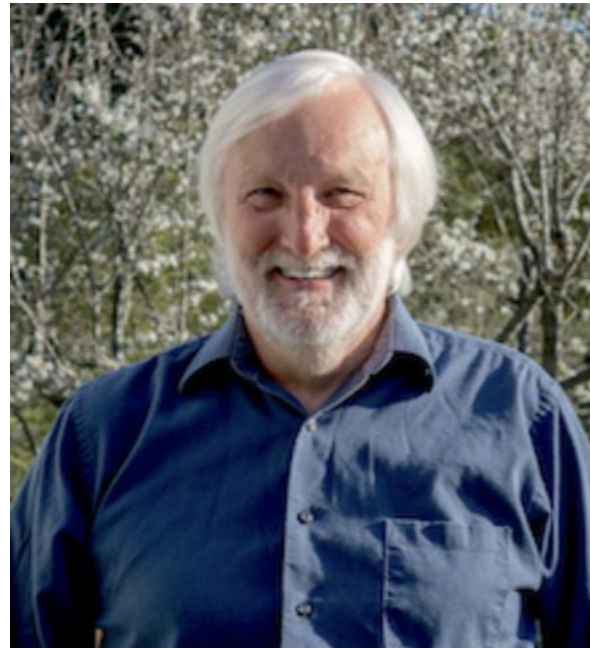


Governing Boards and Trustees: How to Engage High-Level Decision Makers in OER



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What Is a Trustee?

WHAT IS A TRUSTEE?

- Trustee is a legal term which, in its broadest sense, is a synonym for anyone in a position of trust and so can refer to any individual who holds property, authority, or a position of trust or responsibility for the benefit of another.

[Wikipedia](#)

ABOUT AGB

- Based in Washington, DC and founded in 1921
- Membership: 2,000 higher education institutions, systems, and foundations; 40,000 individuals
- We help our members:
 - Understand governance
 - Work collaboratively to oversee the institution
 - Lead through strategic challenges and opportunities

ABOUT AGB

AGB Members by the Numbers



2,000

Institutions,
Systems, and
Foundations



40,000

Individual Board
Members

Our member boards oversee
**10 million students
(FTE)**

Distinctions between corporate and higher education boards

Public Corporations

Maximize shareholder value

Stakeholders: mostly shareholders

Performance metrics: mostly financial

Public Colleges and Universities

Serve educational and public service mission

Stakeholders: students, faculty, staff, alumni, lawmakers, public...

Performance metrics: broad

Board Structure

Board Composition

Board size

Skillsets,
experiences,
backgrounds

Committee Structure

What committees do we need?

What do we discuss in executive session?

