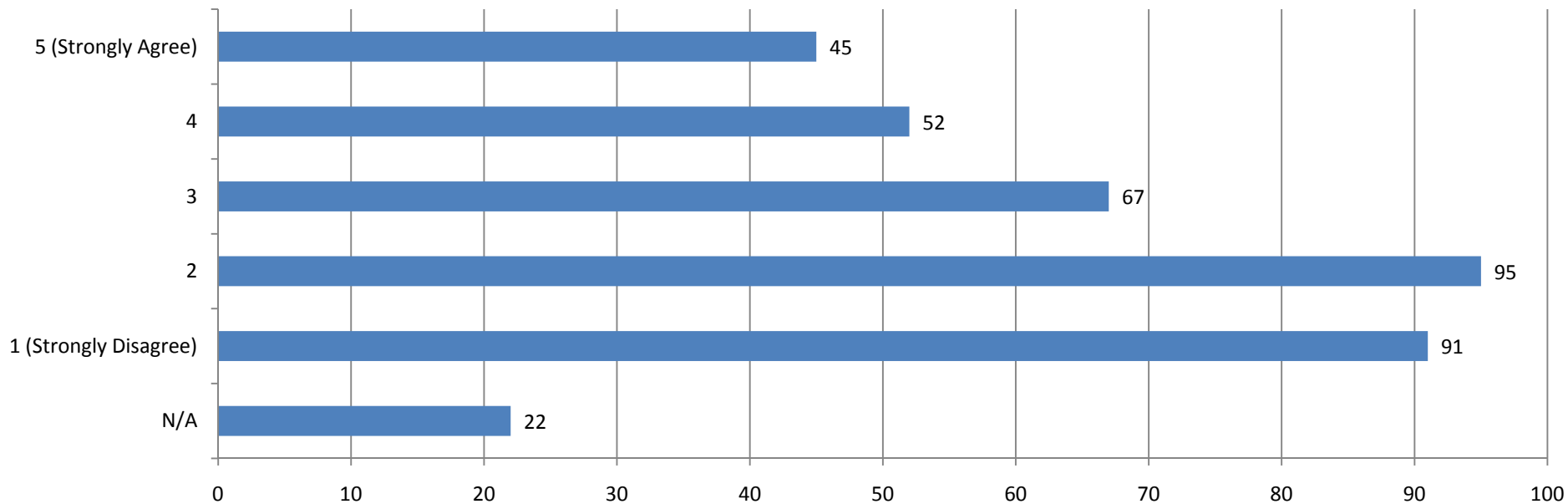
The Faculty Senate should be dissolved.



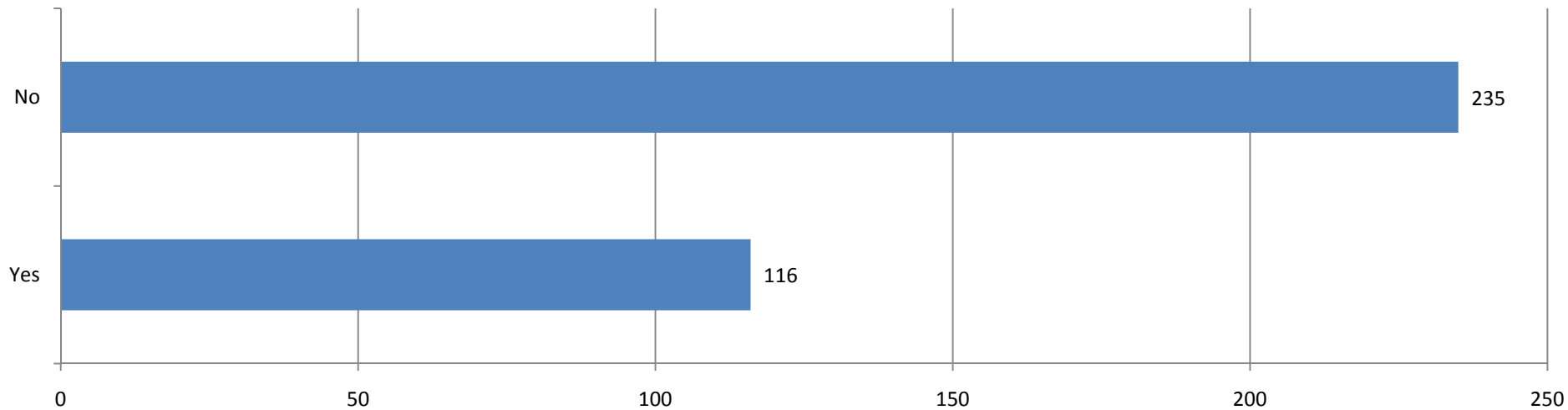
The Faculty Senate gives a voice to faculty concerns.



