



**Inside
Higher
Ed**

2024 Survey of College and University Presidents

3.27.2024, 2 p.m. Eastern

Webcast | 2024 Survey of College and University Presidents

Hosts:

Colleen Flaherty,
Inside Higher Ed

Josh Moody,
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Panelists:

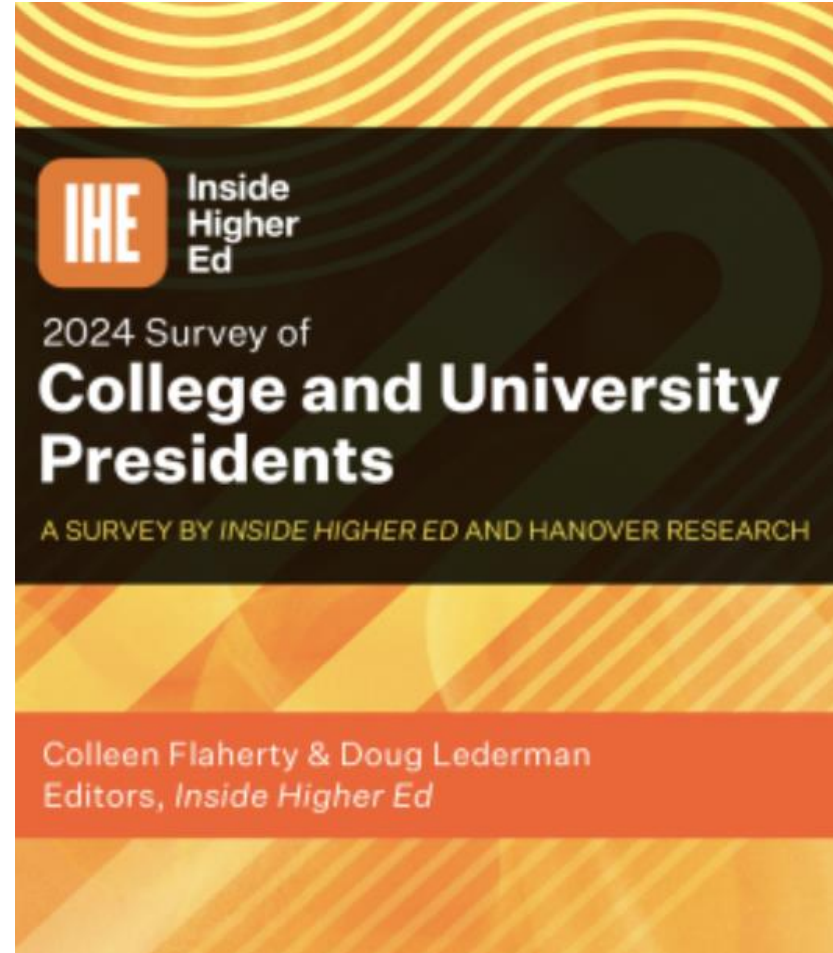
Freeman A. Hrabowski, III,
President Emeritus, University
of Maryland, Baltimore County

