

Report from DC trip 2017

Louise Suter, April 21st 2017
UEC meeting



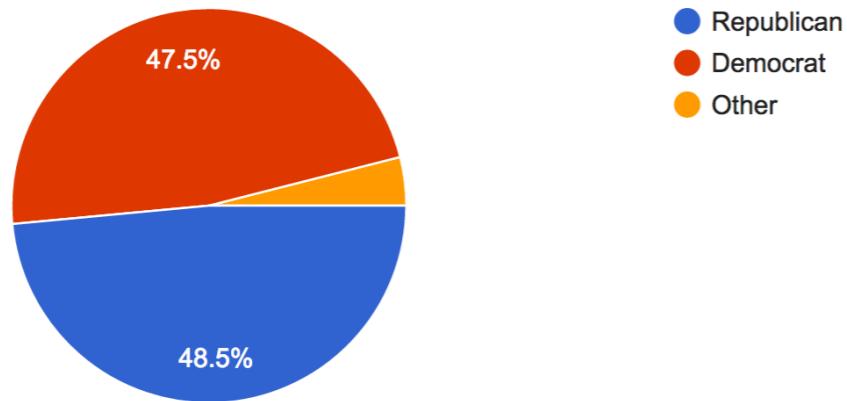
Summary

- 55 trip attendees, 21 from UEC, FSPA or invited by UEC
- 355 meeting scheduled, 10 pending, 65 no's many of which we dropped of packet with
- Had meeting with the 'big 8' committee thanks to Breese Quinn
 - House Approp CJS Subcmte, House Approp. E&W Subcmte, House SST, Energy Subcmte, House SST, R&T Subcmte
 - Senate Approp CJS Subcmte, Senate Approp E&W Subcmte, Senate CST, SSC Subcmte, Senate E&NR, Energy Subcmte

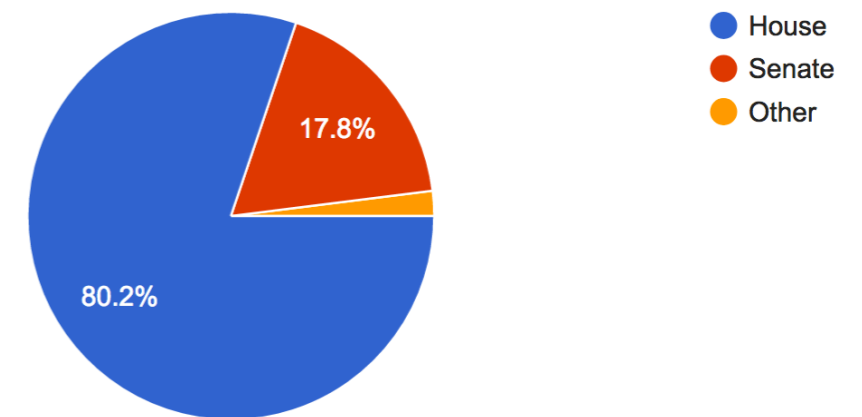
Trip report

(101+(150) /710 responses so far detailed trip report)

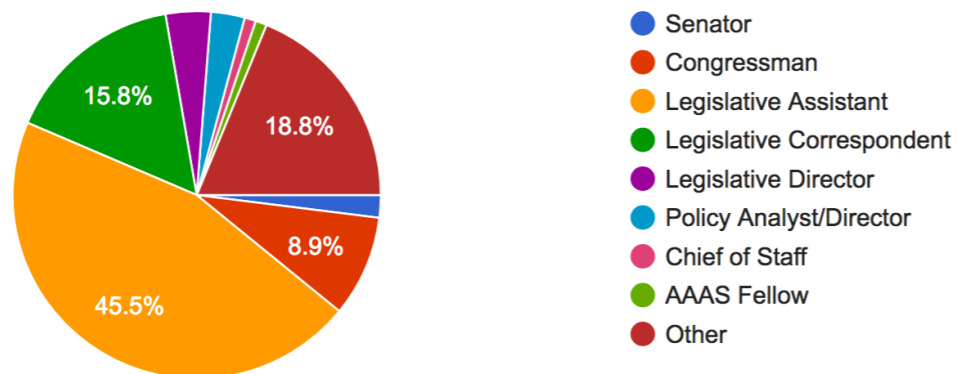
Rep's Party (101 responses)



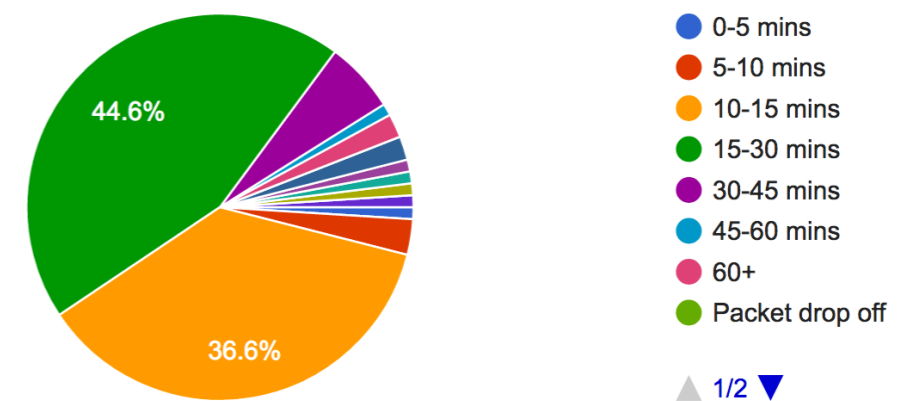
Rep's Chamber (101 responses)



Meeting was with (101 responses)



Approximate length of meeting (101 responses)



Trip report

(101 responses so far detailed trip report)

DOE Office of Science Dear Colleague letter

She asked us to fill out a spreadsheet with our request - Yangyang is looking at it (not obvious how best to fill it out)

The representative asked the primary to follow up with the UG and graduates in physics numbers at UTK.