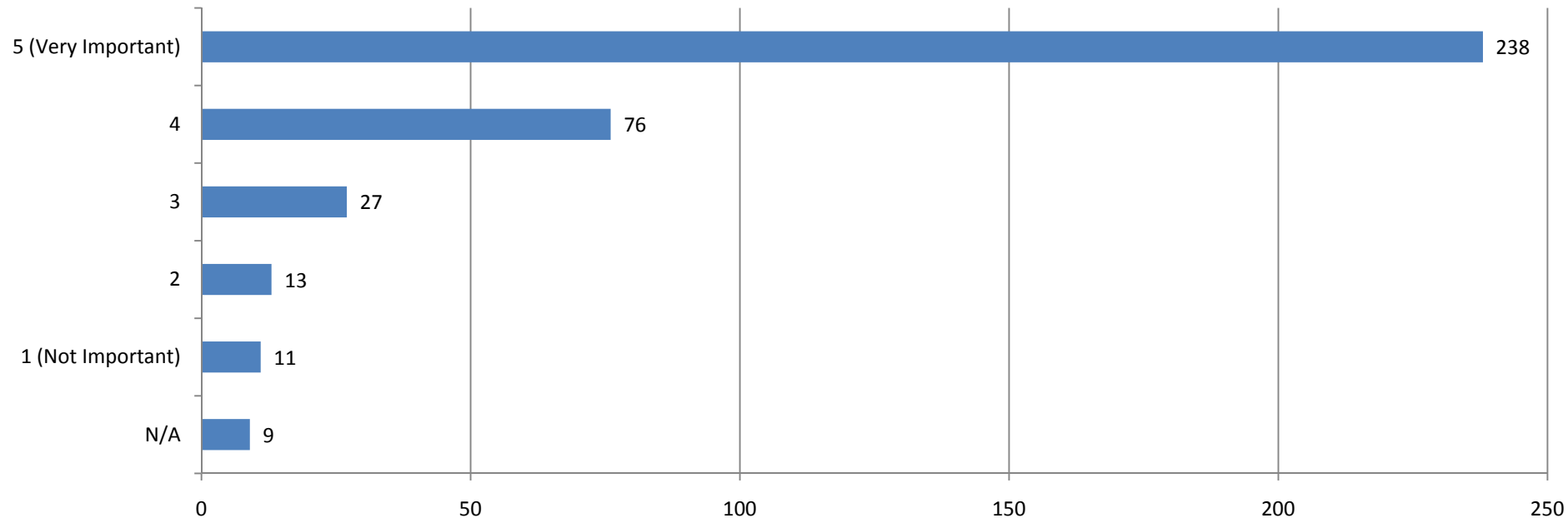
The Faculty Senate serves as a rubber stamp to administrative decisions.



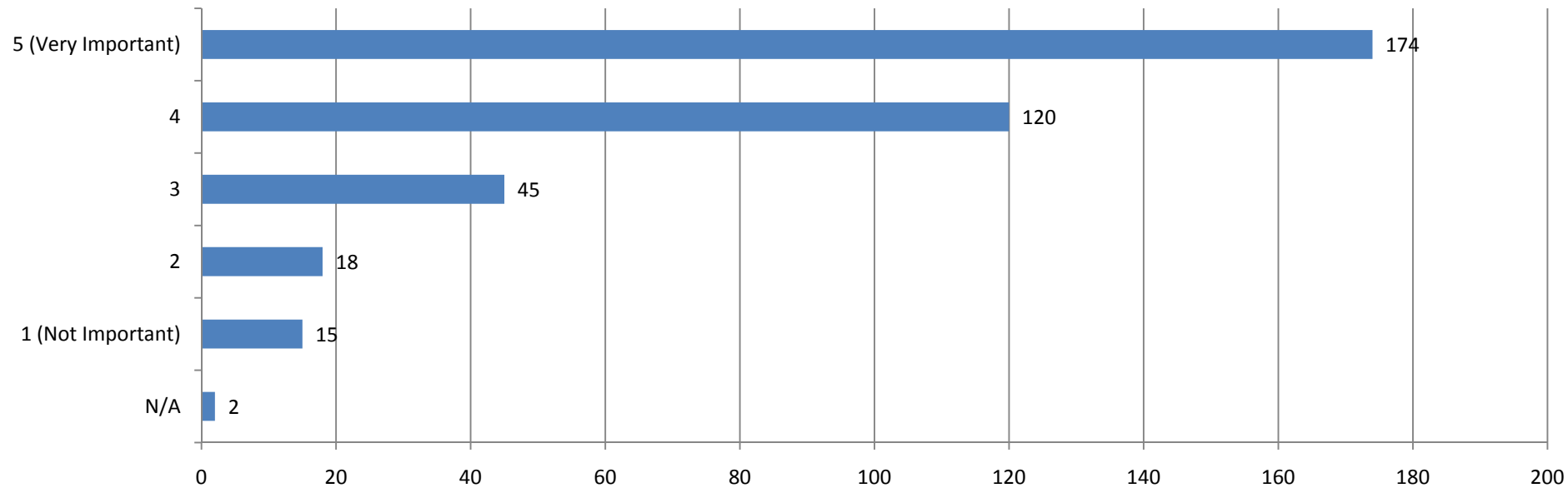
Have you looked at / used the Faculty Senate website this semester?