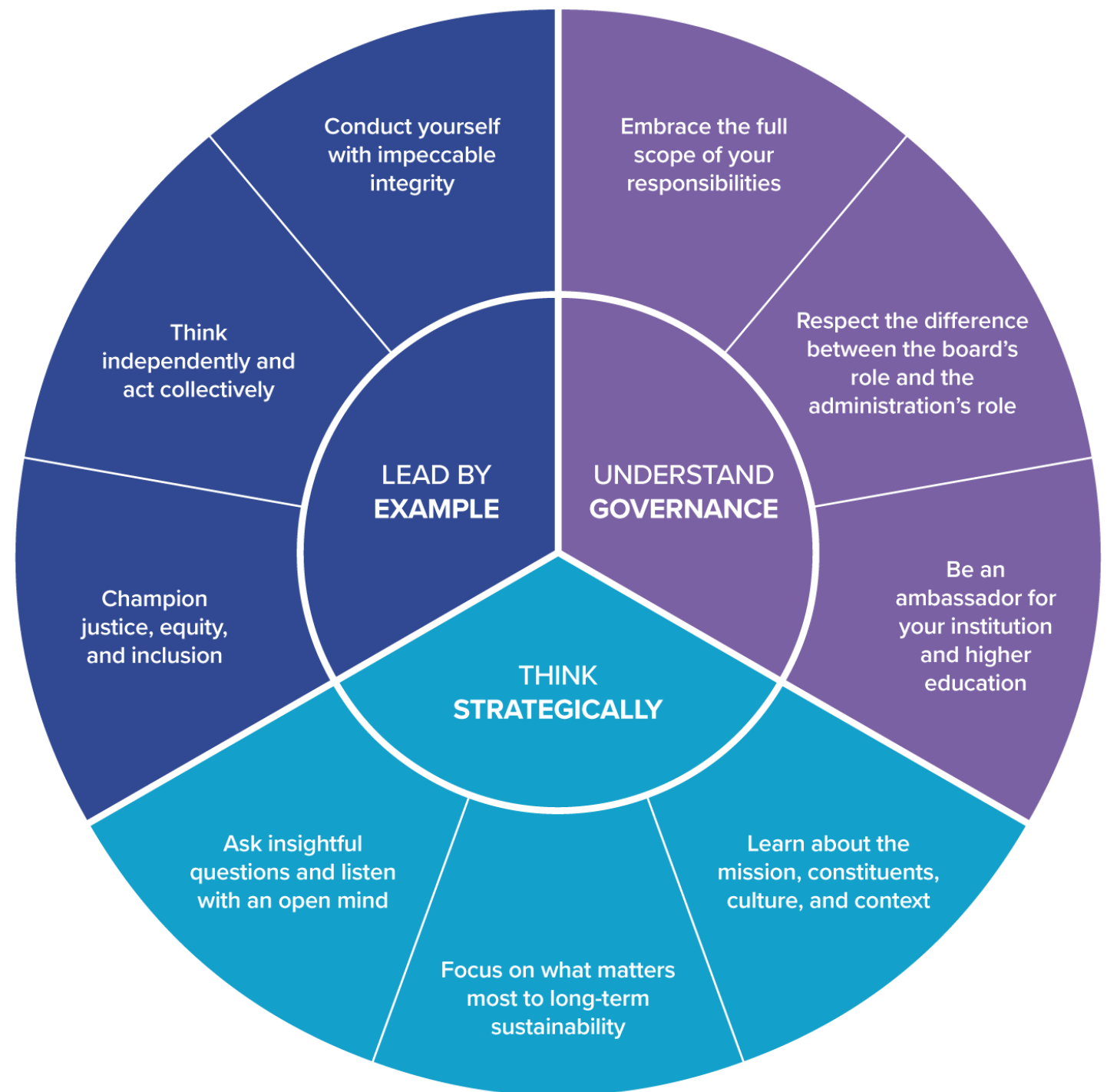
What staff should support?

Priorities

What are our priorities?

When do we need information from management?

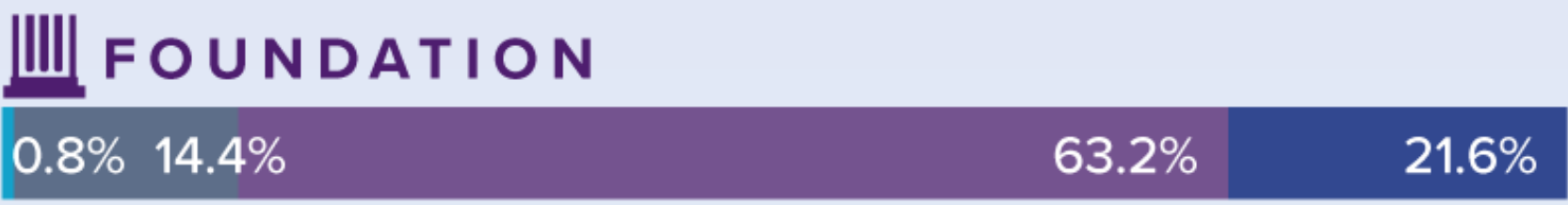
Principles of Trusteeship for Individuals



