MINUTES

University Curriculum Committee for General Education
April 2, 2025
2:30 pm
Zoom: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/s/84229621673

Present: Aaron Ansell (presiding), Angela Anderson, Stephen Biscotte, Dan Folescu, Aaron Goldstein, Jason Malone, Phil Olson, Khanh Ngoc Tran, Sparkle Williams, Travis Webster

Absent with Notice: Kelly Cobourn, Mike Gordon, Janet Hilder, Molly Hall, Marian Mollin, Annie Ronan, Vincent Wang

Absent: Emmanuel Benitez, Corinne Guimont, Modiu Olaguro, Nasim Schwab

Guests: Jenni Gallagher, Jennifer Maguire, Rachel Pitcher

A. Ansell called the meeting to order at 2:33 pm. A quorum was present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion carried.

2. Announcement of approval and posting of minutes of March 5, 2024.

A. Ansell noted that these minutes have been voted on electronically and can be publicly accessed on the Governance Website: governance.vt.edu.

3. Unfinished Business

- J. Gallagher provided an update on the proposed recertification process. She will send a slideshow explaining the proposal to committee members so that they can share it with their constituents and collect feedback.

4. New Business

- Study Abroad Course Proposal Review
  - ENGL 4954: London Calling! 2025 was unanimously approved for concept 2 (Critical Thinking in the Humanities)
- Special Study Course Proposal Review
  - MATH 1984: Math in Our World for Concept 5f (Foundational Quantitative and Computational Thinking) was unanimously tabled until May meeting. The committee has asked for additional information from the proposer.
- Student Survey Data

- o J. McGuire shared the results of the Fall 2024 Pathways student survey (see Appendix A).