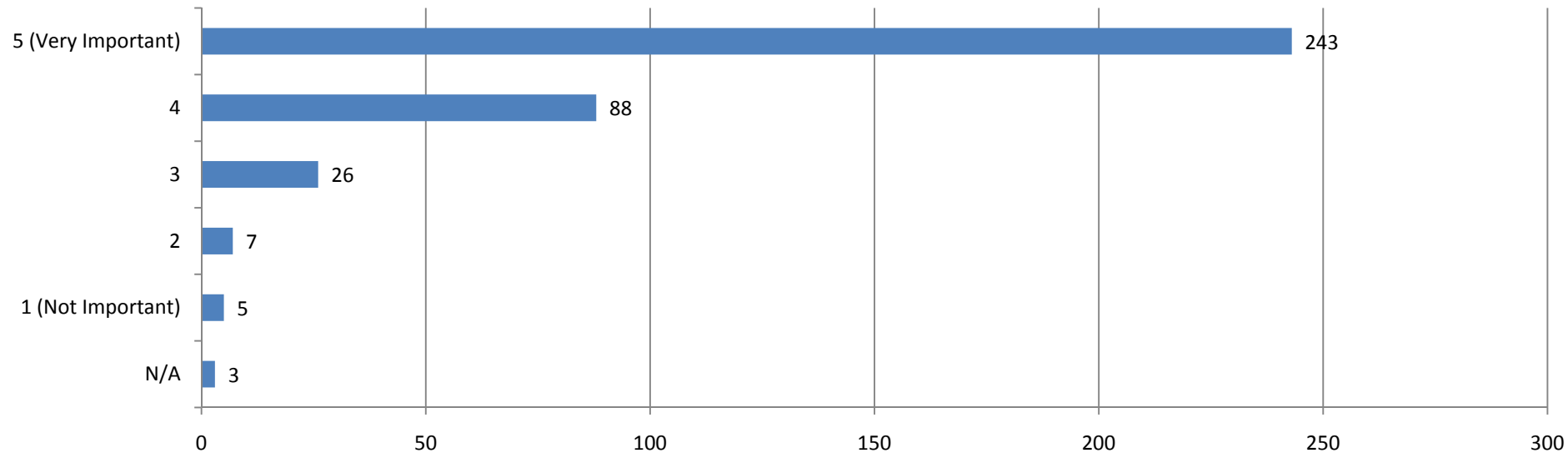
How important is it for the Faculty Senate to be involved in developing and implementing policies that affect academic life?



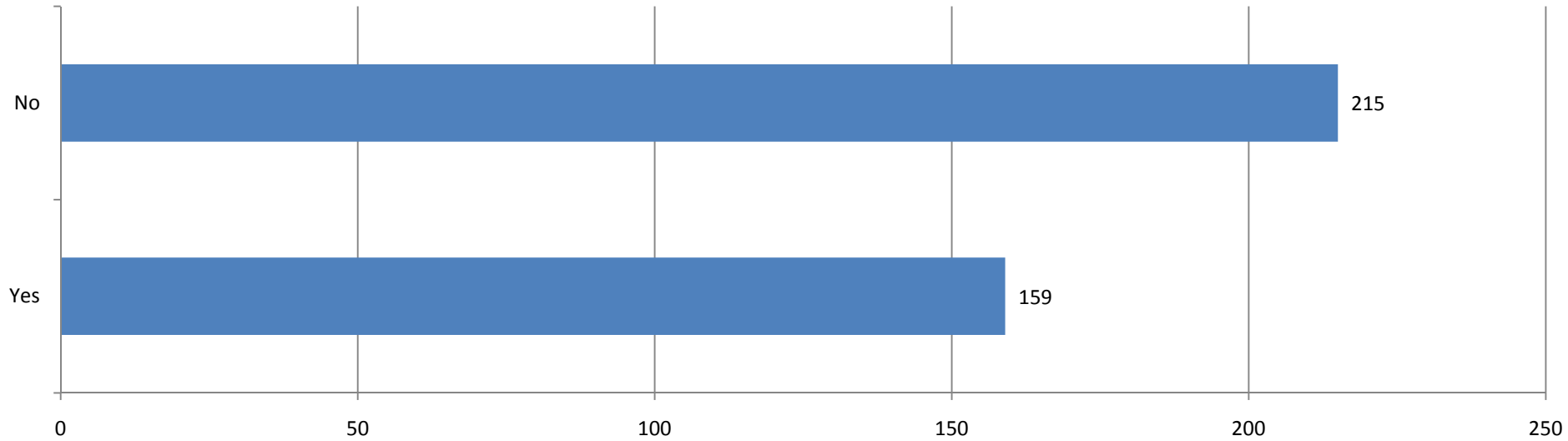
How important is it to you to receive information about the Faculty Senate?



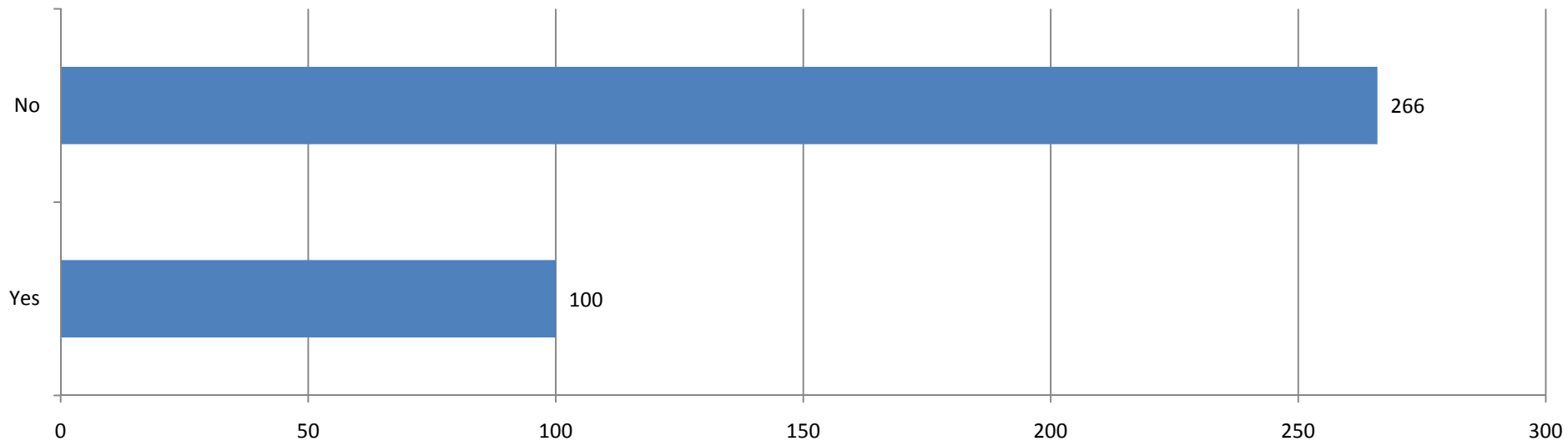
How important is it to you to receive information about policies and issues occurring at the administrative level?