Governing Board Stats

Board Members by Age, 2020

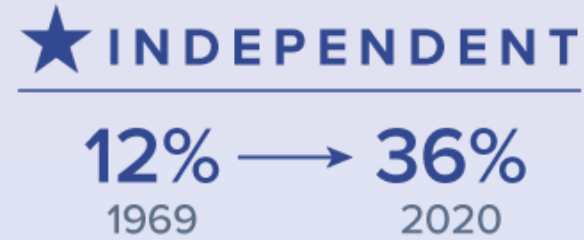
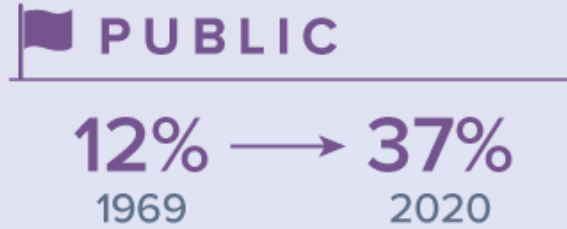
■ Under 30 ■ 30–49 ■ 50–69 ■ 70 and Older



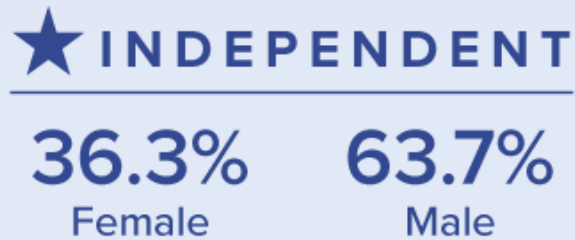
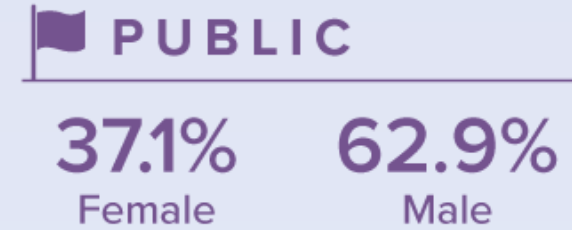
Source: AGB 2021 Policies, Practices & Composition of Governing Boards of Colleges, Universities, and Institutionally Related Foundations