Patricia A. McGuire,
President, Trinity Washington
University

S. David Wu,
President, Baruch College, City
University of New York

About the Survey

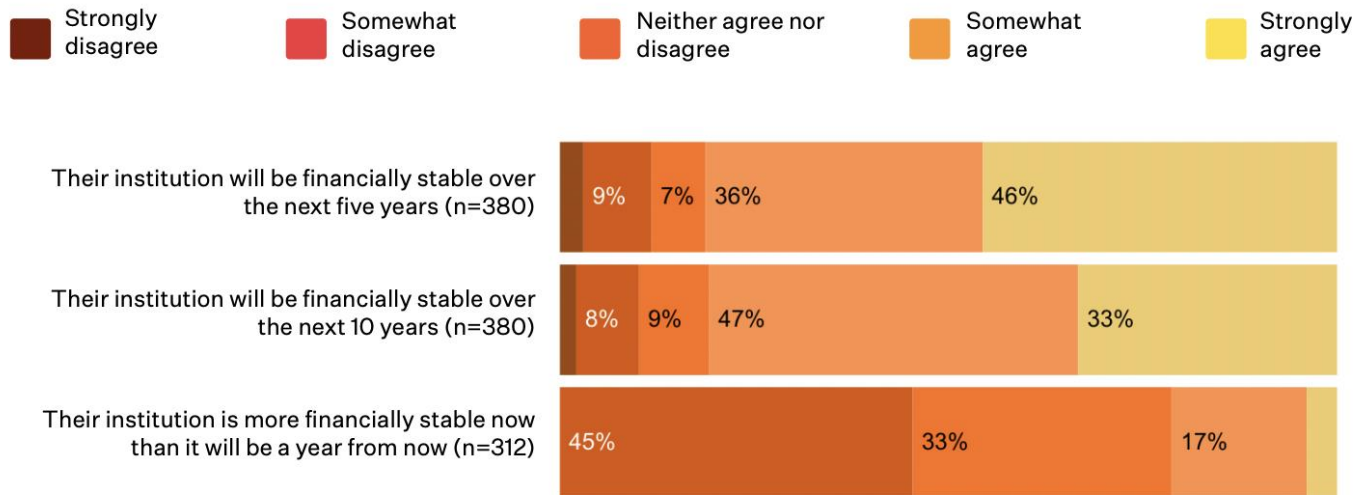
- 380 presidents at 2- and 4-year colleges and universities
- 206 public, 174 private nonprofit institutions represented
- Margin of error: 4.7%
- Response rate: 17.6%
- Partnered with Hanover Research



Key Findings

Presidents On: Financial Stability

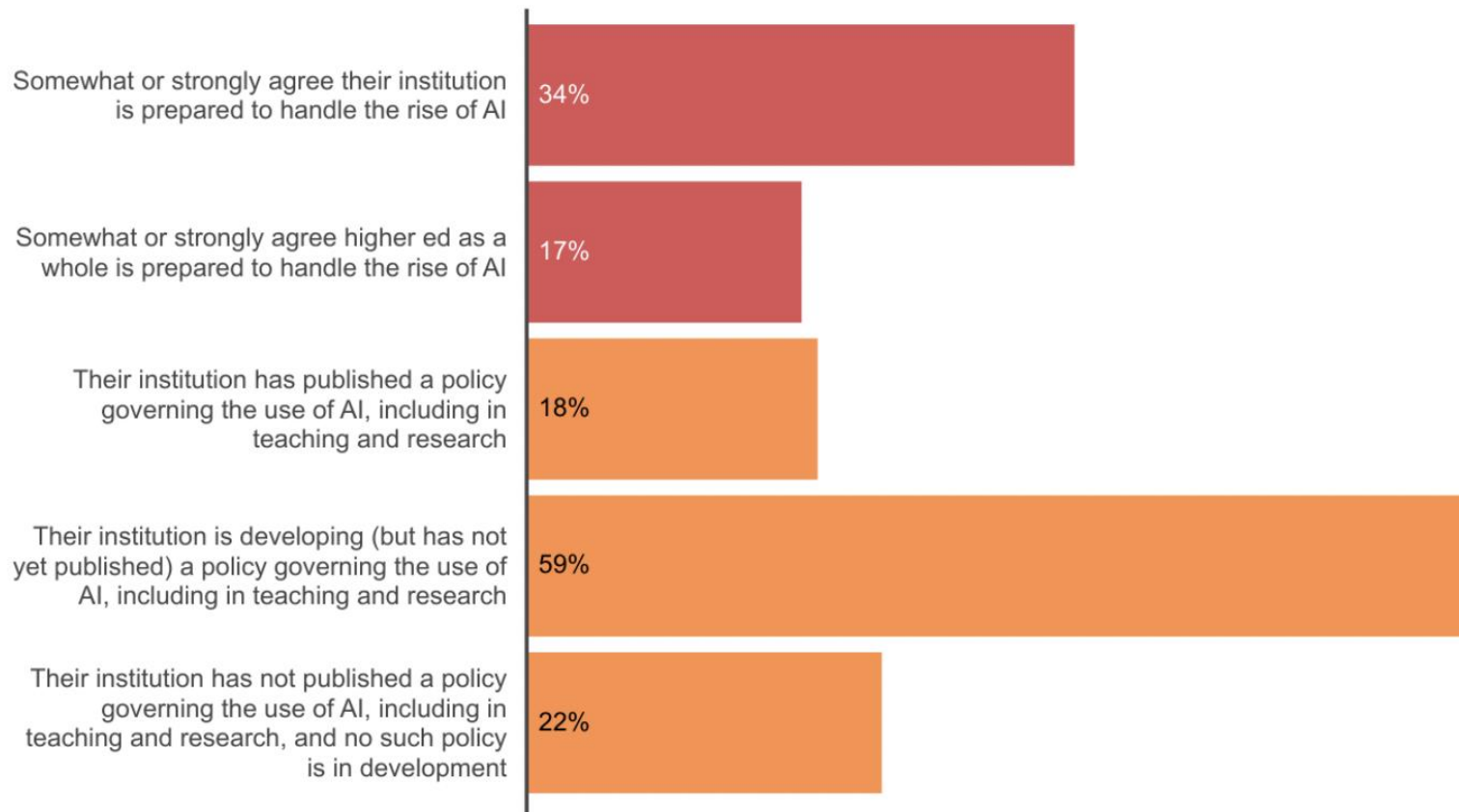
Presidents express their level of agreement with the following on institutional financial stability:



- 82% are confident their institution will be financially stable over the next 5 years, 80% over next 10 years
- Very few lack confidence in future as a freestanding institution by 2030
- 16% say that senior administrators at their institution have had serious internal merger discussions in the last year; most of these presidents support merging

Presidents On: Artificial Intelligence

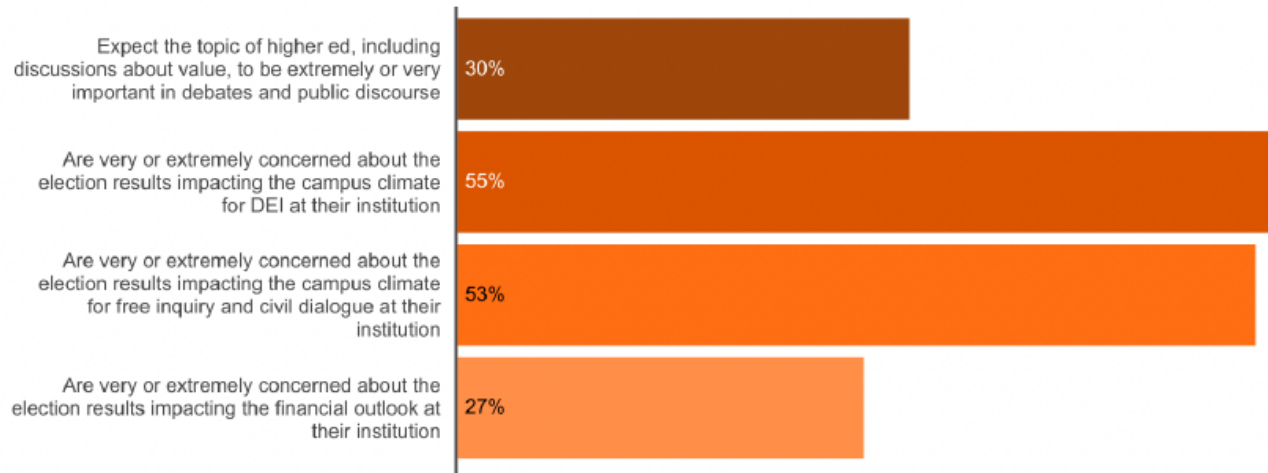
Presidents who indicate the following on AI (n=376):



- 50% are optimistic about AI's growing impact on higher ed
- Few are very concerned
- 34% agree that their institution is prepared to handle the rise of AI vs. 17% who agree higher ed as a whole is prepared to handle it
- Top use of AI is virtual chat assistants and chatbots (45%)
- 18% say their institution has developed a policy governing the use of AI, including teaching and research; 59% say such a policy is in development