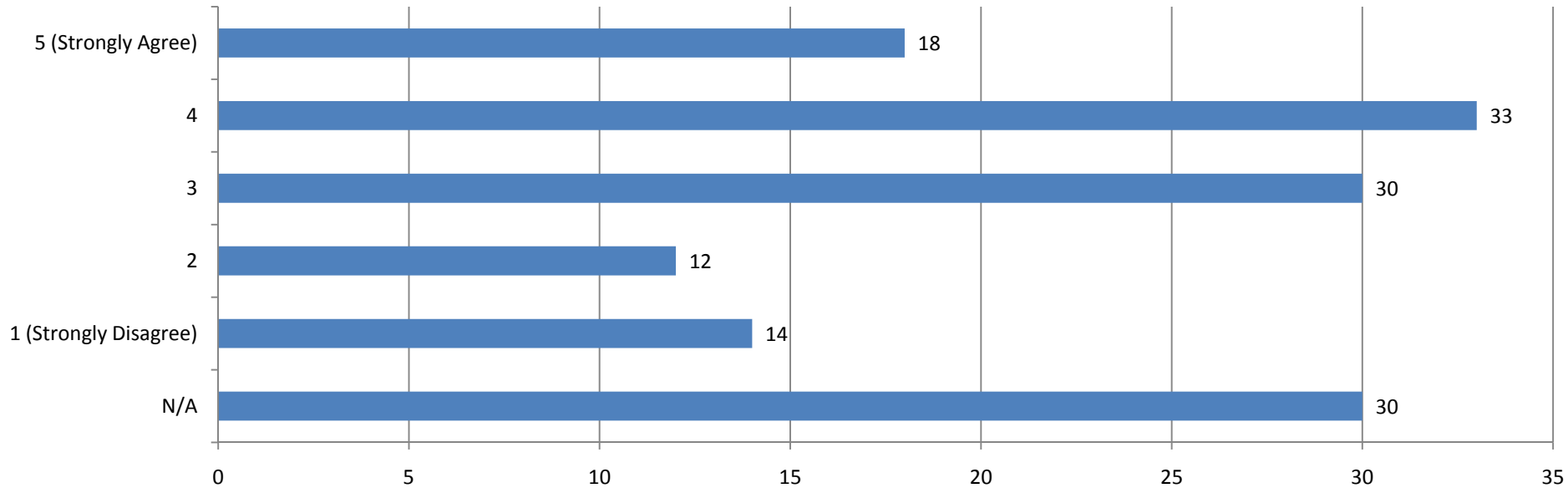
Have you served (now or in the past) on a Faculty Senate committee (as a senator or as a non-senator)?



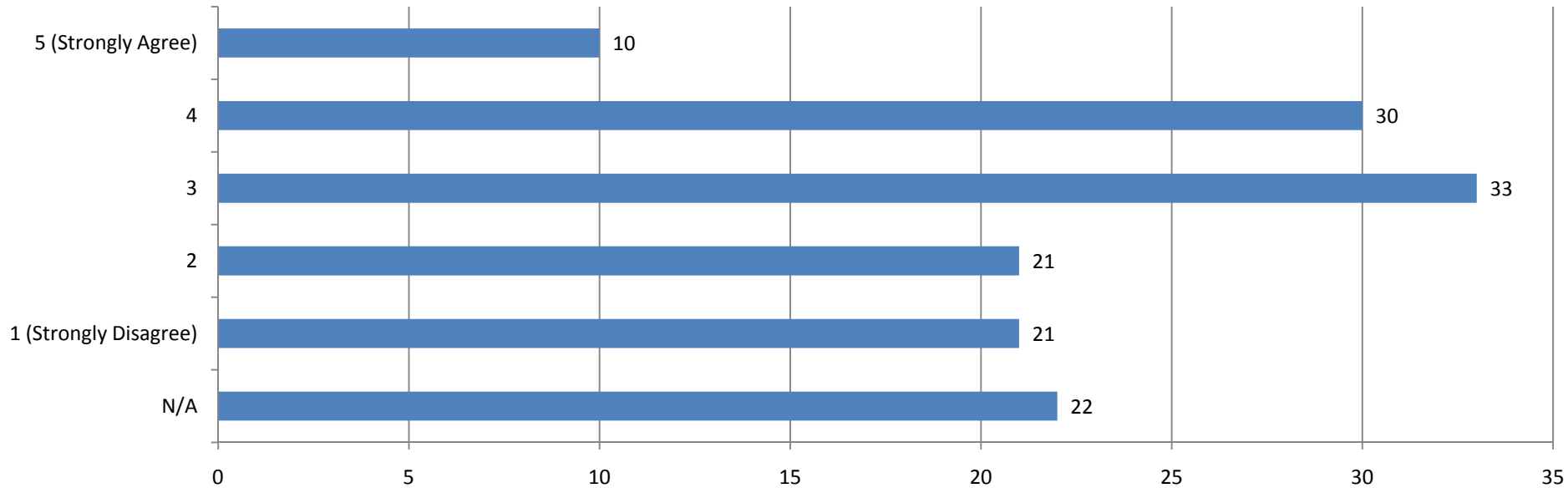
Are you a Faculty Senator, or have you been a Faculty Senator during the past five years?



