

# What Keeps You Up at Night?



Webcast on *Inside Higher Ed*  
2022 Survey of College  
and University Presidents  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022

# Presenters



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# Methodology

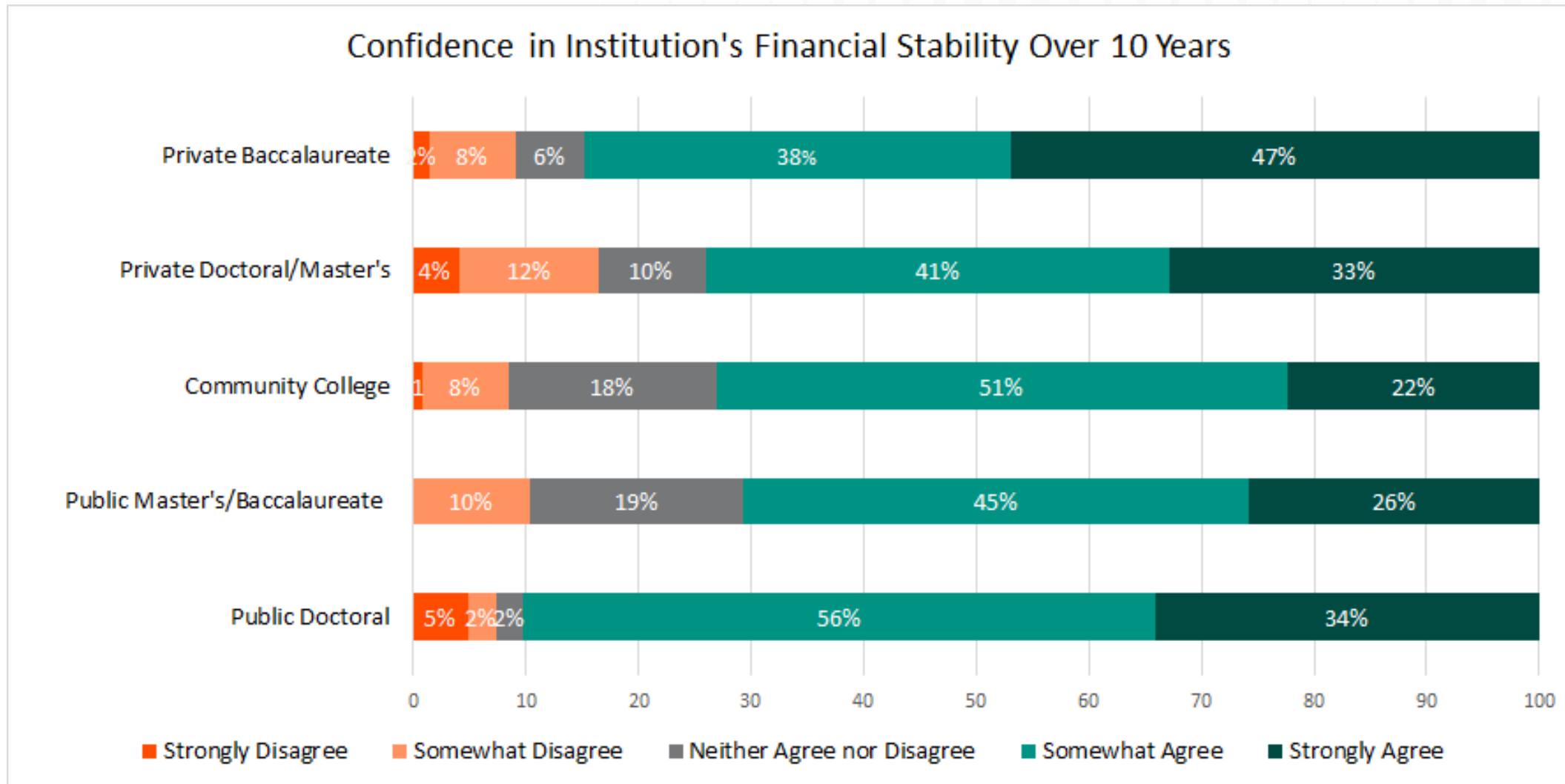
- Questions prepared by *Inside Higher Ed*, in collaboration with Hanover Research.
- Polling conducted in January/February.
- 375 presidents responded; 230 public (130 community college), 141 private nonprofit; nationally representative.
- Complete anonymity for respondents, but answers coded to allow for breakdown by sector, geography, etc.