Governing Board Stats

Percentage of Women on the Board, 1969–2020



Board Gender, 2020

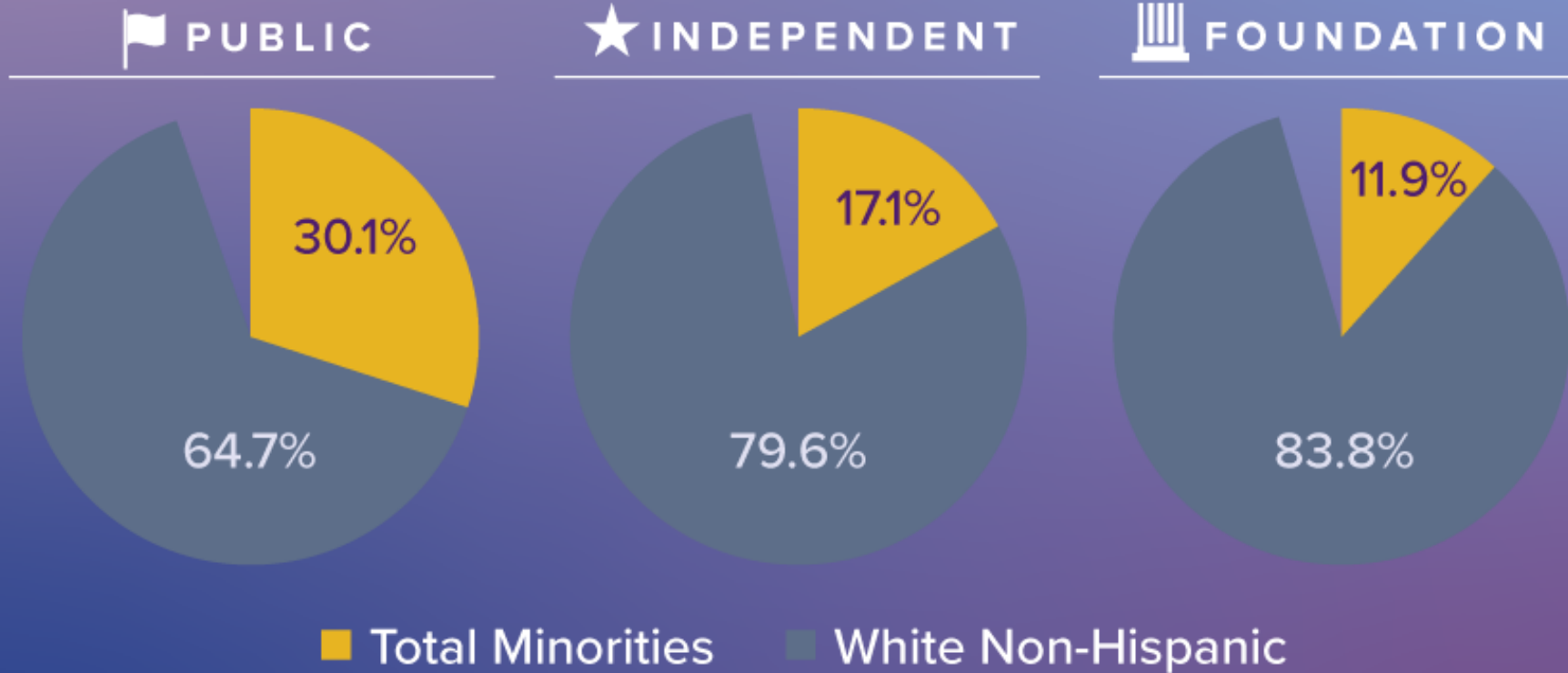


Source: AGB 2021 Policies, Practices & Composition of Governing Boards of Colleges, Universities, and Institutionally Related Foundations

Governing Board Stats

Board Member Race/Ethnicity, 2020*

**Does not include "multiracial" or "unknown" categories*



Source: AGB 2021 Policies, Practices & Composition of Governing Boards of Colleges, Universities, and Institutionally Related Foundations

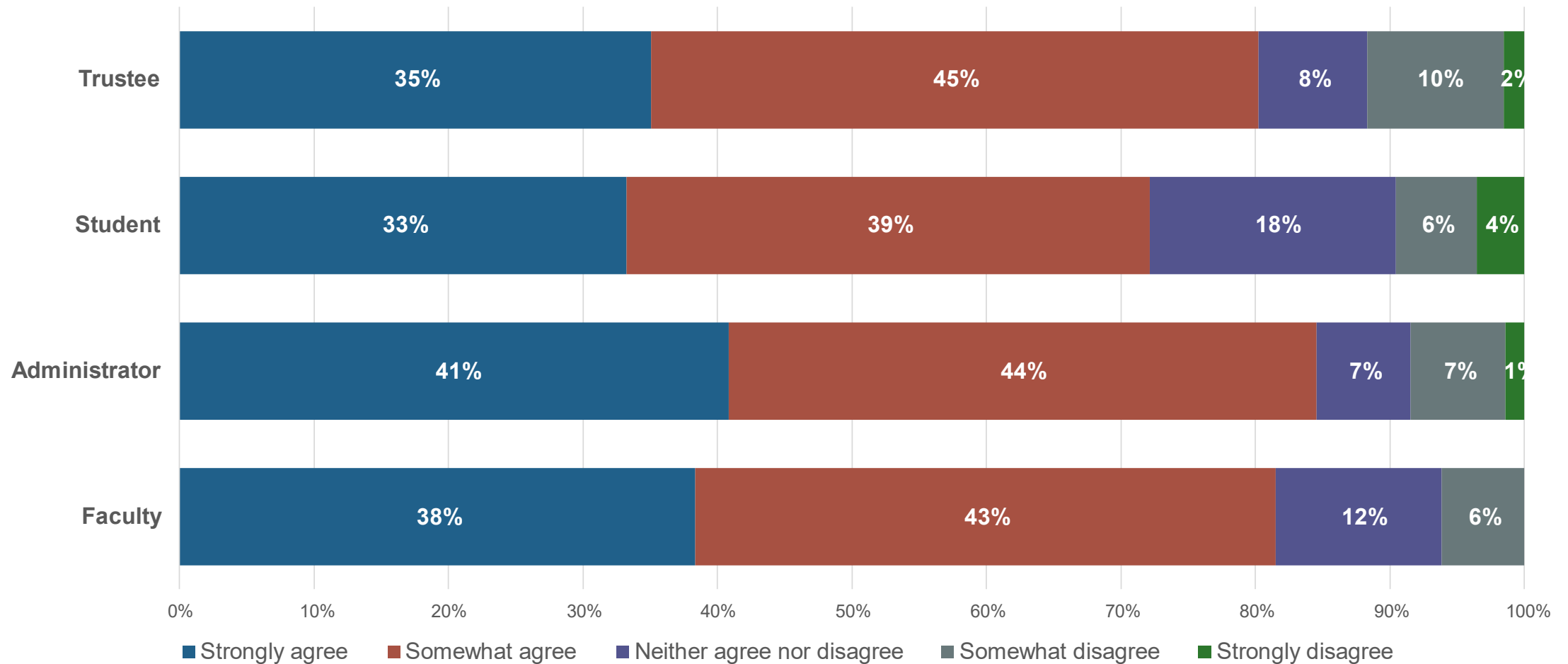
How Can Trustees Make a Difference?