Dear Colleagues letters' details, Senate appropriation bill

Would like to know how the office of science meeting went and whether they support our programs and projects

Tamar said that he would really like to know what initiatives he could lead to show his support of science

He asked us for senator version of the two dear colleague letters from congress. Also, he asked us for advice on how many scientists should be on President Trump's intelligence committee. Our answer was Three.

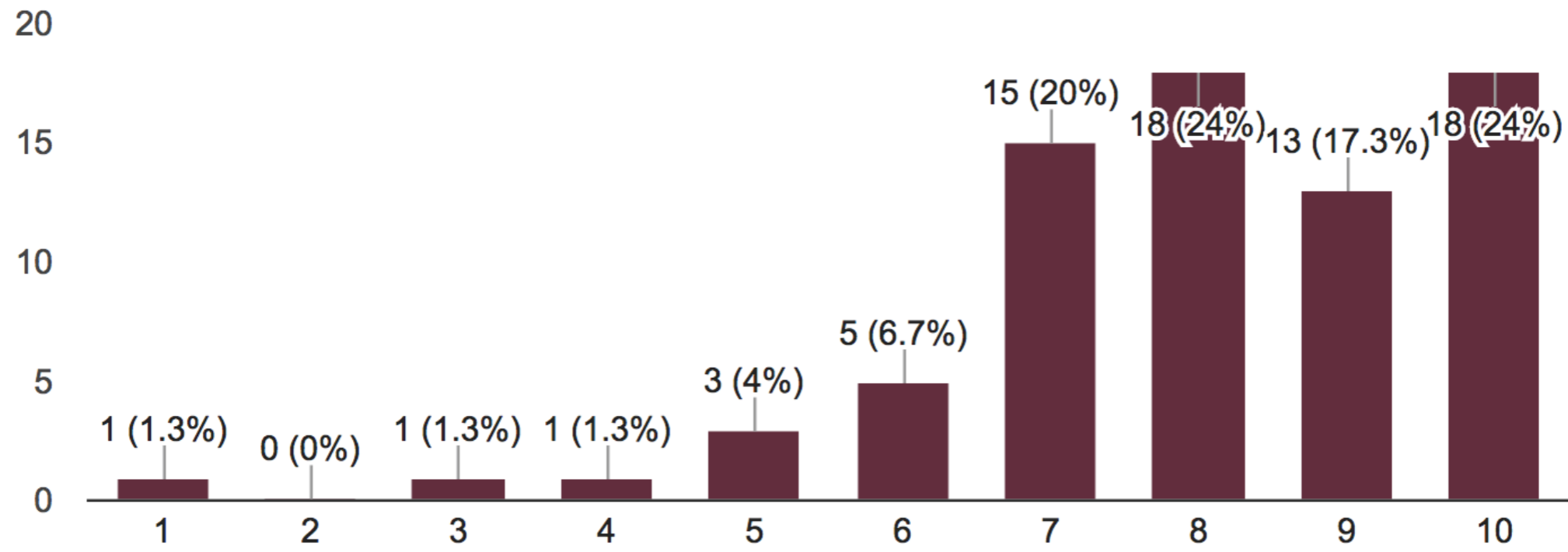
They would like more information on procurements and investments directly to their district

They would like to know more about how HEP is benefitting underrepresented groups and minorities, in particular women in the field

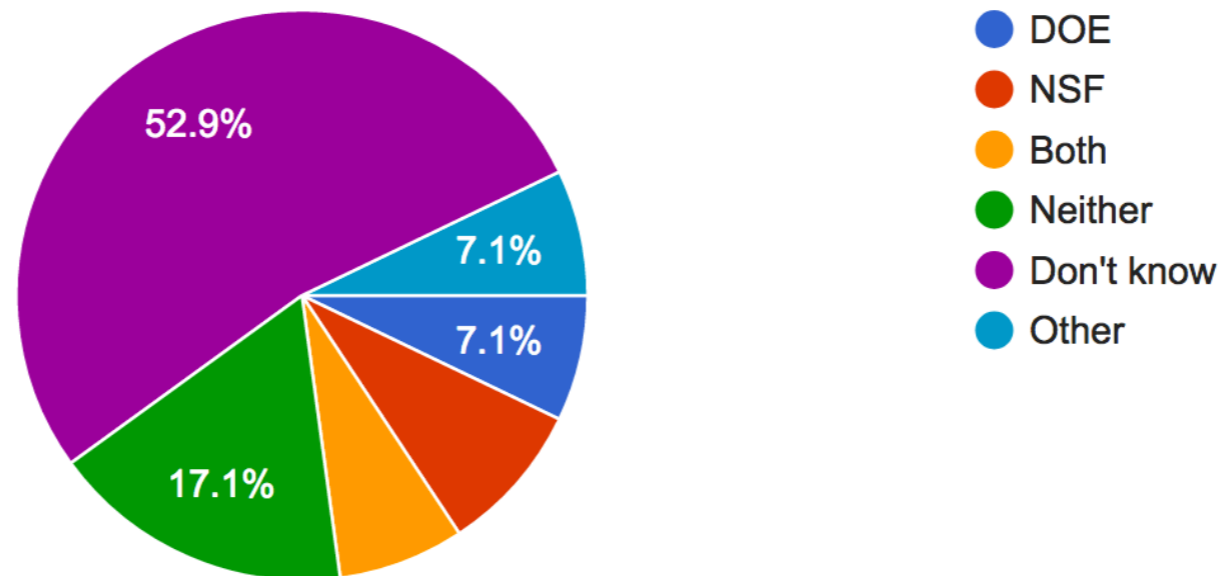
Information about internships at Fermilab