# The Financial Picture



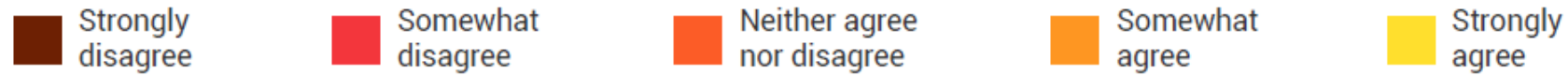
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# Upbeat About Financial Stability



# Better or Worse Off?

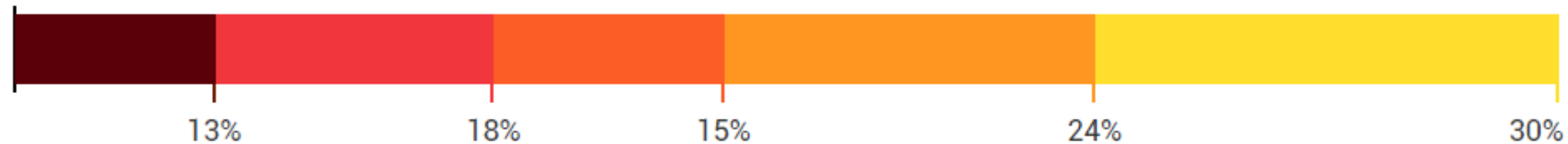
Please indicate how much you disagree or agree with the following statements.



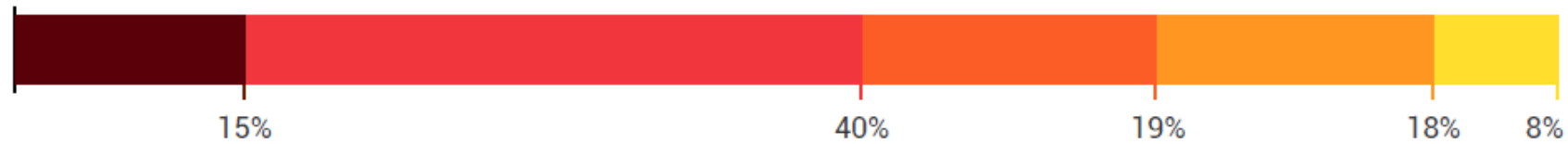
My institution is in better financial shape now than it was a year ago. (n=375)



My institution is in better financial shape now than it was in 2019. (n=375)



My institution is in better financial shape now than I expect it to be year from now. (n=375)

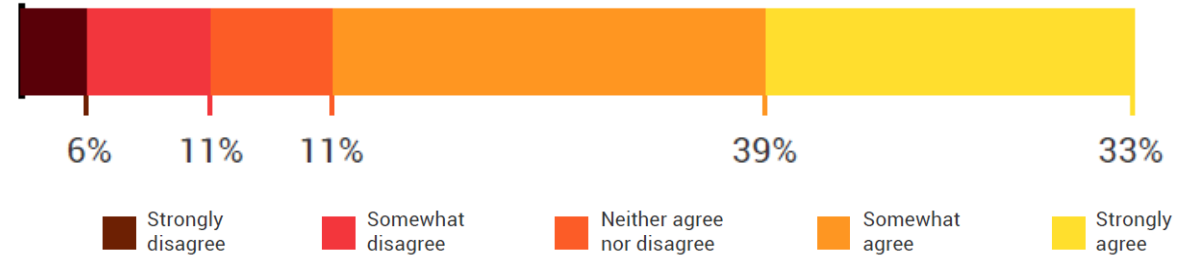


# The Pandemic's Impact



# COVID as Impetus for Change

I believe my institution needs to make fundamental changes in its business models, programming, or other operations. (n=340)



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

My institution...