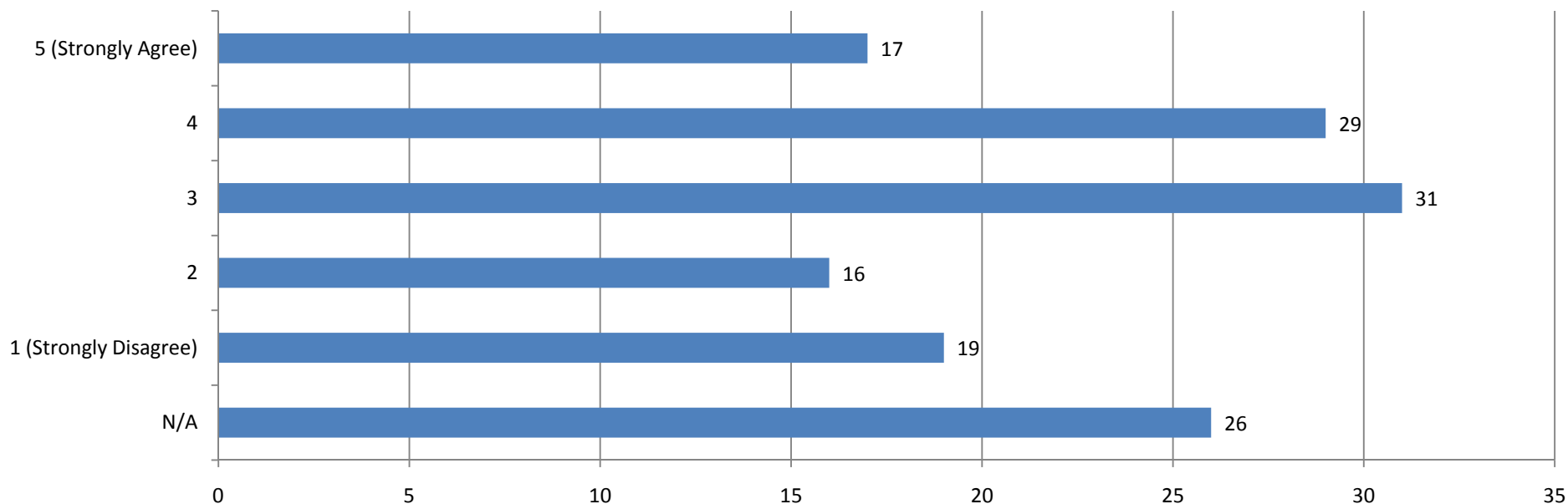
Serving in the Faculty Senate was a good use of my time.



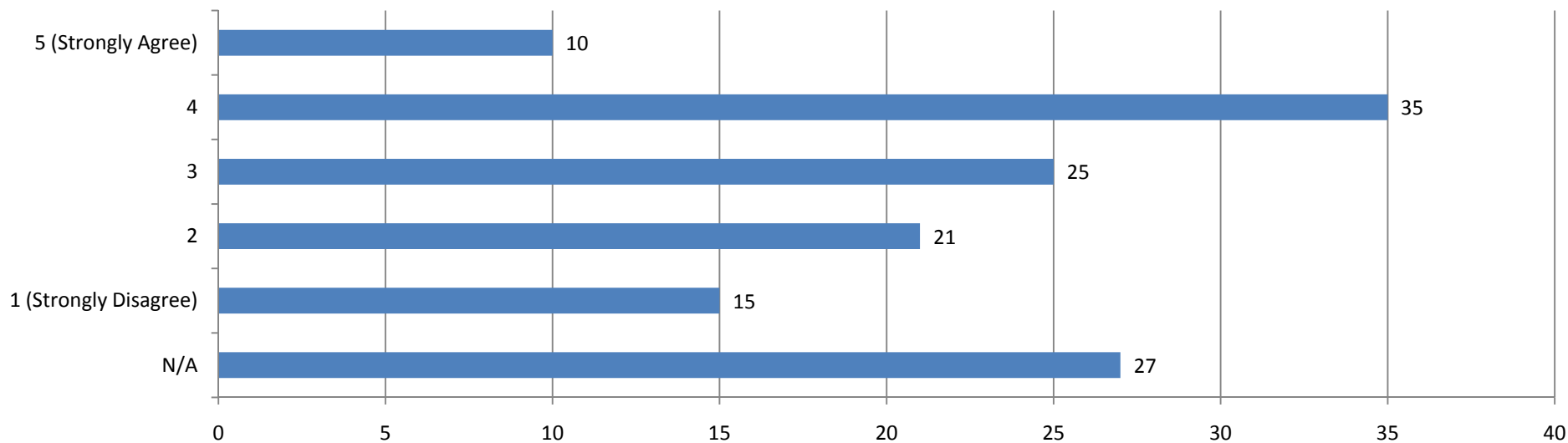
The Faculty Senate has clear objectives.