HEP budget numbers--followed up

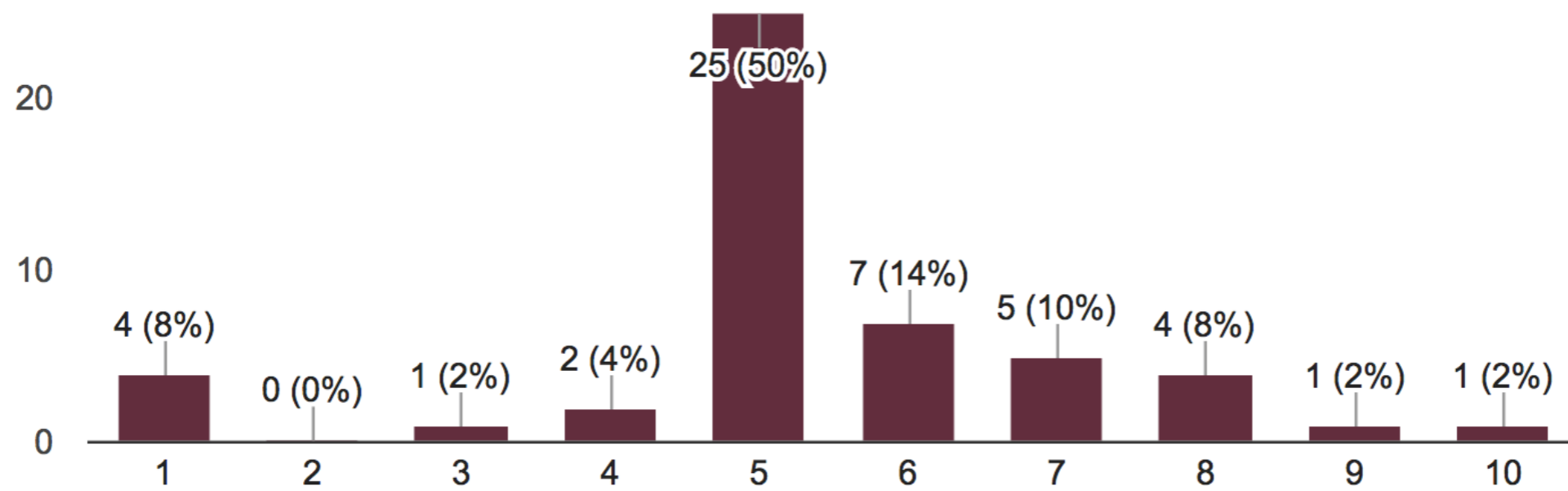
How strong was their support for HEP? (75 responses)



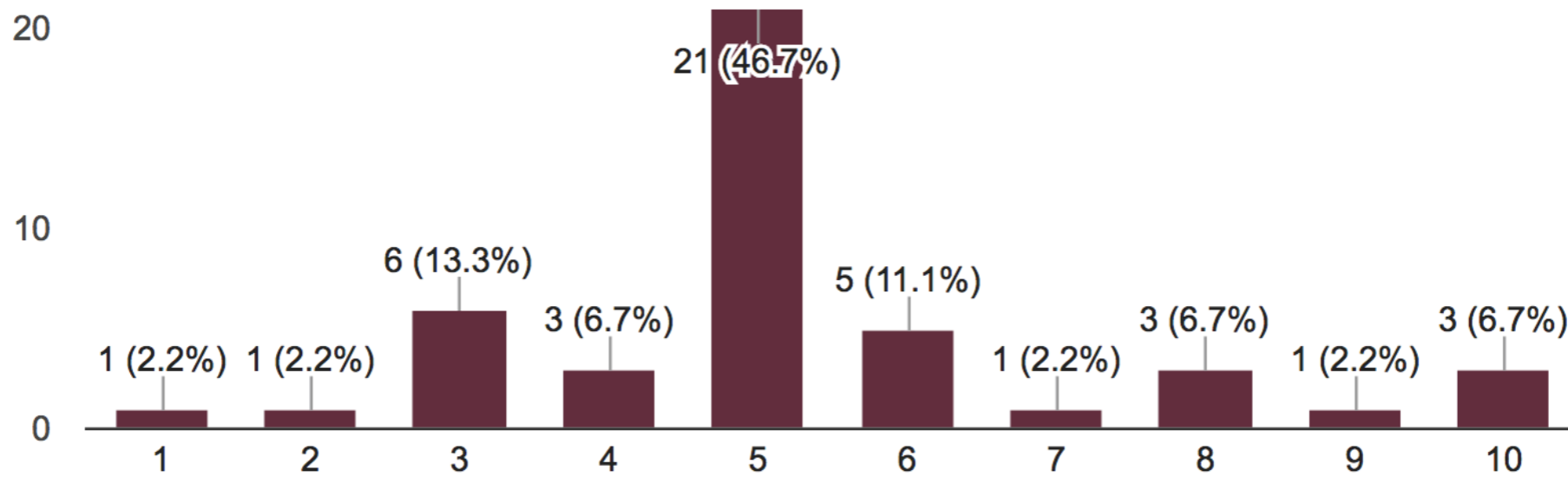
Did they sign the dear colleague letters? (70 responses)



How likely did they rate passing 2017 budget (50 responses)

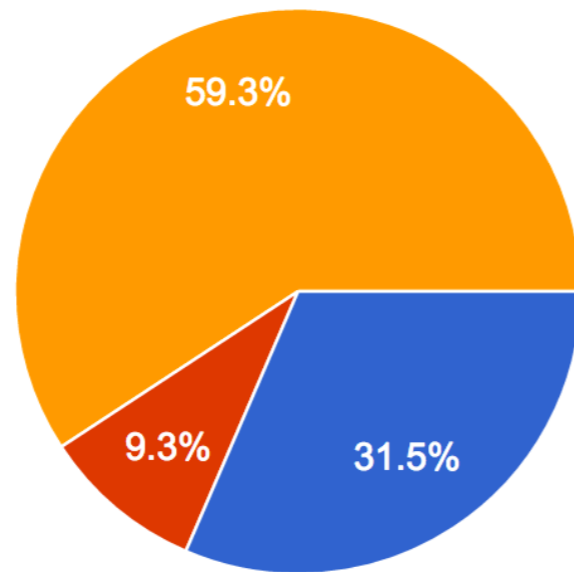


How likely did they rate a 2017 CR? (45 responses)