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree

...was pushed to think out of the box during the pandemic in a way that will benefit the institution in the long run. (n=340)



...will keep some of the COVID-19-related changes even after the pandemic ends. (n=339)



...was able to implement some positive, long-lasting institutional changes during the pandemic. (n=341)



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%



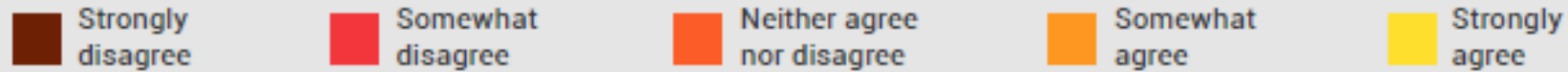
# Is Pressure Easing?

## Proportion of Presidents Strongly Agreeing

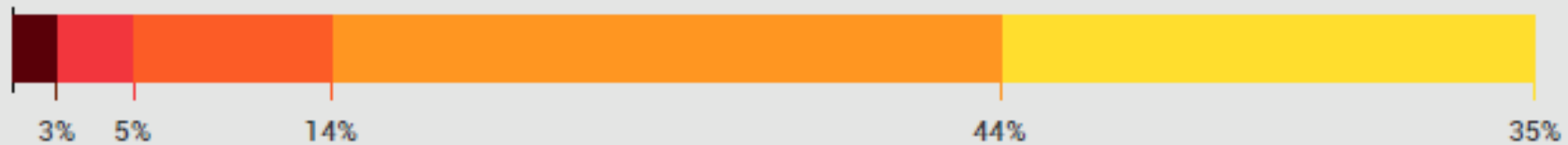
	2021	2022
The pandemic, and subsequent necessary changes (e.g., adjusting to distance learning), has created an opportunity for my institution to make other institutional changes we have been wanting to make anyway.	37%	27%
My institution will keep some of the COVID-19 related changes even after the pandemic ends.	62%	52%
I believe my institution needs to make fundamental changes in its business models, programming or other operations.	34%	33%

# National Shifts (or Not)

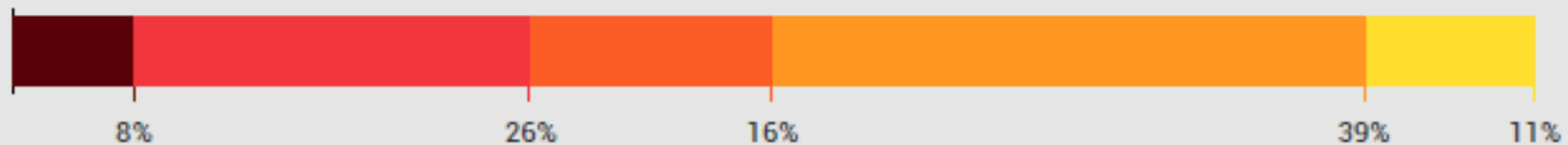
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about how COVID-19 has changed the higher education landscape?



Fewer prospective students and parents are interested in paying the same price for virtual learning as for in-person learning. (n=346)



COVID-19 will cause shift in enrollment trends for years to come, with more prospective students favoring virtual instruction than before the pandemic. (n=346)