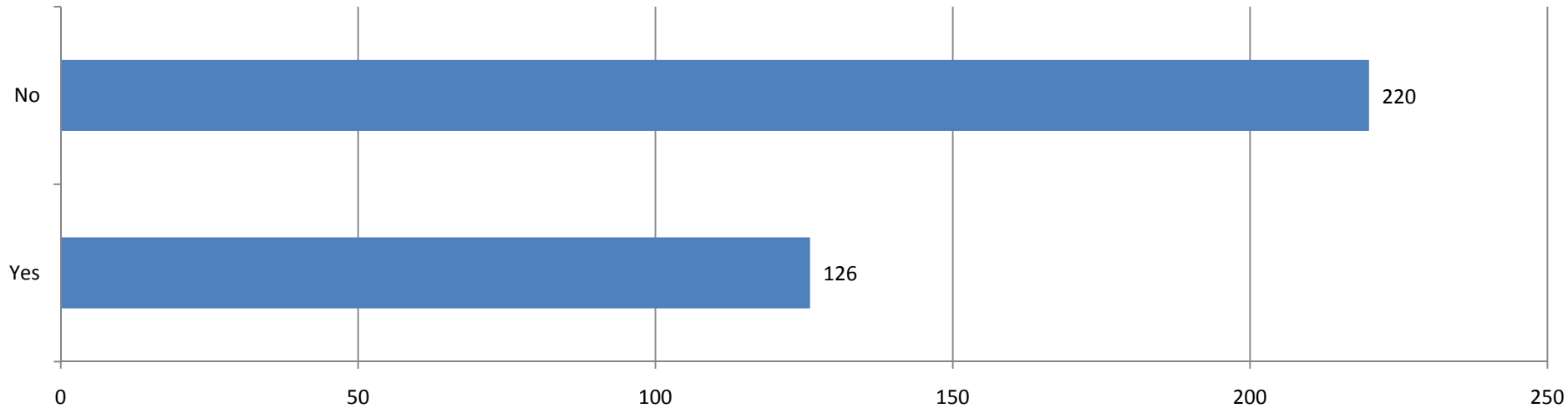
Faculty Senate meetings are run in an efficient manner.



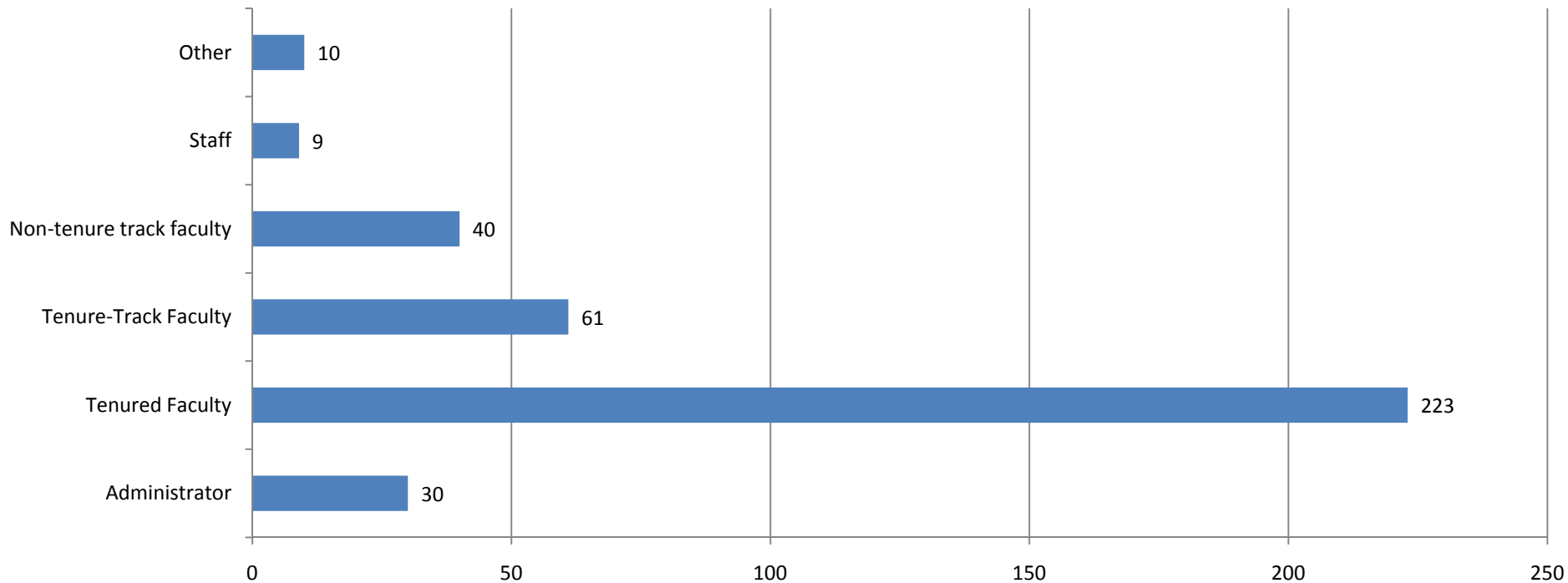
When I was first elected, I received sufficient information about the Faculty Senate and how it operates.