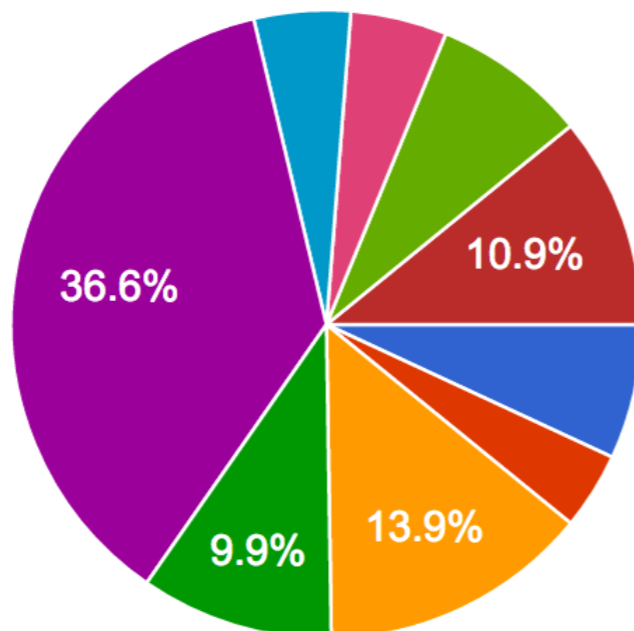
Staffers/Rep's opinion on 2018 DOE Office of science budget, if discussed

(54 responses)



- No opinion
- Liked it
- Did not like it

Things they most interested in (101 responses)

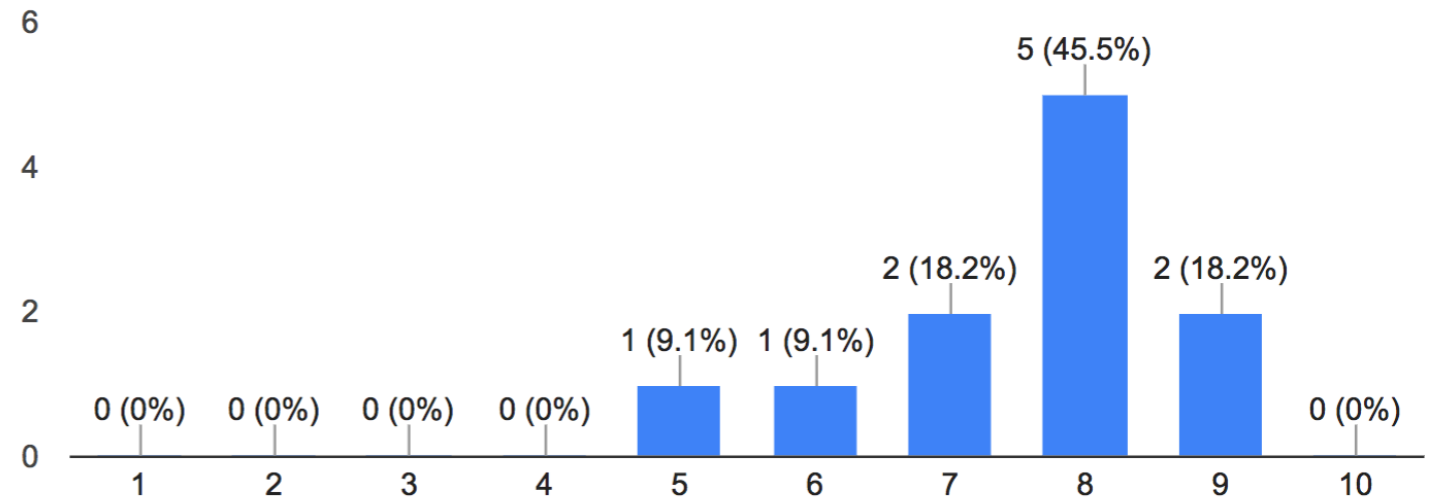


- Grants info
- Procurements info
- STEM
- Medical Benefits
- Science
- Security Benefits
- Manufacturing Benefits
- P5
- Other

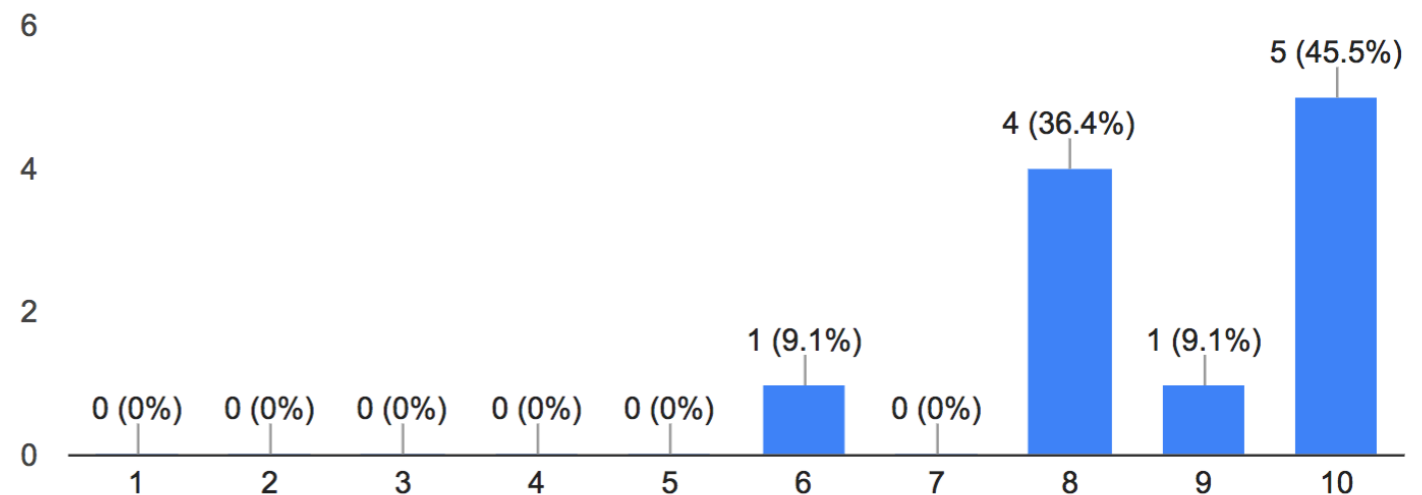
Trip feedback

(11/55 responses so far detailed trip report)