Presidents On: Politics, Policy and the Election

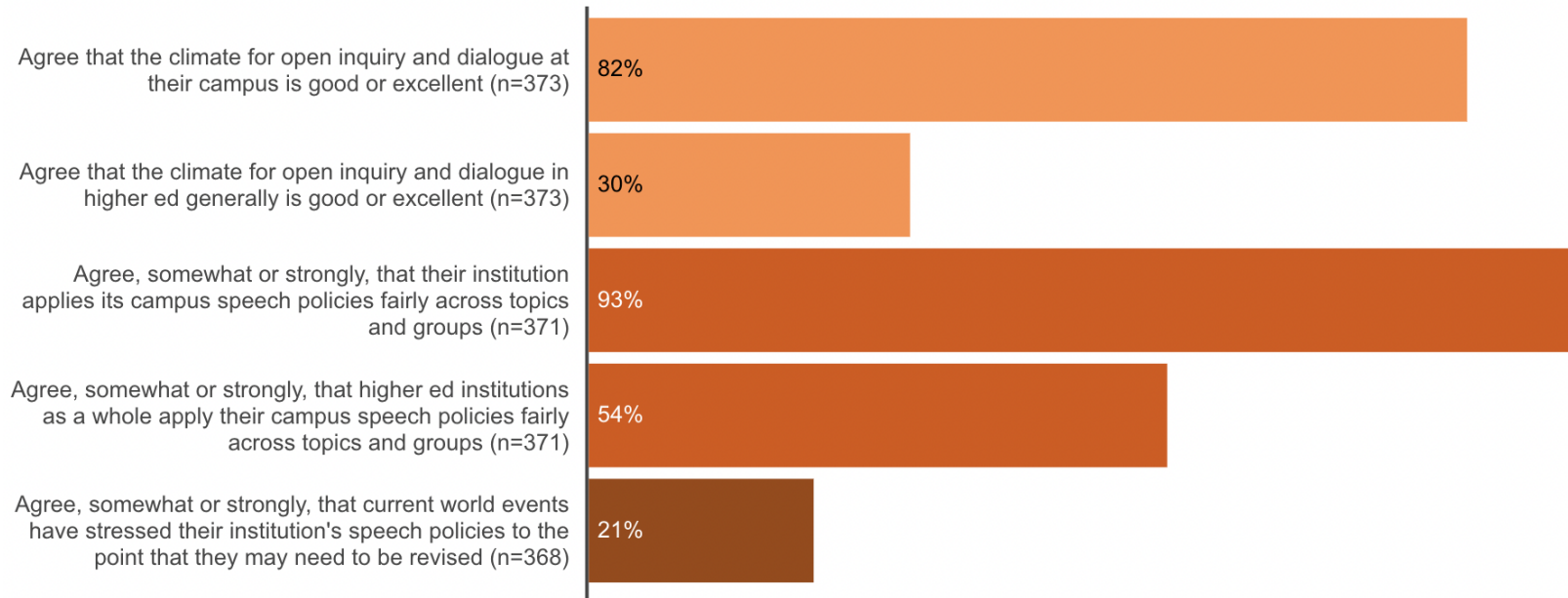
Presidents who indicate the following about the upcoming presidential election (n=373):



- 33% are satisfied with what Biden’s accomplished in higher ed so far; 41% are dissatisfied
- 55% are highly concerned about the 2024 election results affecting the climate for DEI at their institution
- 53% are highly concerned about climate for free inquiry and dialogue at their institution following the election, w/ elevated rates of concern among women and LGBTQIA+ presidents
- 27% are highly concerned about the election results affecting their institution’s financial outlook