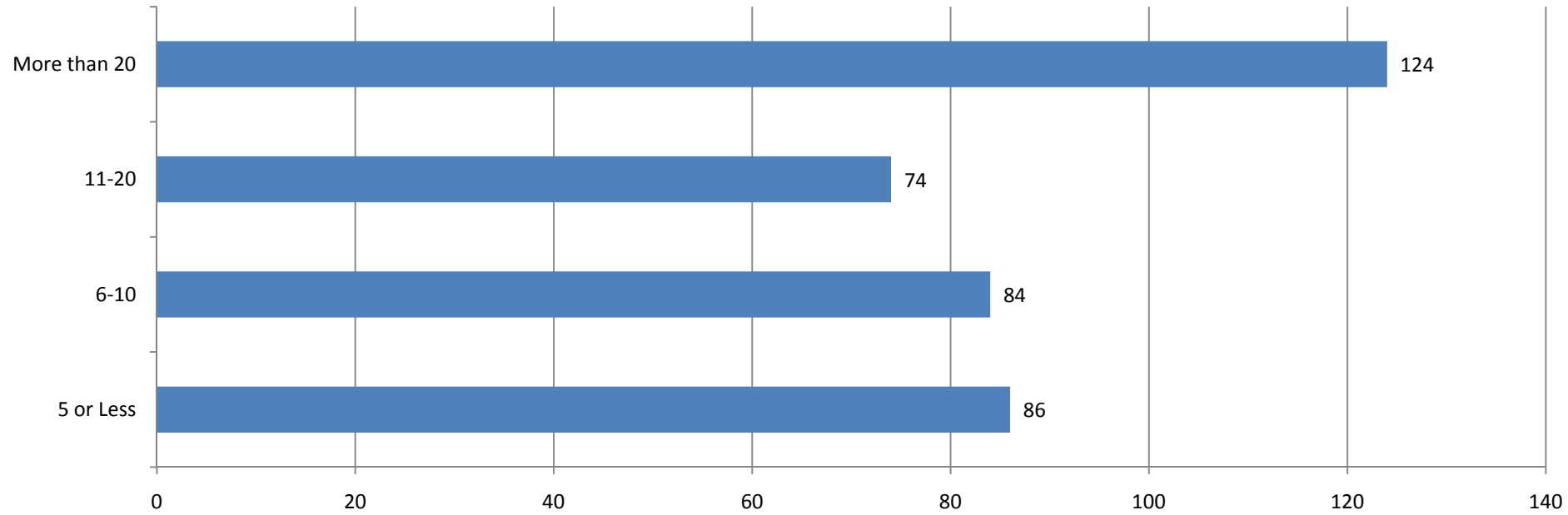
Would you consider running for a seat in the Faculty Senate in the future?



Which best describes your position?



How many years have you worked at UTK?



Constitution of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS)

Article I: Name

The name of this Association shall be Tennessee University Faculty Senates (TUFS).

Article II: Purposes

This Association shall have as its purposes:

- 1) To facilitate communication and cooperation between the various Faculty Senates and Councils of the State of Tennessee's public universities
- 2) To foster the role played by the Faculty in the shared governance of Tennessee's public universities
- 3) To represent the missions, accomplishments and needs of public universities to state agencies and to the general public of the State of Tennessee

Article III: Membership

This Association shall be composed of the Tennessee public university Faculty Senates and Faculty Councils that elect to become members.

Article IV: Meetings

General meetings of the Association shall be held twice annually, during the Fall and Spring academic semesters. The date of a meeting shall be fixed at the meeting immediately preceding it.

Additional meetings may be called with the approval of a majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives. In such instances, voting may occur by mail ballot or by electronic ballot.

Article V: Voting

Each member body shall be entitled to one vote. One person shall be elected by each member body as its voting representative. Each body shall also elect an alternate voting representative who shall participate in the discussions of the Association and who shall be empowered to vote in the voting representative's absence. In the event that neither the voting representative nor the alternate voting representative are able to attend a meeting, the secretary of the member body affected shall certify in writing to the Secretary of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates the name of an individual authorized to vote on the body's behalf during that meeting.

Voting representatives and alternate voting representatives shall be current members or immediate past members of Tennessee public university Faculty Senates or Councils. An immediate past member of a Faculty Senate or Council is anyone who was a member of such a body at any time in the preceding two years.

The names of the voting representative and the alternate voting representative shall be certified in writing by the secretary of each member Faculty Senate or Faculty Council. This certification shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Tennessee University Faculty Senates.

Motions to be voted on at the general meetings shall be submitted to the member bodies at least thirty days before the general meetings of the Association. The following exception to the provision holds: at general meetings, voting representatives may authorize that motions be formally written, that they lie before the member bodies for thirty days, and that they be decided by the majority electronic vote or by the majority mail vote of the entire cohort of voting representatives. Routine and operational voting may occur without thirty days notice.

In the case of a tie vote, the President shall resolve the tie by casting the deciding vote.

Article VI: Officers

The officers of the Association shall be the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, and the Immediate Past-President. They shall be known collectively as the Executive Committee. The President and the President-Elect shall serve a one-year term, and the Secretary shall serve a two-year term. These officers shall be elected by the voting representatives of the Association's member bodies. Officers of the Association shall be current or immediate past members of these constituent bodies. The President and the President-Elect may not be the voting representatives or alternate voting representatives from their respective institutions.

The President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates shall:

- 1) Preside over general meetings of Tennessee University Faculty Senates and meetings of the Association's Executive Committee
- 2) Provide an agenda for all meetings to the membership
- 3) Report at general meetings on all business transacted by the Executive Committee
- 4) Act as the official spokesperson for Tennessee University Faculty Senates in all external communications
- 5) Serve as a liaison to state agencies, including the University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Board of Regents, and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

The President-Elect shall assist the President in the performance of constitutional duties. The President-Elect shall become President immediately upon the expiration of the President's term.

The Secretary shall keep minutes of all general meetings of the Association, and of all meetings of the Executive Committee.

The Immediate Past-President of Tennessee University Faculty Senates shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee for a period of one year.

Vacancies on the Executive Committee may be filled on an ad interim basis by the Executive Committee. Such vacancies shall be filled by the voting representatives at the next general meeting of the Association.

Except under exceptional circumstances, the Presidency shall alternate between a faculty member from a University of Tennessee institution, and a faculty member from a Tennessee Board of Regents institution.

Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

Article VII: Standing Committees and Ad hoc Committees

Tennessee University Faculty Senates may establish such committees as it deems advisable, and shall prescribe the duties of these committees. Committee chairs shall be elected by the voting representatives from among the voting representatives and alternate voting representatives. The term of office for Standing Committee Chairs shall be two years. Ad hoc Committee Chairs shall have their term of office specified at the time of their election. Committee members shall be elected from a list comprised of candidates proposed by the various Faculty Senates and Councils. The term of office for committee members shall be two years. Ad hoc committee members shall have their term of office specified at the time of their election.