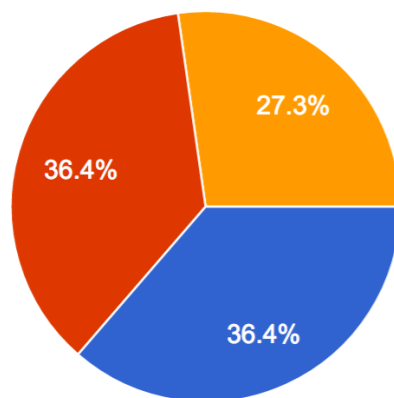
How prepared did you feel for the trip? (11 responses)



How satisfied were you with the event? (11 responses)

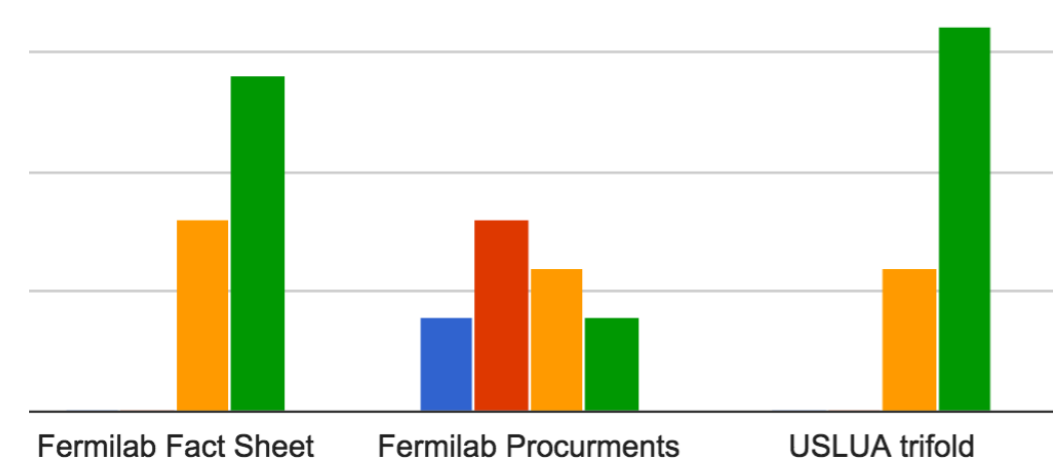
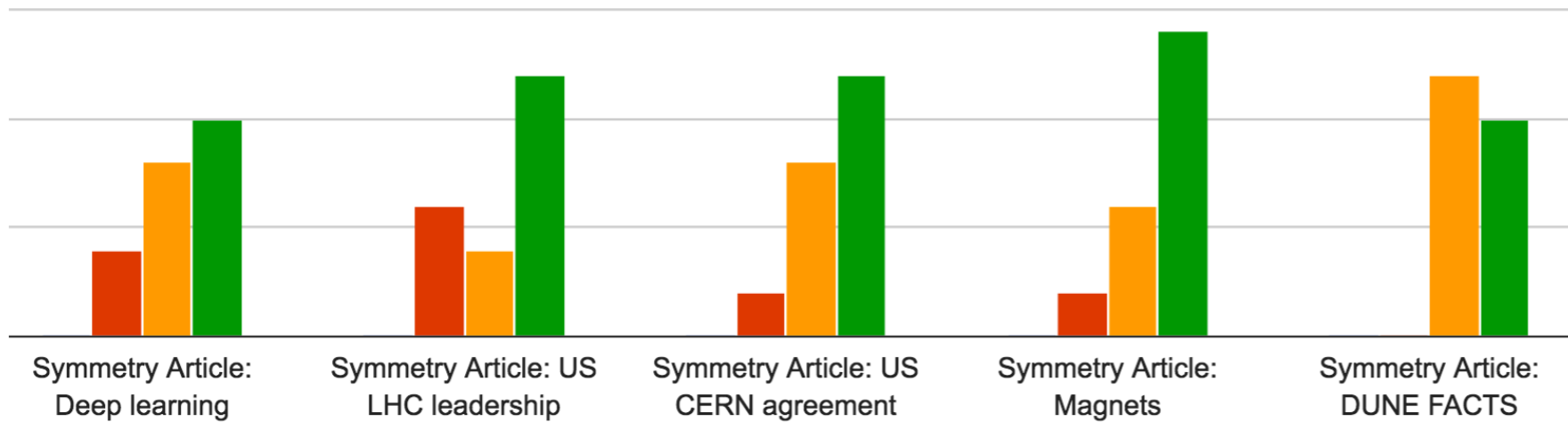
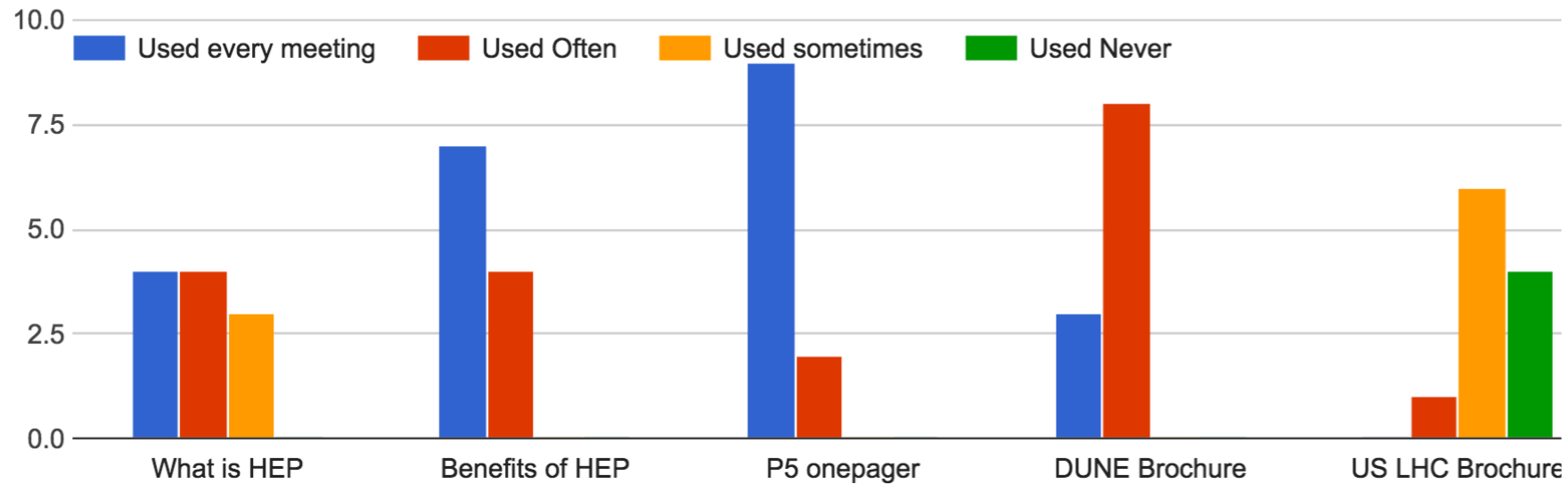