A FEW SIMPLE STEPS = MASSIVE DIFFERENCE

- Students worry about the cost of education and the cost of their course materials.
- Open Educational Resources (OER) are available at low- or no-cost.
- Faculty report that OER materials are better than commercial alternatives.
- Implementing new policies and initiatives can drastically expand OER adoption, saving students millions of dollars.

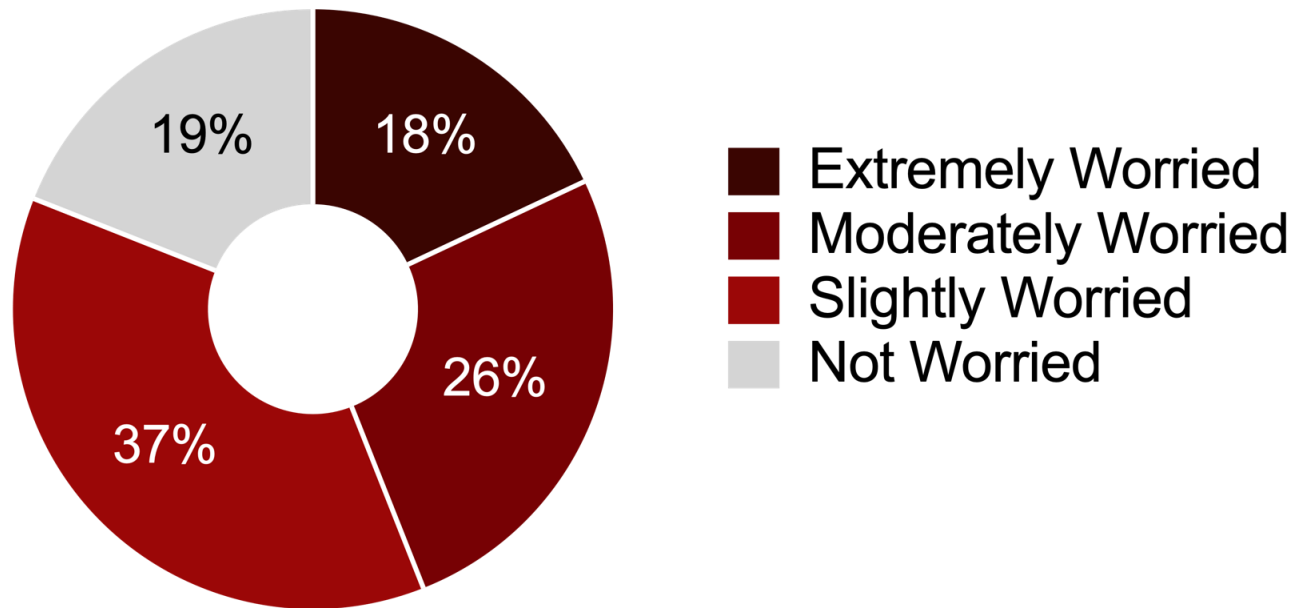
COST OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS A REAL CONCERN

The cost of education is becoming financially out of reach for students.