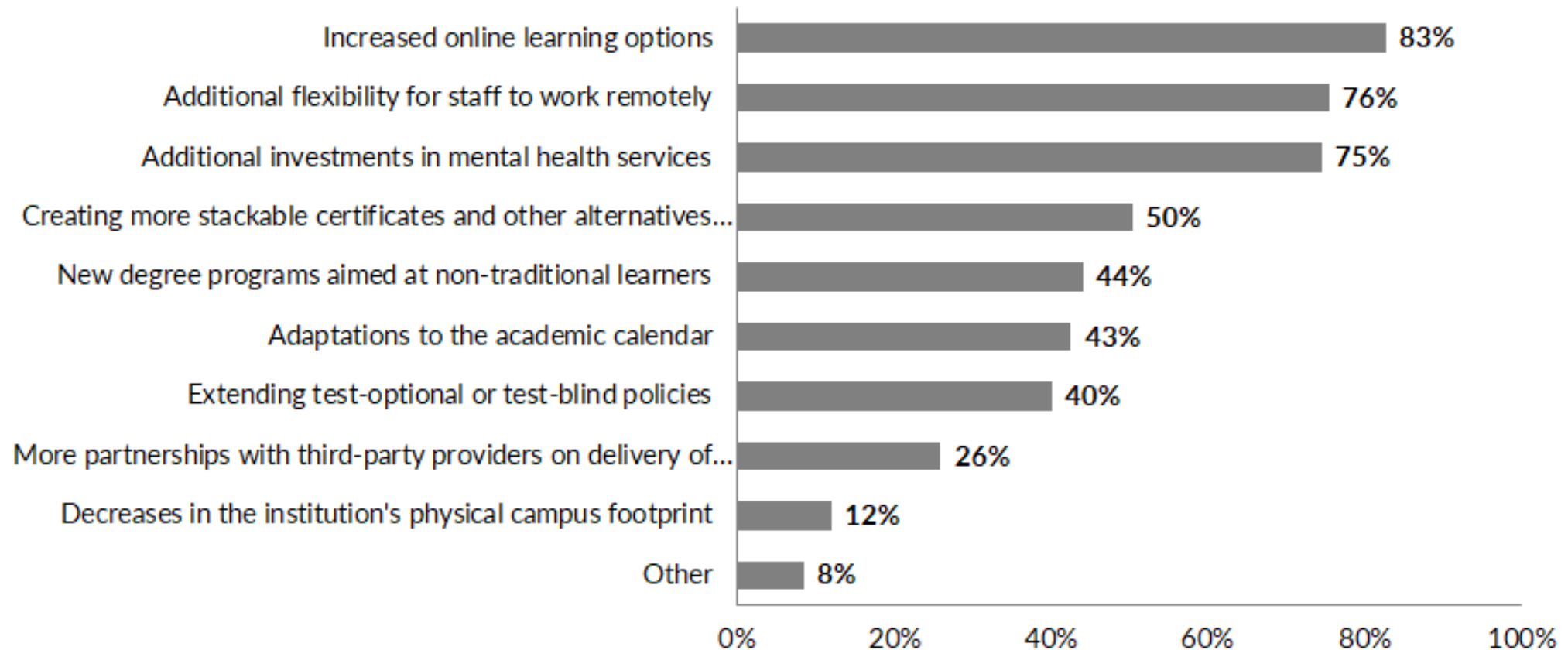


COVID-19 will cause a shift from more expensive colleges to more affordable ones, such as community colleges. (n=346)