Organization (11 responses)

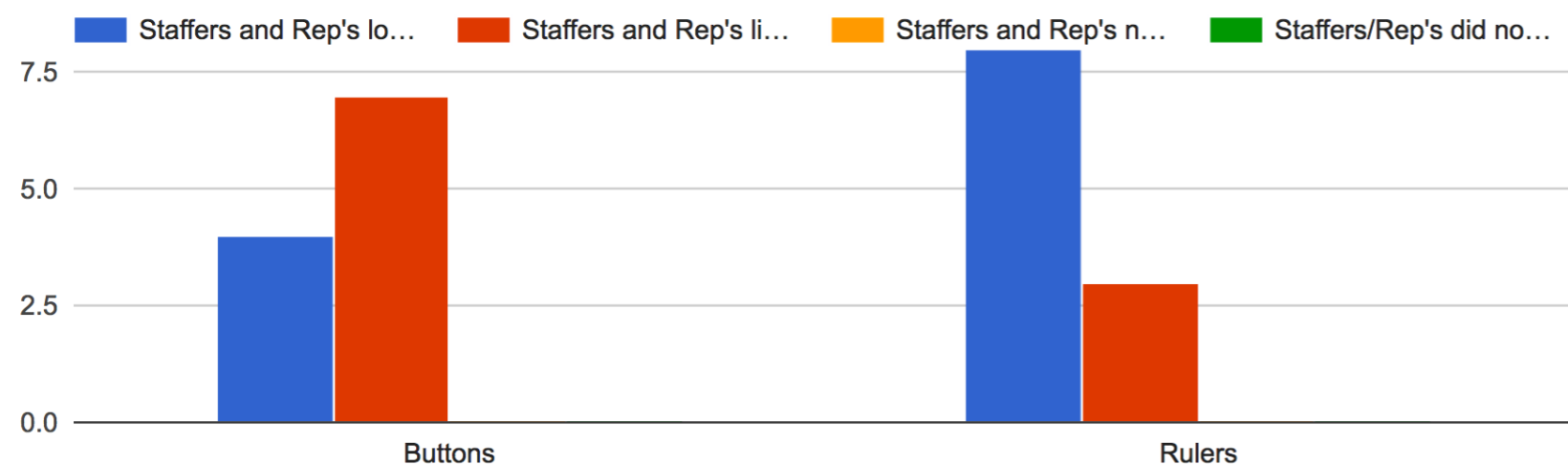


- UEC
- SLUO
- USLUA
- Other

What did you think of the materials in the packet? Click what materials you thought were useful and used.



Opinion on buttons and rulers



What info/material did you think was missing from packet? (7 responses)

Info on SLAC

Anything on any projects not based at FNAL. I didn't get any buttons somehow.

Detailed procurements by all DOE labs, similar to the FNAL one. Was highly useful. Breakdown of this list by district is work that should be done by primary but could be helpful to have as resource again next year.

It would have been nice to have the SLAC factsheet in the packet

Rob Fine made a one pager with a breakdown of Procurements, DOE, and NSF funding for every state. We should all have that.

N/A

SLAC factsheet from 2016 trip (since we have plenty of fermilab-centric materials)

Did you have feedback/suggestions on the packet? (8 responses)

I thought the symmetry articles weren't really needed, or could have been presented in a more concise form.

In general thought there was too much in the packet. Most of this is noise both in presentations and as take-home.

The folder was very nice, however the paper shows fingerprints, maybe a different finish could make it look nicer.

The symmetry articles were not very useful. I would sometimes point at them to make a point, but I doubt anyone actually reads the articles.

Staffers were occasionally curious about how specifically all of the HEP allotted money was going to be spent, so maybe a breakdown of that could be useful (or at least where large chunks of the money end up going)

N/A

P5 onepager was the only piece of material that I've seen staffers read and keep outside of the carpet 90% of the times

The professional folder was a big upgrade from last year! It had a good amount (not too little and not too much) of material.

What did you like about the wiki? (5 responses)

Lots of relevant info

that it works.

It provided a nice reference for the multiple sources of information.

Centralized place with all info; easy to access.

I used often contact information of primary/secondaries

What info was missing from the wiki? (5 responses)

A sample follow-up email

Not much... the wiki was great.

Procurement from other DOE labs. NSF grants.

The trip schedule was hard to find. It should be more prominent.

N/A

What could we do better? (5 responses)

More formal training of the attendees. Breese does a very good speel, some of my primaries from none FNAL did start their conversations with the negative 'let me tell you about science which you do not know' approach

I would like to have better understood the budgeting process ahead of time. I would add a talk explaining this in more detail to the training workshops.

A section in the wiki for "quick links" -- links to the most commonly-used wiki pages, like contact information, dear colleague/appropriation bill info, etc.

