



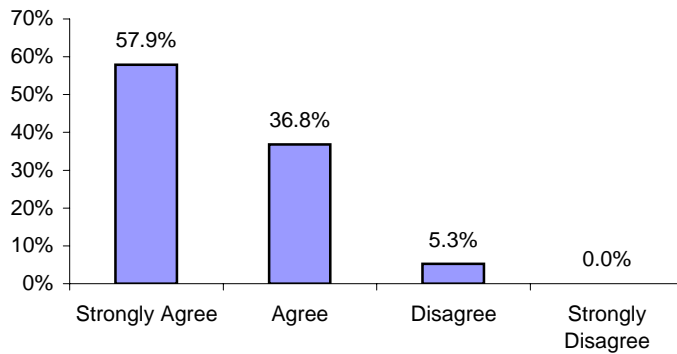
2006 Academic Senate Self-Assessment Survey

Collated Responses

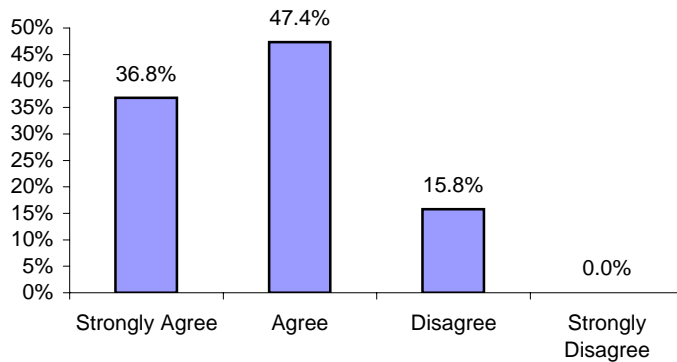
May 2006

ROLE OF ACADEMIC SENATE

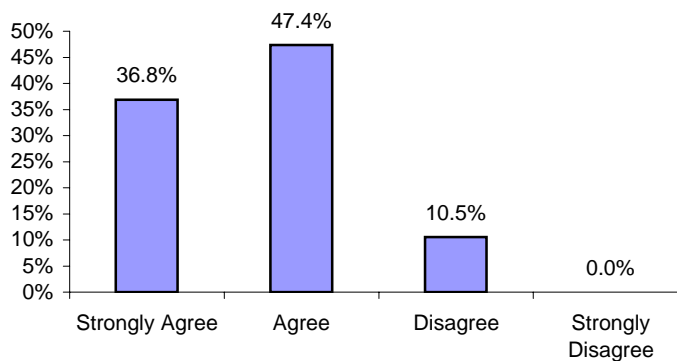
Q1. I have a good understanding of the Committee's role.



Q2. The Committee's terms of reference are clear.

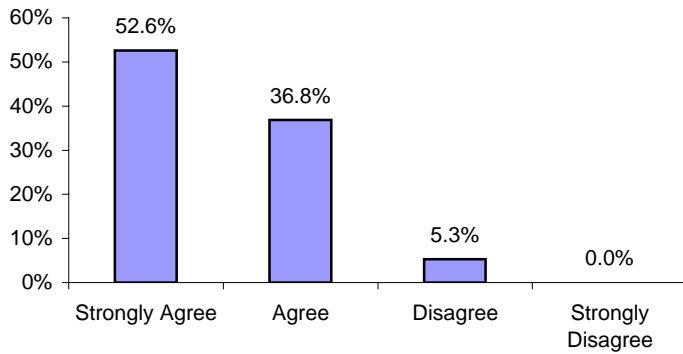


Q3. The terms of reference are appropriate for the Committee's mission.



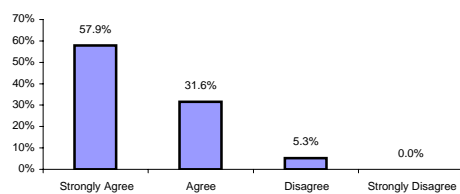
MEMBERSHIP

Q4. I have a good understanding of my role and responsibilities as a member of the Committee.

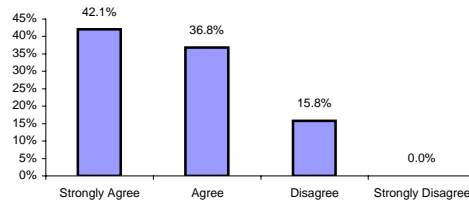


Q5. The following groups have sufficient representation on the Committee:

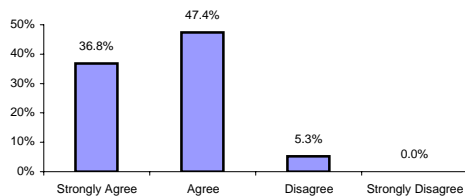
Academic staff



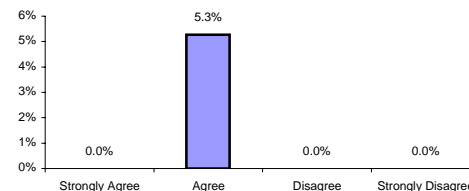
Non-academic staff



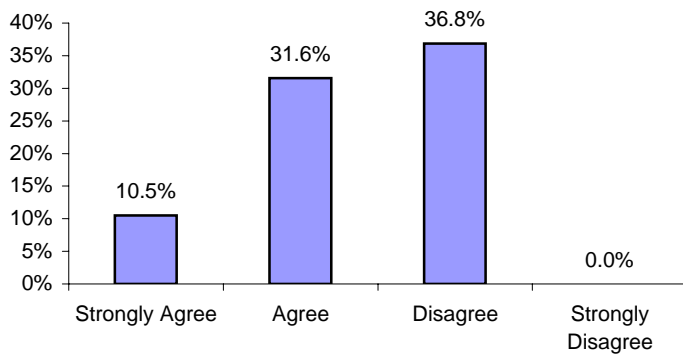
Students



Others

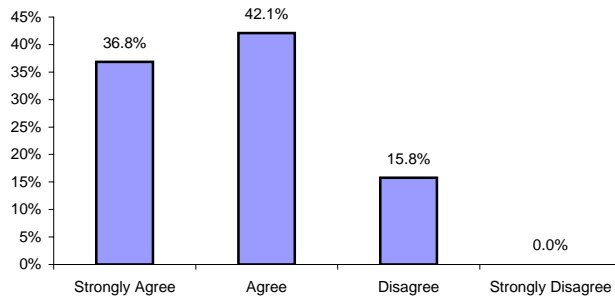


Q6. New members receive adequate induction.

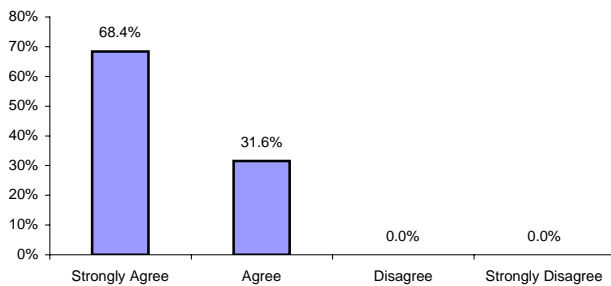


MEETINGS

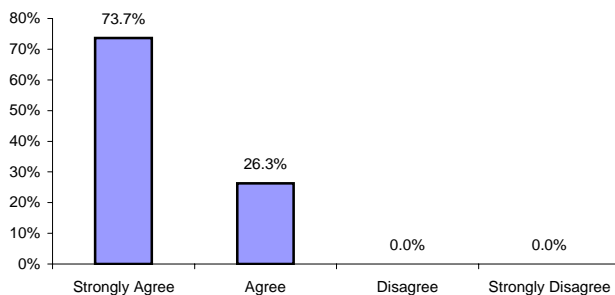
Q7. Committee meetings, as they are currently organised and conducted, provide an effective way of accomplishing the business of the Committee.



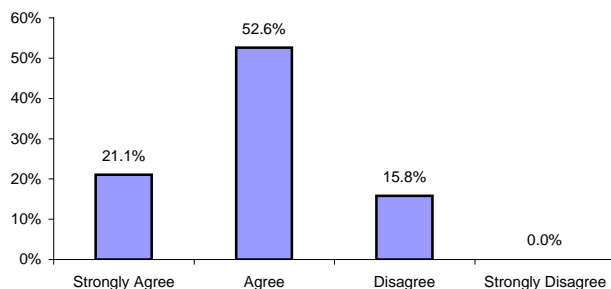
Q8. Committee agendas are well presented and the format is clear and easy to follow.



Q9. Committee papers are provided in a timely manner, allowing members to consider matters fully.

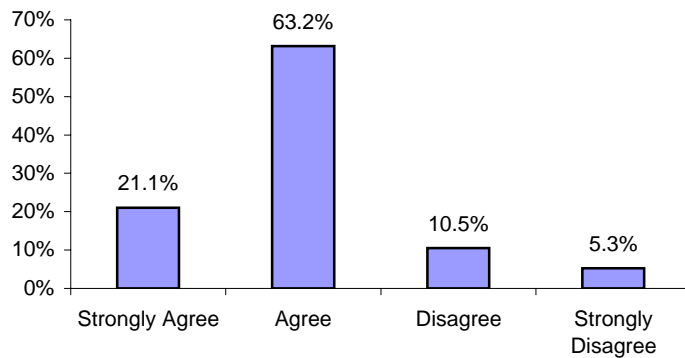


Q10. It is clear how action arising from discussions is followed up and implemented.