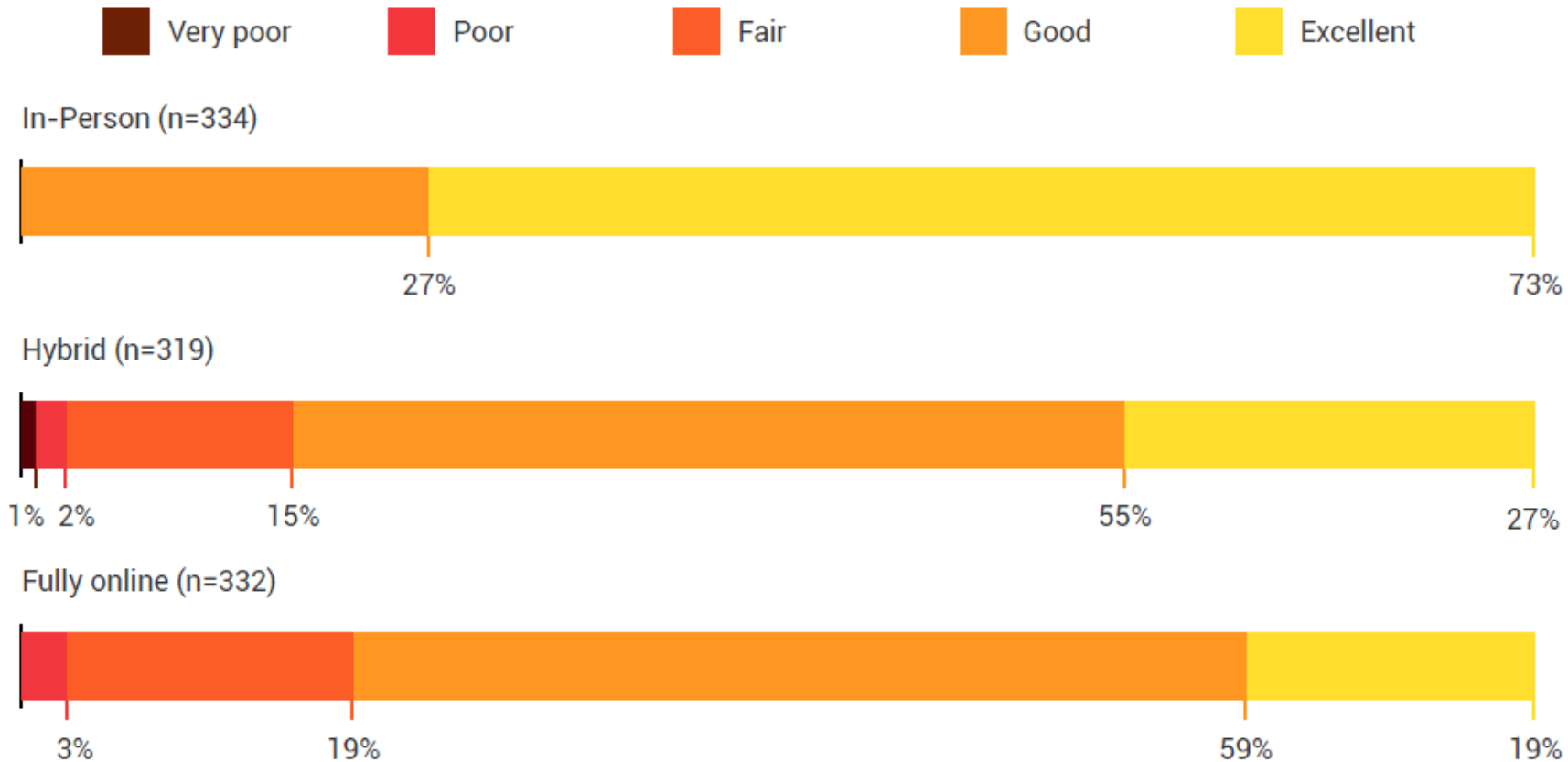
# The Changes They're Keeping

Which of the following changes has your institution made because of the pandemic that it plans to keep in the long term? Please select all that apply.



# Going Digital? Not So Much

How would you rate the overall/average quality of each of the following types of courses being delivered this spring at your institution?



# Staying Solo

Do you think your institution should or should not...



Should not



Should

...combine academic programs with those of another college or university in the next five years? (n=299)



...share administrative functions with another college or university in the next five years? (n=301)



...merge with another college or university in the next five years? (n=306)