Students Worry about Course Material Costs

How worried were you about meeting your course material costs this term?

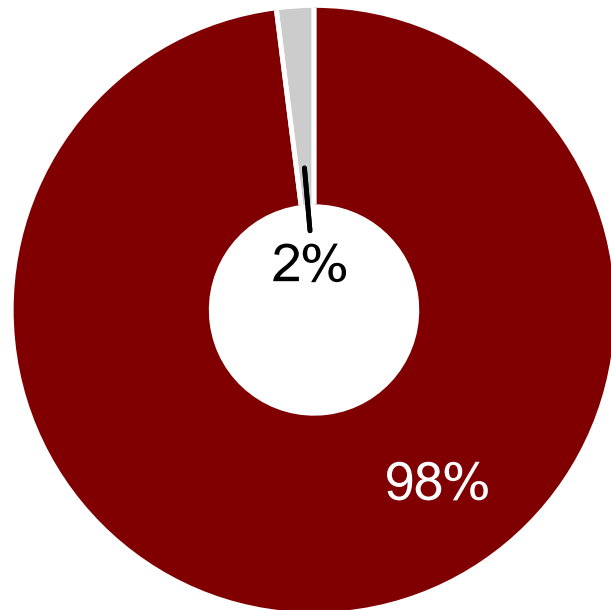


Not all students have the same level of worry. Students that reported higher levels of worry were:

- Black
- Hispanic
- Women
- Had a full-time job off campus
- Were a Pell Grant recipient.