Presidents On: Campus Speech

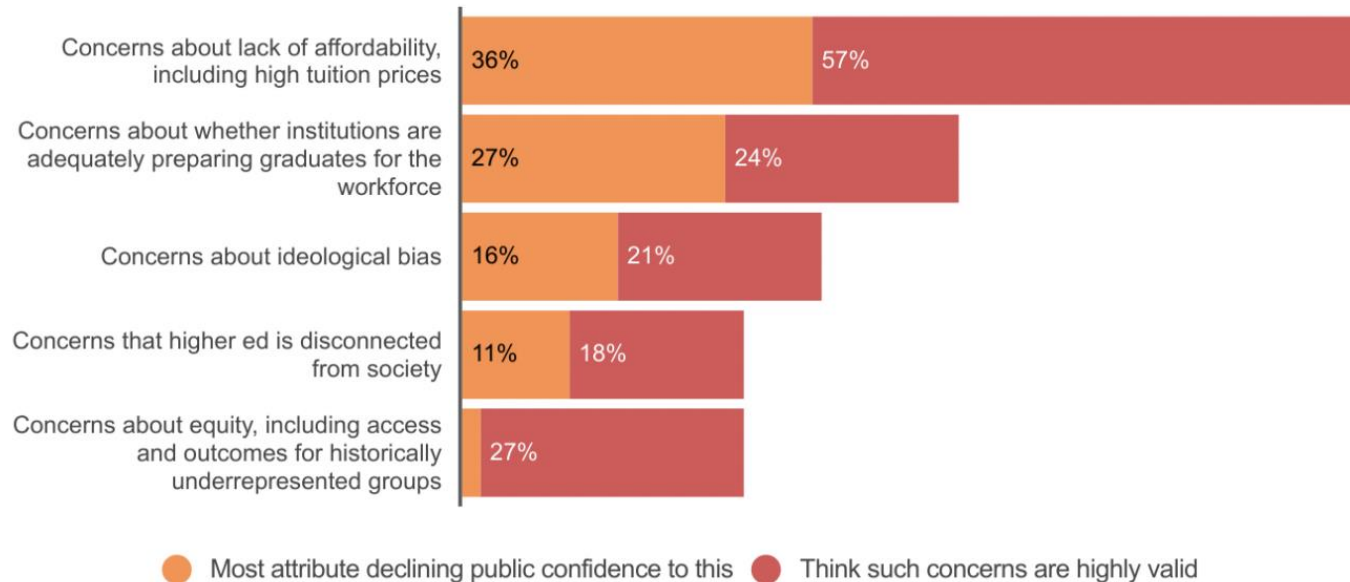
Share of presidents who indicate the following on campus speech:



- 82% rate their campus climate for open inquiry and dialogue positively vs. 30% who say this of higher ed as a whole
- 93% say their institution applies its campus speech policies fairly across topics and groups vs. 54% for higher ed as a whole
- 21% agree that current world events stressed their campus speech policies enough that they may need revisiting
- 83% have taken step(s) to educate campus on free speech/promote dialogue

Presidents On: Public Perceptions of Higher Ed

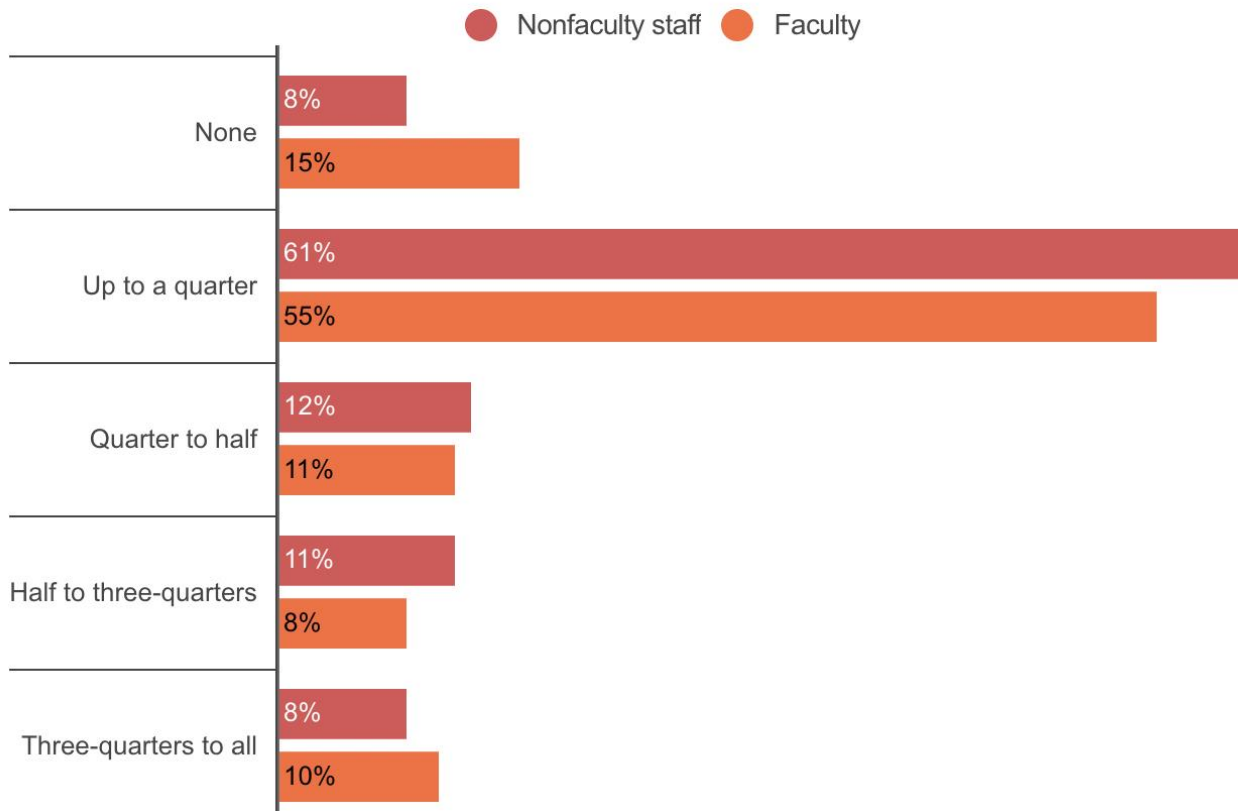
Presidents who most attribute declining confidence in higher ed to the following factors, plus share of presidents who say those same concerns are very or extremely valid (n=366):