I was drowning in emails and lost a few I had replied to. A better infrastructure for accommodating meeting switches would be awesome.

The way the columns print out on the primary/secondary assignments (multiple lines) makes them hard to read.

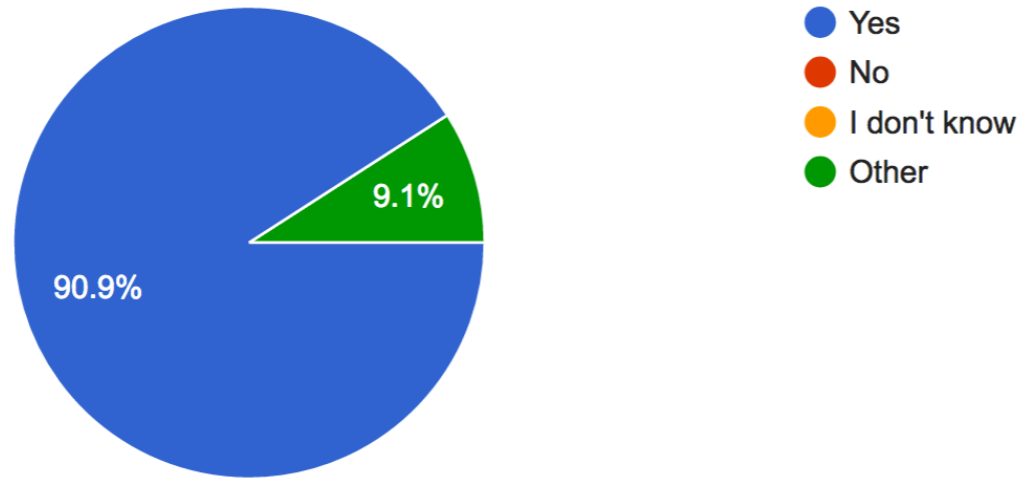
Suggestions/Comments on the "HEP funding made easy website" (3 responses)

It's often the case that a university will not have DOE HEP grants (i.e. if they're supported by NSF), but they do have collaborators working on DOE HEP experiments. It would be useful to also have access to this information.

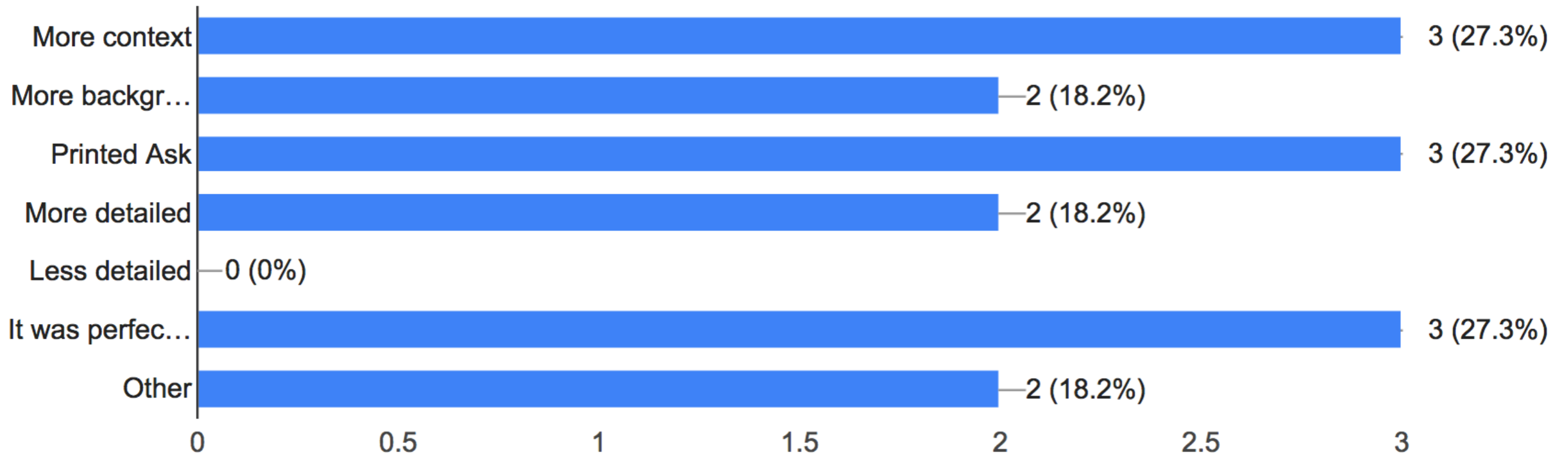
Awesome site! Adding FNAL procurements to the site I think would round it out nicely

Can you forward me any suggestions people have on this? I am the author and am interested in improving it for next year.

Did you find the Ask easy to parse and use? (11 responses)