81% of students are worried at some level

STUDENTS ACTIVELY WORK TO REDUCE COSTS

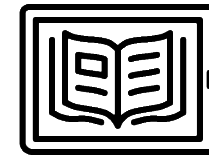


■ Tried to reduce costs ■ Did not try



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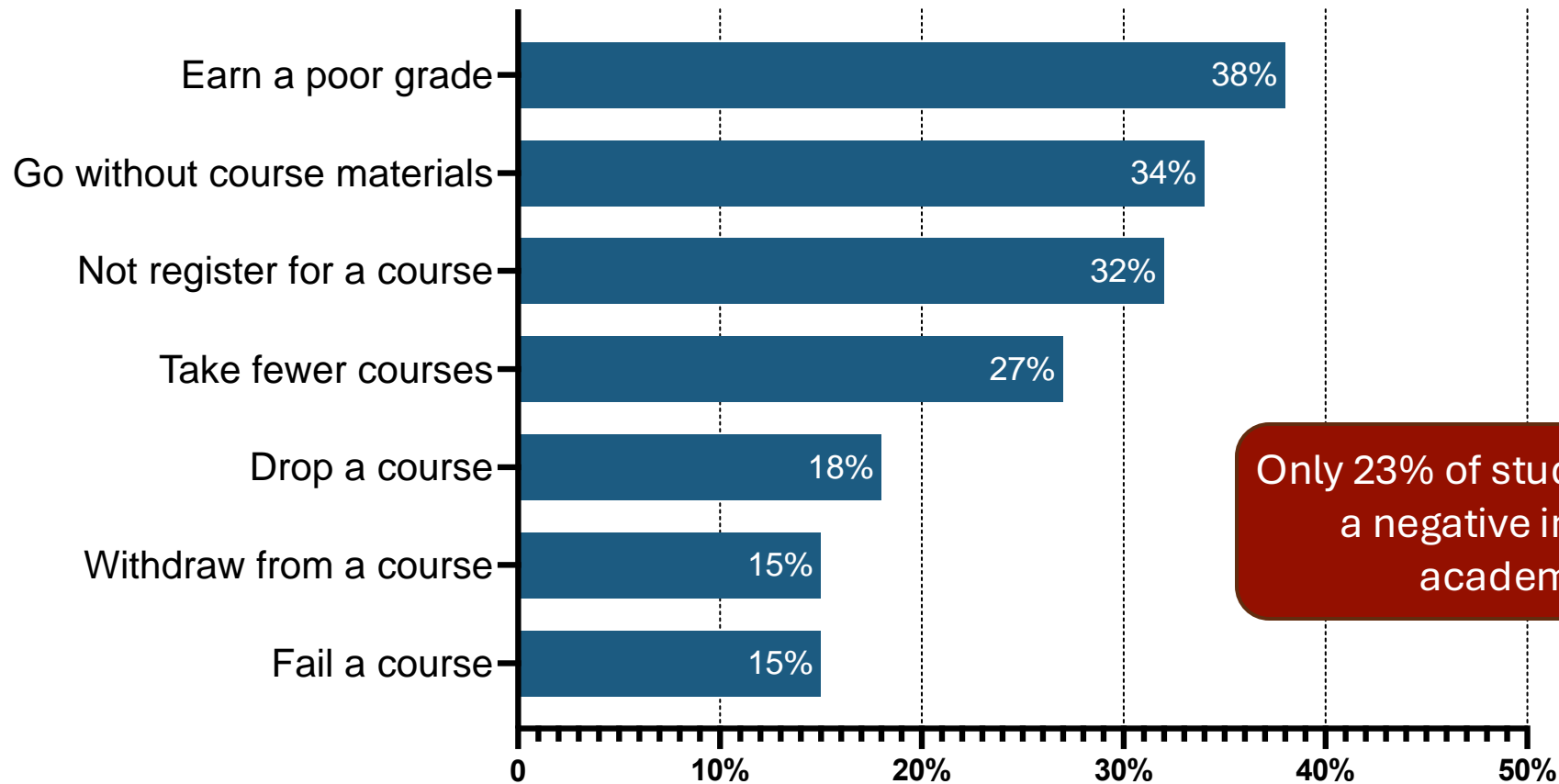
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Negative Impact on Student Academics

In your academic career, has the cost of required course materials caused you to:



Only 23% of students have not had a negative impact on their academic career.

OER MATERIALS SAVE STUDENTS MONEY!

Since its launch in 2022, Hillsborough Community College's Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) initiative has **saved students approximately \$5,756,597.**

<https://www.hccfl.edu/academics/academic-initiatives/zero-textbook-cost>

In its 2017 "Data Update," Affordable Learning Georgia reported **saving 221,735 students 26.1 million dollars** in textbook costs since the initiative's inception in 2014.

<https://libguides.uta.edu/oer/cost>

By using open educational resources, UCF faculty helped students **save more than \$750,000** during the Fall 2020 semester.

<https://www.ucf.edu/news/ucf-faculty-collaborate-to-provide-students-free-course-materials/>

Washtenaw Community College ... has recently surpassed the **\$10 million savings** mark.

<https://www.wccnet.edu/news/articles/2023-03-02-oersavingstake2.php>

OER are freely accessible, low-cost, predominantly digital learning materials that have **saved SUNY students more than \$47 million** on textbooks since 2017.

<https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/02-20/2-4-20/2-4-20-oer-savings.html>

OER MATERIALS ARE HIGHER QUALITY

- Faculty rate OER textbooks as having better **overall quality** than textbooks from commercial sources.
- Faculty rate OER textbooks far higher than commercial textbooks for **cost to the student**.
- Faculty using OER textbooks are **far less likely to replace** their current textbooks than those using commercial publisher textbooks.

ACTION ITEM: ENCOURAGE OER POLICIES

- Faculty who report that their institution has an **institution or department policy** regarding open educational resources and/or other free course materials are **1.6 times as likely** to use OER for required materials in their courses.

ACTION ITEM: ENCOURAGE OER INITIATIVES

- Faculty who say that they are aware of a department, institutional, and state-level **OER initiative** are **2.1 times as likely** to use OER for required materials in their courses.

The View From a Trustee