- 66% are highly concerned about the state of public confidence in higher ed today
- 36% attribute drop to concerns about affordability, and 57% deem this particular public concern to be highly valid
- 27% attribute drop to workforce preparation concerns

Presidents On: The Campus Workplace

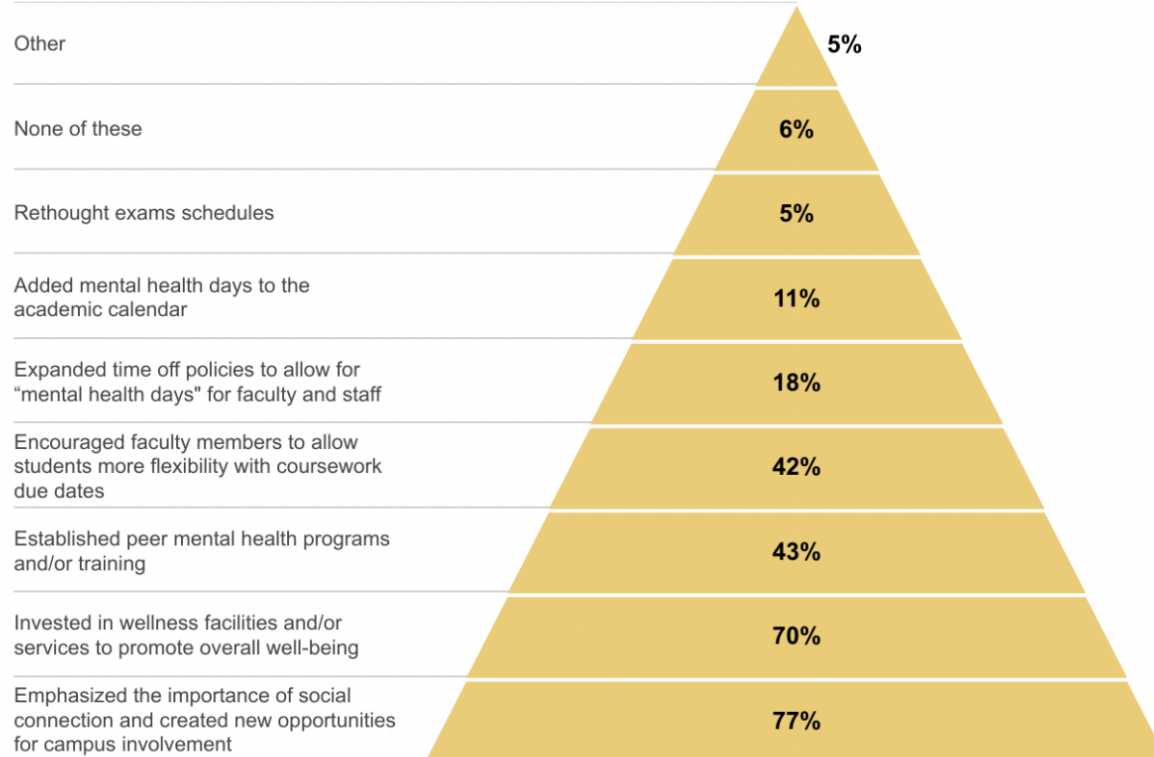
Presidents who indicate the following shares of their nonfaculty staff and faculty members are working in flexible, hybrid or fully remote arrangements this spring (n=366):