4. Subcommittee Reports

There were no subcommittee reports.
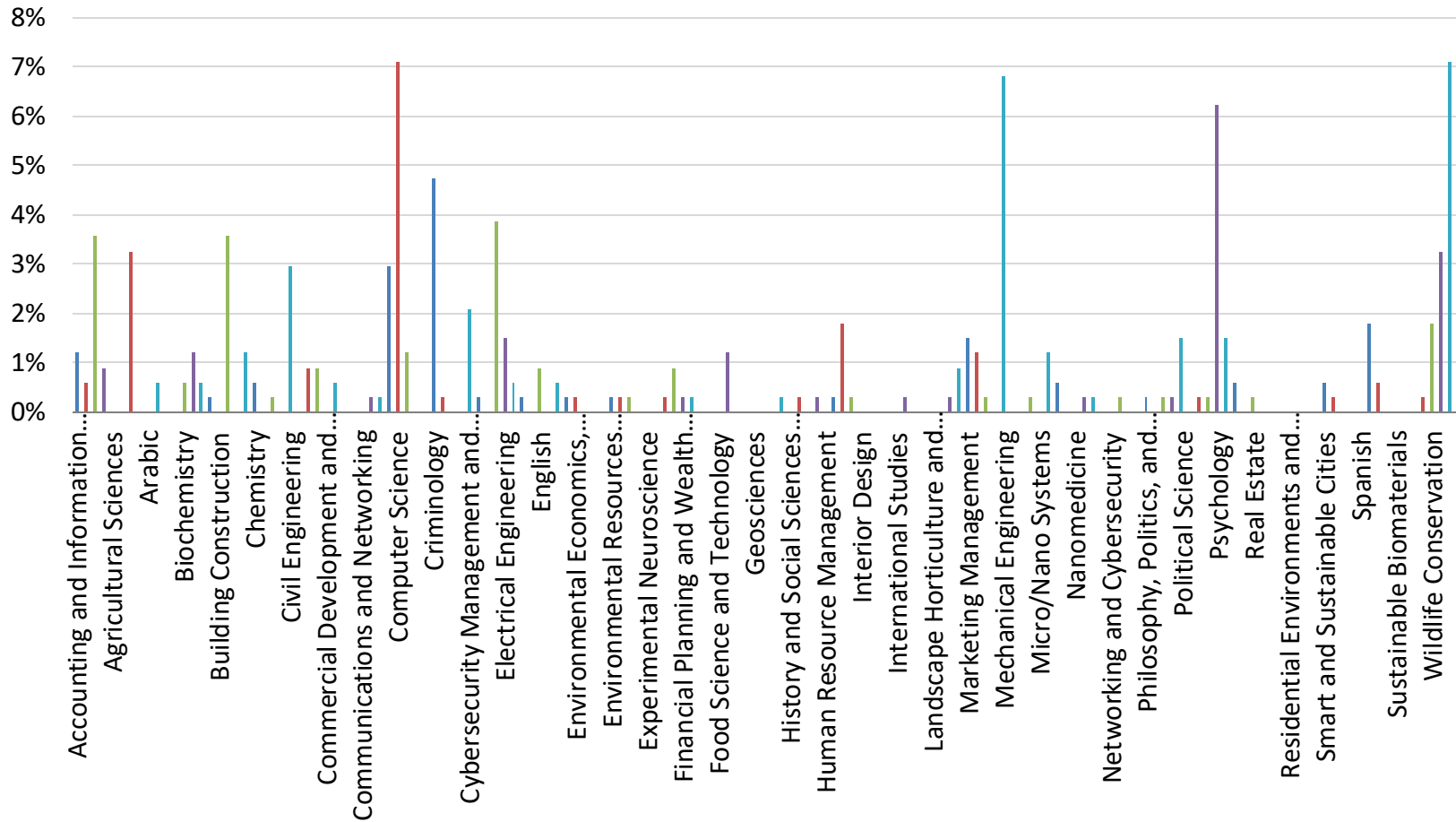
5. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 pm.
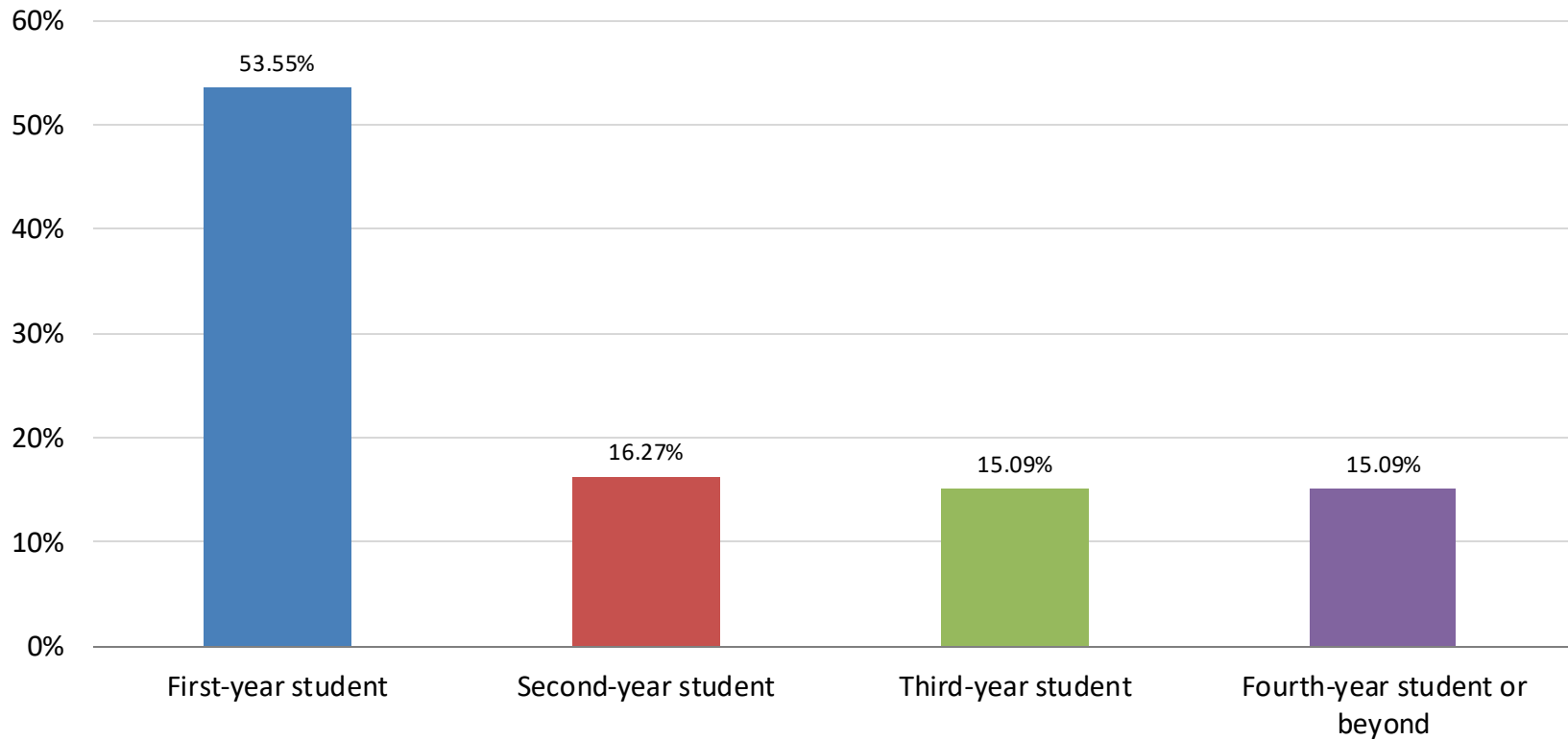
Minutes compiled by Jenni Gallagher