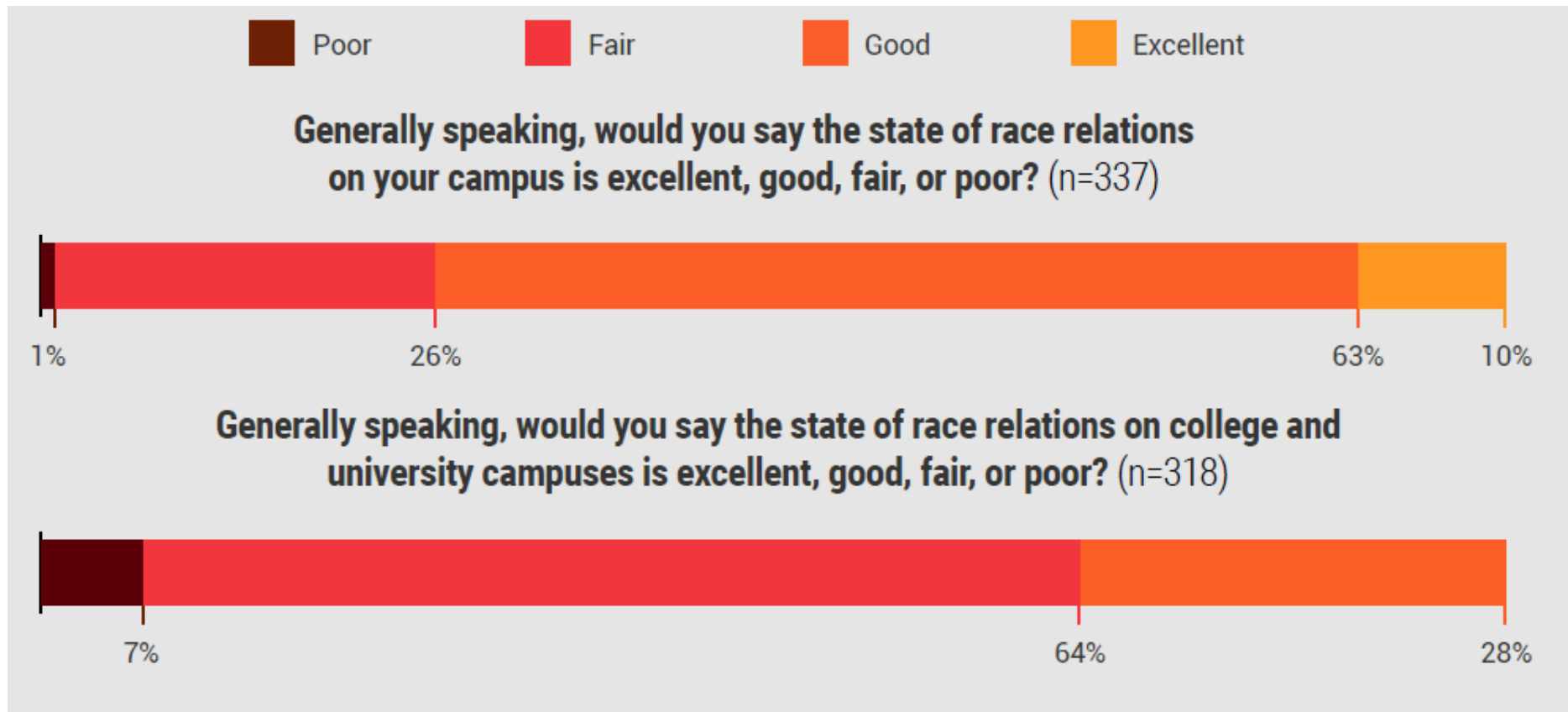
# Mental Health



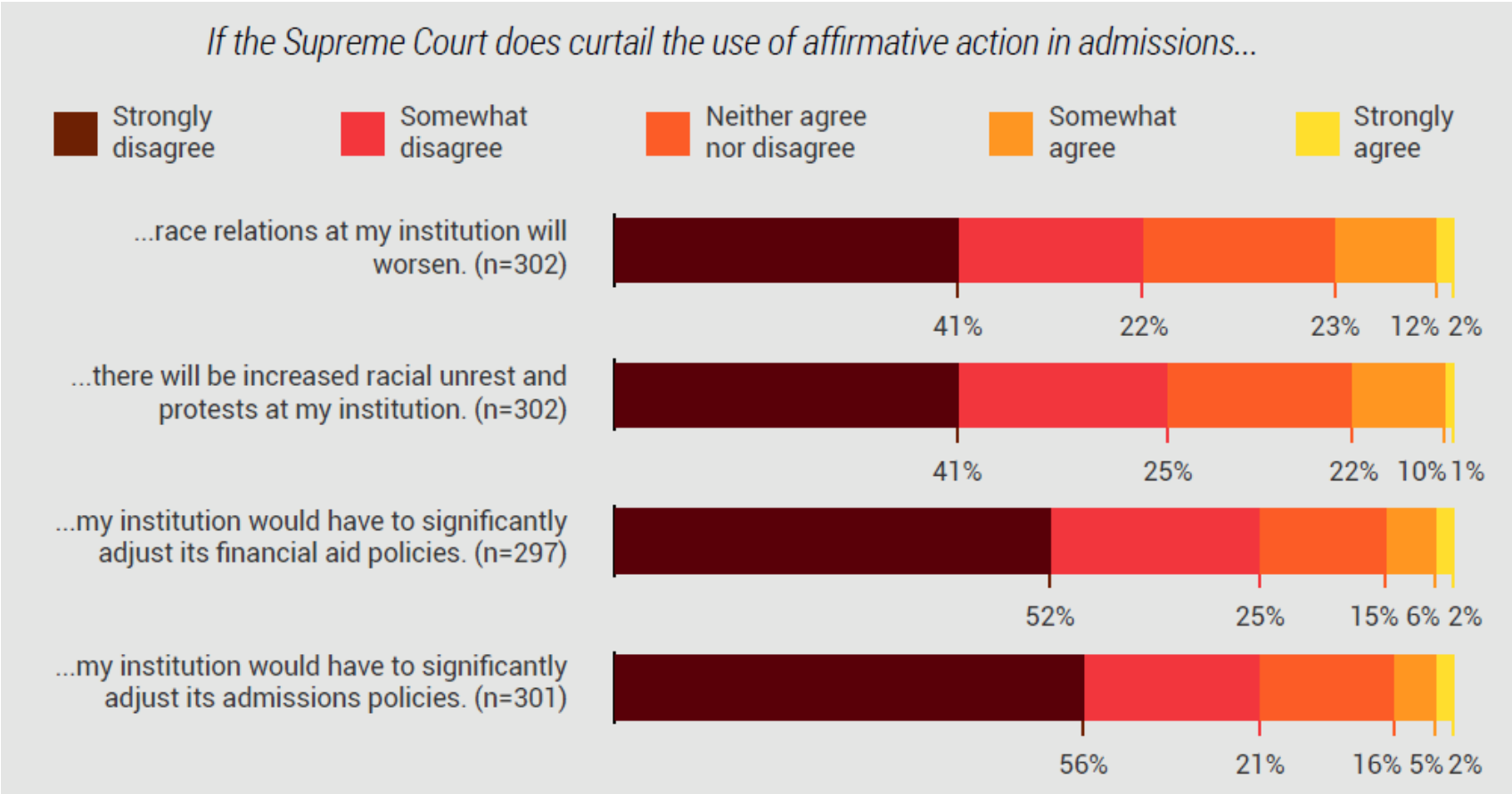
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- Presidents much more aware (69% very) of mental health needs of undergraduates compared to employees (55-57%) and grad students (40%).
- Two-thirds (but only 22% strongly) agree the institution has the capacity to meet needs of undergraduates – fewer agree for faculty, staff and graduate students.
- 7 in 10 of those expressing confidence in meeting the needs say they've increased budget for mental health services, invested in telehealth, and increased availability of counseling appointments.

# Campus Race Relations



# Little Worry About Affirmative Action





# Image and Politics

## Proportion Agreeing, 2020 vs. 2022

	2020	2022
I am worried about Republicans' increasing skepticism about higher education.	69%	79%
Republican doubts about higher education are justified.	13%	23%
Classrooms on my campus are as welcoming to conservative students as they are to liberal students.	65%	65%
The perception of colleges as places that are intolerant of conservative views is accurate.	28%	44%
The perception of colleges as places that are intolerant of conservative views is having a major negative impact on attitudes about higher education.	57%	78%

# Potpourri

- Slightly more than half of leaders say their institutions do not require students or employees to be vaccinated.
- Nearly 2/3 say fewer than a quarter of their students had contracted COVID-19 at the time of the survey. About a quarter estimate that more than half of students will have contracted COVID-19 by next fall.
- A majority of presidents (57%) agree that faculty members on their campuses “understand the challenges confronting my institution and our need to adapt.” Up significantly from before the pandemic.
- Fewer than half of campus leaders (45%) say that their institution “needs a shared governance process that allows for speedier decision making than we currently have.” That figure was 52% a year ago.

# Thanks

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