- 61% say that up to a 1/4 of non-faculty staff is working in a flexible, hybrid or remote position, similar to faculty share
- 23% say that staff can work remotely up to one day a week
- 54% say that worker productivity stayed the same under flexible work policies before/during the pandemic
- 65% have increased faculty development opportunities in last 12 months, 62% made special effort to increase pay

Presidents On: Mental Health

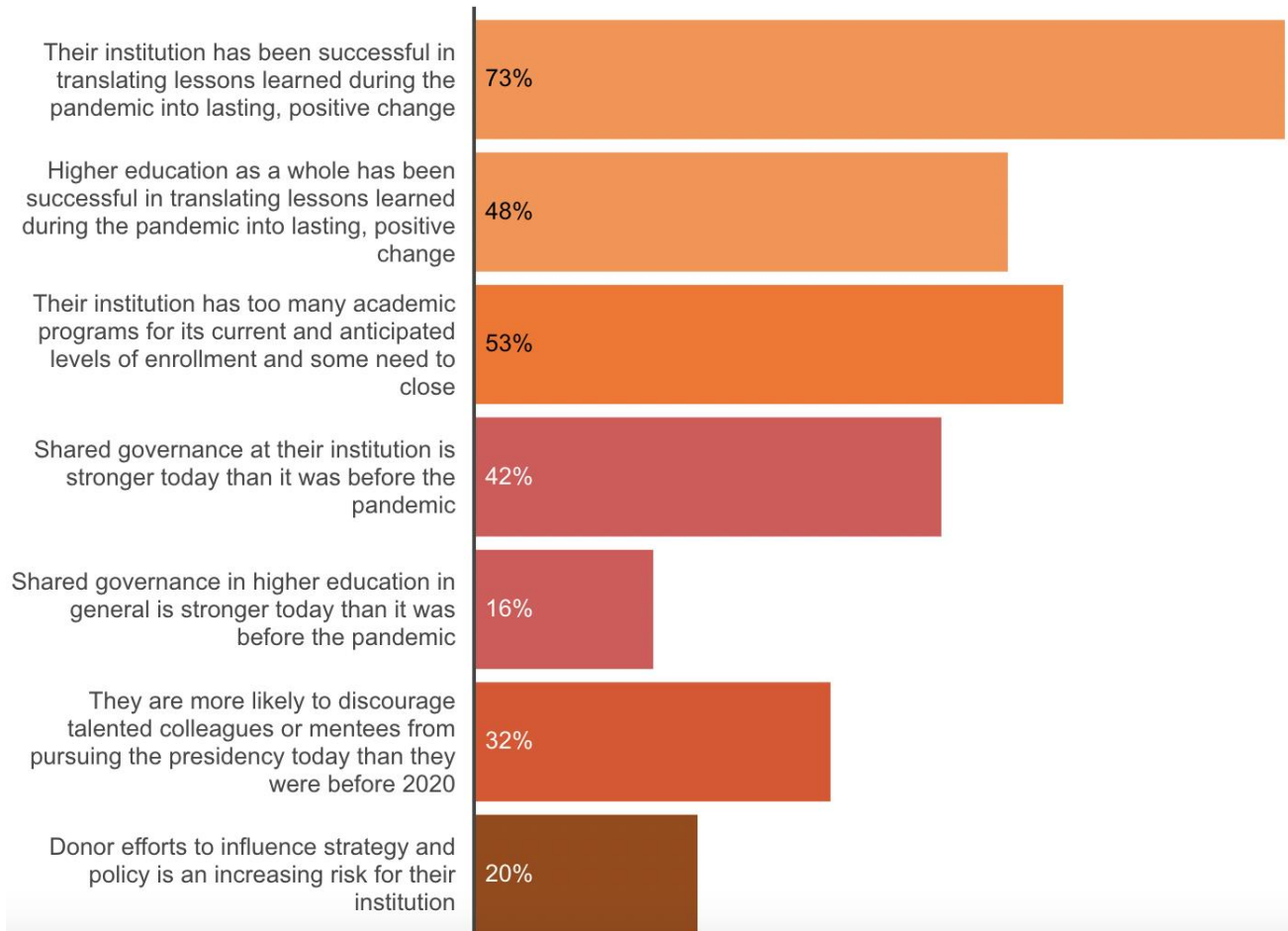
Presidents (n=362) who say their institution has taken the following non-clinical step(s) to promote mental health and well-being on campus since 2020 (multiple selections allowed):