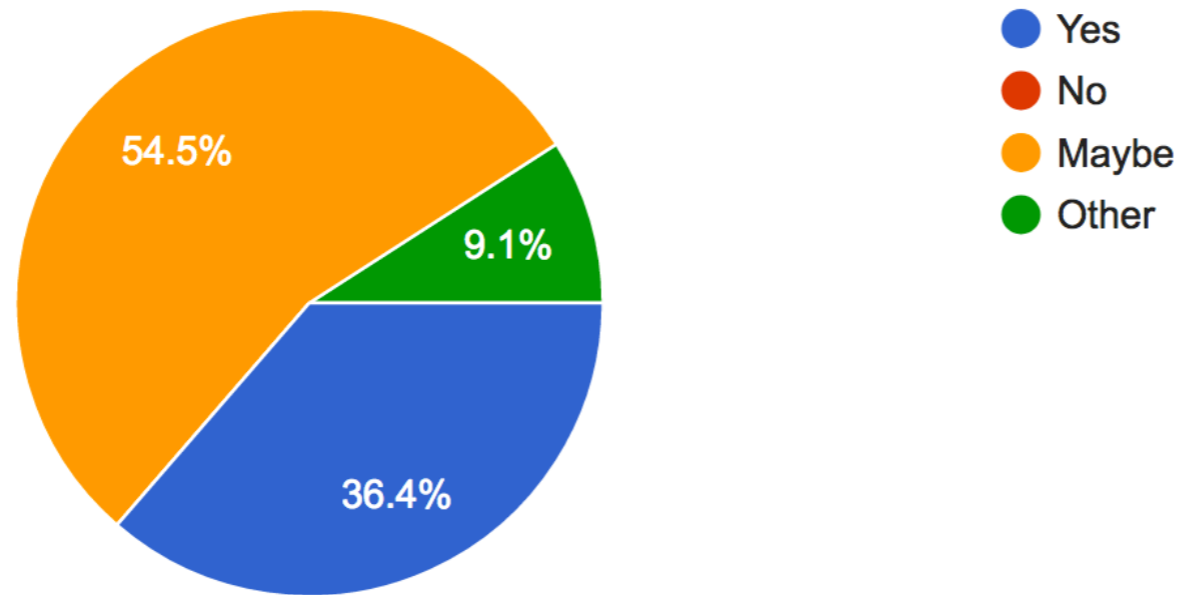


How could the Ask be improved? (11 responses)



Would you find written or videos of scripted practice meetings with staffers/Rep's useful?

(11 responses)



Any primary or secondaries you would like to call out for doing a great job?

(8 responses)

Yangyang was a great primary (well-spoken and receptive to input from me as secondary), Tim Nelson was a great secondary (stepped in at appropriate times, but not too much).

Had a great meeting with Sergei Gleyzer as a secondary and with Sal Rappoccio as a primary. Both present well and know their stuff. Sal, in particular, gets a gold star for doing his homework on the district as a secondary: I think he knew as much as I did about funding to the district.

Breese and Cindy are amazing. Andrea & Kelly

Joseph Zennamo

Eddie Holik was really great as a secondary. Sarah Demers was really great as a primary.

Yangyang is awesome

Joe Zennamo and Kelly Stifter

Trey Holik - great presenter and excellent attitude

Idea of scripted/video meeting seems to go down well. I will be contacting these people to make these

Common faux pas observed by trip attendees (7 responses)

Too much detail in going through materials. Too much physics jargon and too much physics lecturing. Not allowing the secondary into the conversation. After seeing what can go wrong, I specifically told all of my secondaries that they should feel free to jump in on me.

Do you know XYZ,? No, let me tell you...

I asked a member of the appropriations committee to sign a letter to the appropriations committee. The staffer did say she would like to read the letter, but kindly informed me that the congressman does not sign them.

I personally think that staffers were more interested in a somewhat nuts-and-bolts approach to the meetings, i.e. "here's what we're going to do with the money, and here's why it's useful/interesting". I think leading with the Ask was important, and it sometimes got buried to almost an afterthought to describing Physics that the staffer was not going to remember anyways.

Jargon is still too commonly used. It's hard to avoid without practice

Delving too deep into the physics; using jargony terminology

Plowing through a stump speech or getting too far in the weeds of a particular area of the science, without reacting to the staffer's areas and level of interest.

Any primary or secondaries you would like to call out for not doing a great job and why?

(4 responses)

- People arriving late to meeting without connecting first
- people “who went a little too far into detail walked through almost everything in the packet in detail, which made the meeting ~45-50 minutes long”
- primary had a meeting canceled and never bothered to tell me, so I showed up expecting a meeting.
- spent a lot of time going through every single point in every single pamphlet didn't notice when staffers were wandering and I really thought one staffer who was obviously bored out of his mind was going to cut them off after about 25 minutes
- didn't deliver the ask until *literally the last sentence of the entire pitch*
- secondary tried to moved primary back on topic but “did not like being interrupted” and tried to help transition to the P5 was “cut off obvious irritation... and glared at me”
- People with election paraphernalia on bags/coats eta
- Young female attendee: “I felt that I often got talked over in my primary meetings by my secondaries, but that this only happened when I was paired with an older male (maybe above 40). One of them even said afterwards, “Did I interrupt too much?” “

What suggestions do you have for next year? (5 responses)

No more Bier Baron. They've charged my card twice for the same meal. It was a mess. The next night I broke off and tried something different with friends. One cannot live by burgers alone!

You should order Google Cardboards next year, so that people can carry them around and show the staffers the VENU experience firsthand. I'm not convinced that giving them a handout about it is an effective way to get them to check it out themselves. That being said, they responded positively to VENU with the VR headset I brought, so having a headset (~\$15 apiece) there with you could be really useful as an additional "toy" or exciting experience of HEP.

I think we could improve the algorithm for assigning primaries. We should separate PC from "visited before", and rethink the relative weights of the categories. For instance I felt that I had a great connection in the home district of my university, but that is ranked lower than a district where my cousin lives.

Talk about the dear colleague letters in some of the intro meetings; I didn't even know they existed before Monday.

I strongly recommend a bi-fold packet rather than tri-fold. I had at least five meetings that took place in hallways with no table-space in sight. Trying to open the tri-fold (with a large ruler floating around) always lead to a lot of fumbling, awkwardly balancing papers, and ultimately passing things over to the Secondary to hold. This almost always broke the flow of the meeting. A bi-fold packet would be easy to balance in one hand while leaving the other hand able to fish out materials quickly and naturally.

Any additional comments regarding the preparation provided for visit?

(6 responses)

Maybe provide some sample "scripts" for meetings in order to guide first-timers.

Overall really good. I do think it would have been good to explain the appropriations process a little better as context for the ask. Also, a lot of other folks seemed to have solicited feedback on what is going on in DC right now and more specifically about the likelihood of getting our ask. Making the conversation a two-way street is, in general, a good thing I think as long as the question is approached tactfully and people are prepared to deal with pushback.

I missed part of the URA meeting due to a 9am meeting. Starting earlier is a bad choice too, no idea what to do here.

I mentioned this earlier, but I think we should have more detailed information about the appropriations process so we have a better grasp of what our ask really means.

It was great!

Personally, receiving so many emails on so many subjects and having to fill so many forms with similar information made it more difficult and less clear to follow