Fall 2024 Pathways Student Survey

Jennifer Maguire, Ph.D.
Program Evaluation Manager for Undergraduate Education
maguirej@vt.edu

What is your primary major?

When choosing which Pathways course(s) to take, which of the following reasons are important to you?

All Respondents (n=343)

- Most Important:
  - Personal interest
- Moderately Important:
  - Ease or difficulty of the course
  - Relevance to career goals
  - Day/time schedule
  - Instructor
  - Double-counting credits
  - Course modality
- Least Important:
  - Low cost of books/materials

URM/USS (n=103)

- Same order as All Respondents
- Less important than all respondents:
  - Ease or difficulty of the course
  - Course modality
- More important than all respondents:
  - Double-counting credits
  - Low cost of books/materials

When choosing which Pathways course(s) to take, which of the following sources of information are important to you?

All Respondents

- Most Important:
  - Advisor's advice
- Moderately Important:
  - Information from non-VT websites
  - Friends' and classmates' opinions
- Least Important:
  - VT Timetable
  - Information from VT websites

URM/USS

- Same order as All Respondents
- Slightly less important than all respondents:
  - Advisor's advice
  - Friends' and classmates' opinions
- More important than all respondents:
  - Double-counting credits
  - Low cost of books/materials

QuestionPro

There are many potential benefits to participating in Pathways general education. Please rank all of these potential benefits in order of importance to you.
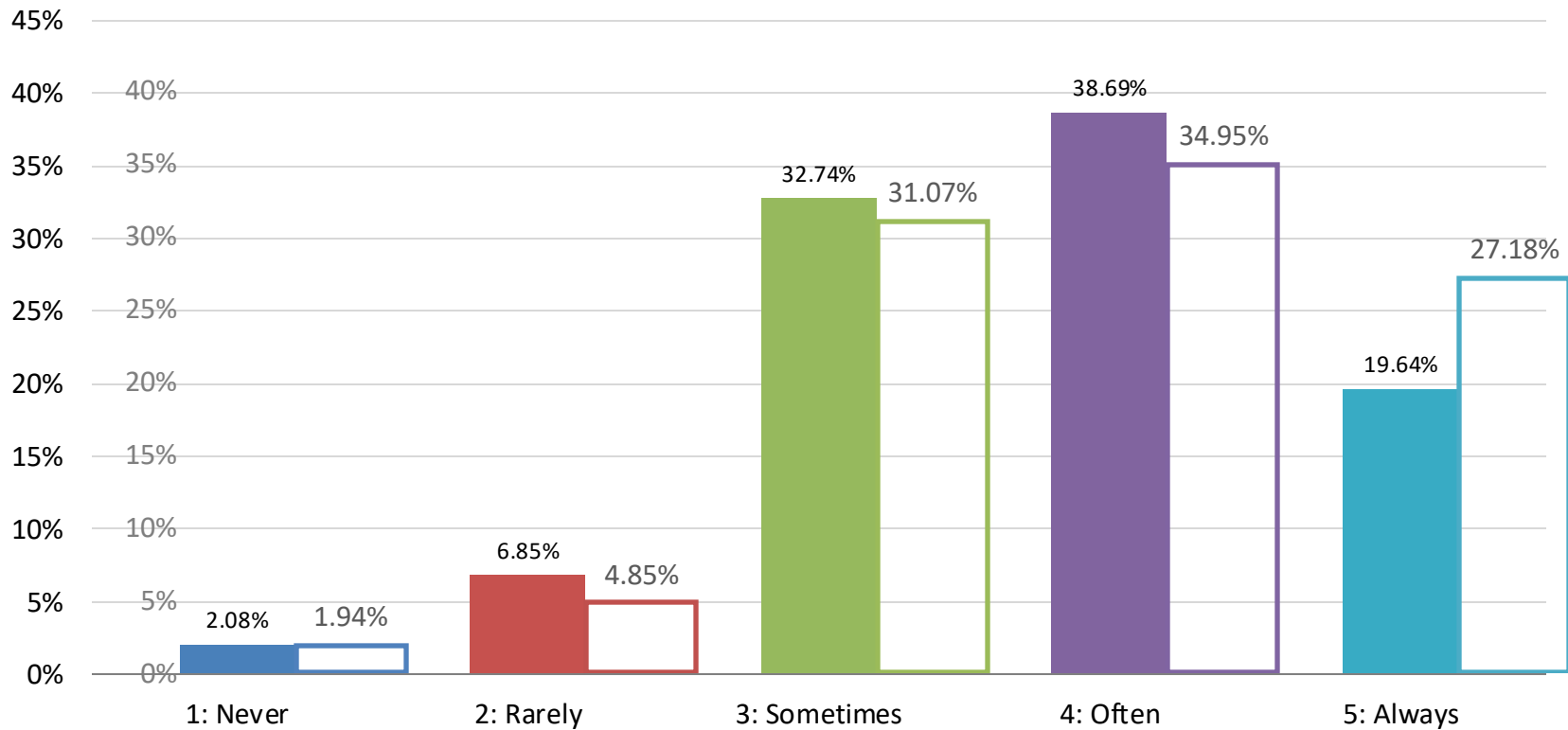
All Respondents

- Most Important:
  - Skills and knowledge that complement major
- Moderately Important:
  - Career skills
  - Experience in different disciplines
  - New academic passions and interests
- Least Important:
  - Learning to communicate with students of different backgrounds/majors
  - Learning to communicate across different beliefs/values