- 57% agree that their institution has sufficient clinical capacity to meet the mental health needs of undergraduates
- 94% have taken at least one non-clinical step to promote health and well-being on their campus since 2020
- 77% have promoted social connection and campus involvement; 70% have invested in services and facilities to promote overall well-being
- Presidents' top reported drivers of mental health crisis: social media (86%) and decreased socialization skills (74%)
- Just 42% say academic stress is top driver

Presidents On: Management and Governance

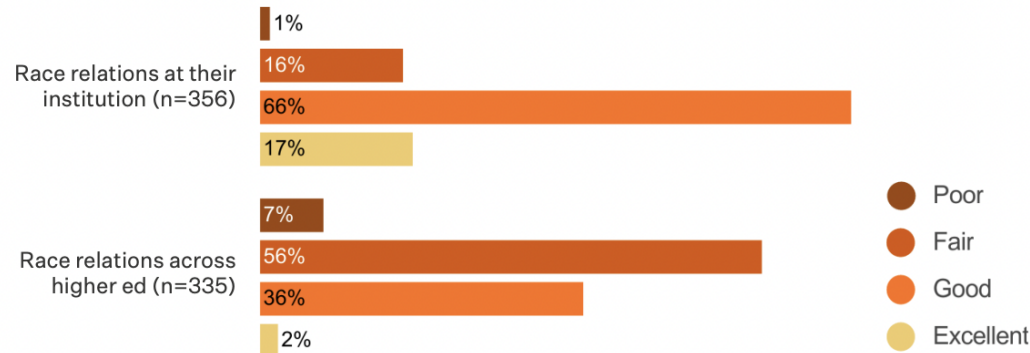
Presidents who somewhat or strongly agree with the following about management and governance (n=359):



- 73% say their institution was successful in translating lessons learned during the pandemic into lasting, positive change vs. 48% who say same of higher ed as a whole
- 32% say they're more likely now than in 2020 to discourage a talented colleague from pursuing the presidency
- Hardest aspect of being a president: financial constraints (25%) and enrollment challenges (20%)
- 20% say donor attempts to influence strategy and policy is an increasing risk for their institution

Presidents On: Campus Race Relations

Presidents rate the state of race relations at their institution and across higher ed:



- 83% rate race relations on their campus good or excellent vs. 38% for higher ed as a whole
- 14% say their institution previously practiced race-conscious admissions; most of these have changed admissions policies since SCOTUS decision (2023)
- 86% presidents over all say their institution will be able to maintain its current level of diversity under the decision, vs. 63% of presidents whose institutions previously practiced affirmative action
- Very few say their institutions have curtailed DEI measures beyond admissions since last year

Panel Discussion



Freeman A. Hrabowski, III,
President Emeritus, University of Maryland, Baltimore
County



Patricia McGuire,
President, Trinity Washington University



S. David Wu,
President, Baruch College (CUNY)

Audience Q & A

Thank you!

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