Article VIII: Amendments to the Constitution

Any proposed amendment to the constitution shall require approval by a two-thirds majority of the entire cohort of voting representatives.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the most recent revision of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the present Constitution or with any special rules adopted by the Association.

Sharonne,
Please also include the press release below in the senate meeting materials for Monday.
Thanks!

John Nolt
Professor
President, Faculty Senate
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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Margo S Holland/CM/VET/UTIA [mailto:msholland@mail.ag.utk.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, October 15, 2008 8:43 AM
To: Nolt, John E
Subject: UT Announces Graduation Success Rate for 1998-201 Classes

I received this communication from Tiffany Carpenter and wanted to share it with the faculty senate so I'm forwarding it to you. I would appreciate it if you would include this information with the material you send to faculty senators in preparation for the Oct. meeting.

I'm still unable to access the listserv which is the reason I'm sending it to your rather than sending it out myself.

Margo S. Holland, DVM, PhD
Associate Professor
Comparative Medicine
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(865) 974-1361
October 14, 2008
tcarpent@utk.edu

**UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE ANNOUNCES
GRADUATION SUCCESS RATE FOR 1998-2001 CLASSES**

The University of Tennessee men's and women's athletics departments announced Wednesday a graduation success rate of 78 percent for student-athletes who entered the university from 1998-99 through 2001-2002.

In 2005 the NCAA rolled out a new graduation success rate (GSR) calculation to measure the academic success of student-athletes at NCAA member institutions. The graduation success rate for University of Tennessee student-athletes in the 1997-2000 cohorts, which was released last year, was 73 percent.

The GSR allows institutions to add transfer students on scholarship that fit into the 1998-2001 freshmen classes and delete those students that choose to leave and are academically eligible according to Progress toward Degree Requirements.

UT also announced the student-athlete federal graduation rate for the 2001-02 freshman class was 61 percent and the student-athlete federal graduation rate for the four year average was 58 percent, compared to a graduation rate for the general student body of 58 percent for the same time periods.

The University of Tennessee's graduation success rates and federal rates for individual sports were:

Men's Sports	GSR	Federal Rate
Baseball	56	30
Basketball	38	20
Cross Country/Track and Field	86	73
Football	54	36
Golf	50	36
Swimming and Diving	75	56
Tennis	80	0

Women's Sports	GSR	Federal Rate
Basketball	100	76
Cross Country/Track and Field	96	75

Rowing	100	83
Golf	86	71
Soccer	95	80
Softball	88	67
Swimming	88	63
Tennis	100	80
Volleyball	100	71

The University of Tennessee already had an internal system in place to measure the academic success rate of its student-athletes. The success rate is similar to the GSR, but does not take out students based on transfer. Rather it looks at all scholarship student-athletes in the 2001-2002 freshmen class and then calculates the rate based on their eligibility to be a student at the University of Tennessee. Instead of removing students from the calculation based on leaving the university, which would include athletes who leave to pursue professional careers or transfer to another college or university, it simply looks at the percent of students that were eligible to be students at the University of Tennessee. The academic success rate for this group was 90.5 percent, meaning 90.5 percent of the 2001-2002 freshmen scholarship student-athletes were eligible to return to the university and complete their degrees.

“I am pleased with the success our students have in the classroom. The new graduation success rate is a better indicator than the federal rate of the academic success our students have. The Thornton Center staff works hard to help our students move toward graduation,” said Eric Brey, director of the Thornton Center.

“I am very proud of the accomplishments our student-athletes have made. The Thornton Center staff has done a great job keeping our student-athletes on track to graduate,” said Joan Cronan, women’s athletic director.

The university encourages former athletes who left in good standing to return to the university to achieve their degree. The Renewing Academic Commitment (RAC) Program works with former student-athletes by assisting them with advice on degree requirements remaining, course scheduling, tutoring, employment and internship opportunities offered through the CHAMPS/Life Skills Office, and use of the Thornton Center for their every day needs.

“The RAC program has been a great way for former athletes to return to school and finish their degree,” said Mike Hamilton, men’s athletic director.

There are currently more than 20 former student-athletes that are working with the RAC Program. In 2007-08, there were six graduates in the RAC Program.

A key focus for the University of Tennessee athletic programs is to graduate student-athletes and

prepare them for real-world experiences. In 2001, the University of Tennessee opened the Thornton Athletics Student Life Center to provide student-athletes with superior academic support programs and personal and career development assistance. Since the creation of the Thornton Center, Tennessee's student-athletes have achieved increasing academic success:

- During the 2007-2008 school year, 80 current and former Vols and Lady Vols graduated from the University of Tennessee, continuing Tennessee athletics' tradition of commitment to the classroom.
- Tennessee had 226 student-athletes who achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the fall of 2007 and 233 student-athletes who achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the spring of 2008.
- Twenty-nine former student-athletes have returned to earn their bachelor's degree through the RAC program since fall 2003.

With the recent changes to NCAA rules for academic progression, the role of the Thornton Center is even more important. The new academic progress towards degree requirements require a student-athlete to complete various percentage toward degree requirements, specific grade point averages, and other requirements to remain eligible to compete.

"The Thornton Center has been very active in the NCAA's academic progression discussions and has put in place a great framework to make sure our athletes stay on track," said Hamilton. "If our student-athletes aren't winning academically, they won't be competing."

-VOLS-

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