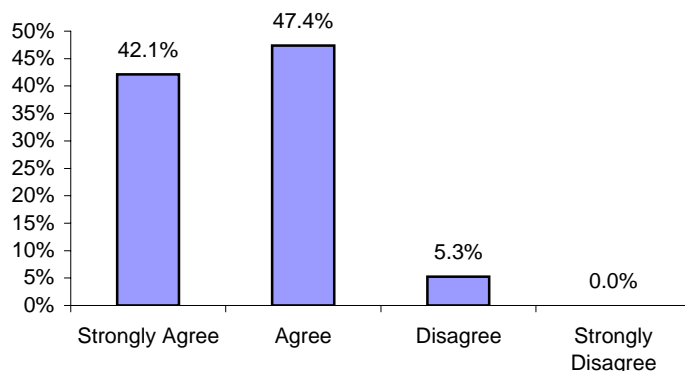
COMMUNICATION WITH/FROM ACADEMIC SENATE SUB-COMMITTEES

Q11. I am satisfied with how business and decisions of the sub-committees are communicated to Academic Senate.



CONSULTATION

Q12. The Committee seeks appropriate input from interested parties (eg. faculties, committees, Policy & Governance Unit, CEDIR, students and interest groups) in its decision-making.



COMMENTS

Respondent

#8 The work of the Senate is accomplished in an orderly and effective manner.

#10 I am unsure as to whether there is a formal induction for new members. Looking back through all my Senate-related emails I cannot find a record of any induction resources.

#12 A flow chart would be helpful in tracking the decision making process from initiation through to when matter reaches Academic Senate, and thereafter.

#17 I would like to hear brief updates from Senate reps who are on Uni committees, for example Senate Standing Committee or the University Education Committee.

GENERAL

Q13. What matters or issues has Academic Senate handled most effectively during the last year, and why?

- #6 Course proposals, etc - interested/concerned parties have the chance to air views/concerns, while undue time is not taken up when proposals are fine.
- #8 Contributions from student members. Student contributions are encouraged and are responded to in a manner that demonstrates respect for student views and concerns.
- #13 Approval of new courses and subjects - generally done smoothly and efficiently.
- #14 Policy approval. Consultation adequate (actually v. good) and appropriate for breadth of policy being approved/improved/amended.
- #16 Senior Executive reports on policy developments and market trends affecting the Higher Education sector, and in particular, UOW.
- #17 (1) Ensuring new/modified policy proposals have the opportunity for input by the academic community. (2) Reports from VC and PVCs. These reports importantly provide the opportunity to pass information out to those in the Uni community who may not be involved at the executive levels of the university.
- #19 Encouraging student members' attendance and participation. Very well organised meetings documentation

Q14. What matters or issues has Academic Senate handled least effectively during the last year, and why?

- #6 Nothing specific.
- #13 Standardising/simplifying procedures re academic misconduct. Process for dealing with these matters still has too many "gaps".
- #14 I have no response to this question.
- #19 At times, unclear background to items of General Business. The "drafted by" etc at bottom of relevant page helps.

Q15. Based on your involvement with Academic Senate in 2006, what aspect of the committee is most in need of change or development? (Please include suggestions for how this might be achieved.)

- #5 The chair needs to forgo his tendency to editorialise everything. Members' business, for example, is pushed too much. We are aware of its function, so we don't need to be reminded every meeting. There are times when the rules of debate need to be enforced (eg we don't need 5 speakers in a row all speaking for or against a motion). By eliminating these time-wasting elements, we could get discussion time for things that need more conceptual thought.
- #6 I do wonder how student members feel at times. I think they have a voice and are given a chance to express it (last meeting as an example), but how much do they understand about Senate's role and functions, and their role within it? Only an observation.
- #14 Course approval mechanisms. Also mechanisms for review of courses.

- #17 Try to minimise letting discussion get bogged down in grammar. While wording is of course very important, perhaps there could be a time limit, or let committee members identify they have concerns and lodge the details by email.
- #18 More time for academic debate and less time on routine business. Fewer ex-officio positions and more people who actually want to be there, but also decreasing overall size of Senate.
- #19 I think Senate is working well.

Q16. What matters do you want debated or discussed at the "Members Business Only" meeting in 2007?

- #5 The space-utilisation survey and its implications.
- #17 How to avoid getting bogged down in issues of grammar when discussing policy documents.
- #18 (i) The University core business model. What are we here for, and what is the relative importance of teaching and research. (ii) The impact of the current admin support model on academic performance and ultimately the standing of UOW globally.
- #19 Strategies to develop UOW uniquely different T&L and Research approaches.

Q17. Please express any other views you might have about the role and effectiveness of Academic Senate over the past year.

- #4 Senate provides an important information sharing forum. It concerns me that so much paper is distributed which is never discussed, especially course approvals which should be considered core business. More of the documentation should be made available for consultation on a website rather than issuing hundreds of print copies.
- #6 New members are introduced and assisted to feel a part of Senate, which is good.
- #10 I believe Senate is operating effectively. The Senate leadership team are doing an excellent job.
- #19 The VC, Chair and Senior Executive reports are very timely and informative.