URM/USS

- Only very minor differences

QuestionPro

Thinking about the Pathways courses you have taken, to what degree/how often have those courses:
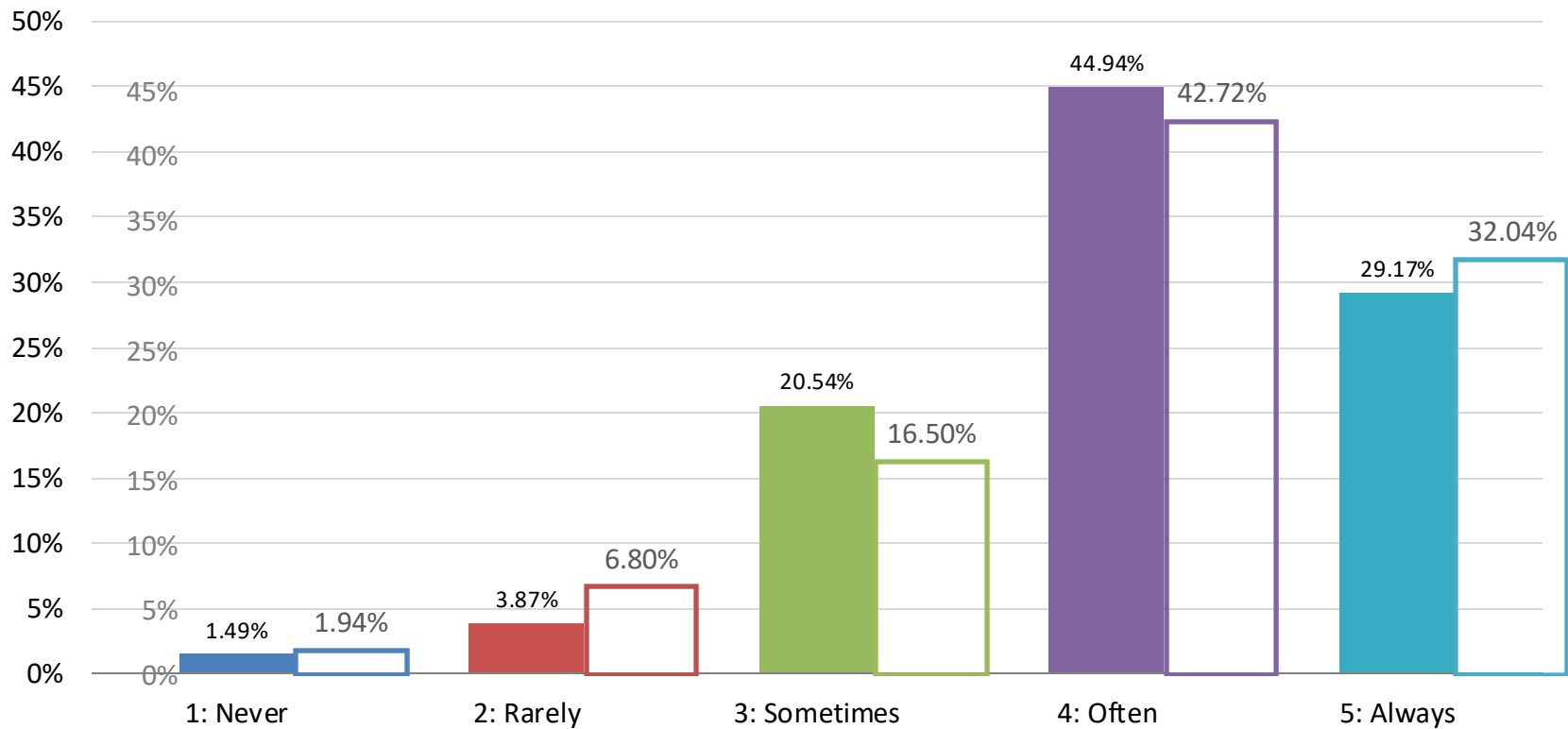
encouraged you to explore the world from different perspectives?

	2.08% 1.94%	6.85% 4.85%	32.74% 31.07%	38.69% 34.95%	19.64% 27.18%

1: Never 2: Rarely 3: Sometimes 4: Often 5: Always

Mean : 3.670 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.569 - 3.770] | Standard Deviation : 0.937 | Standard Error : 0.051

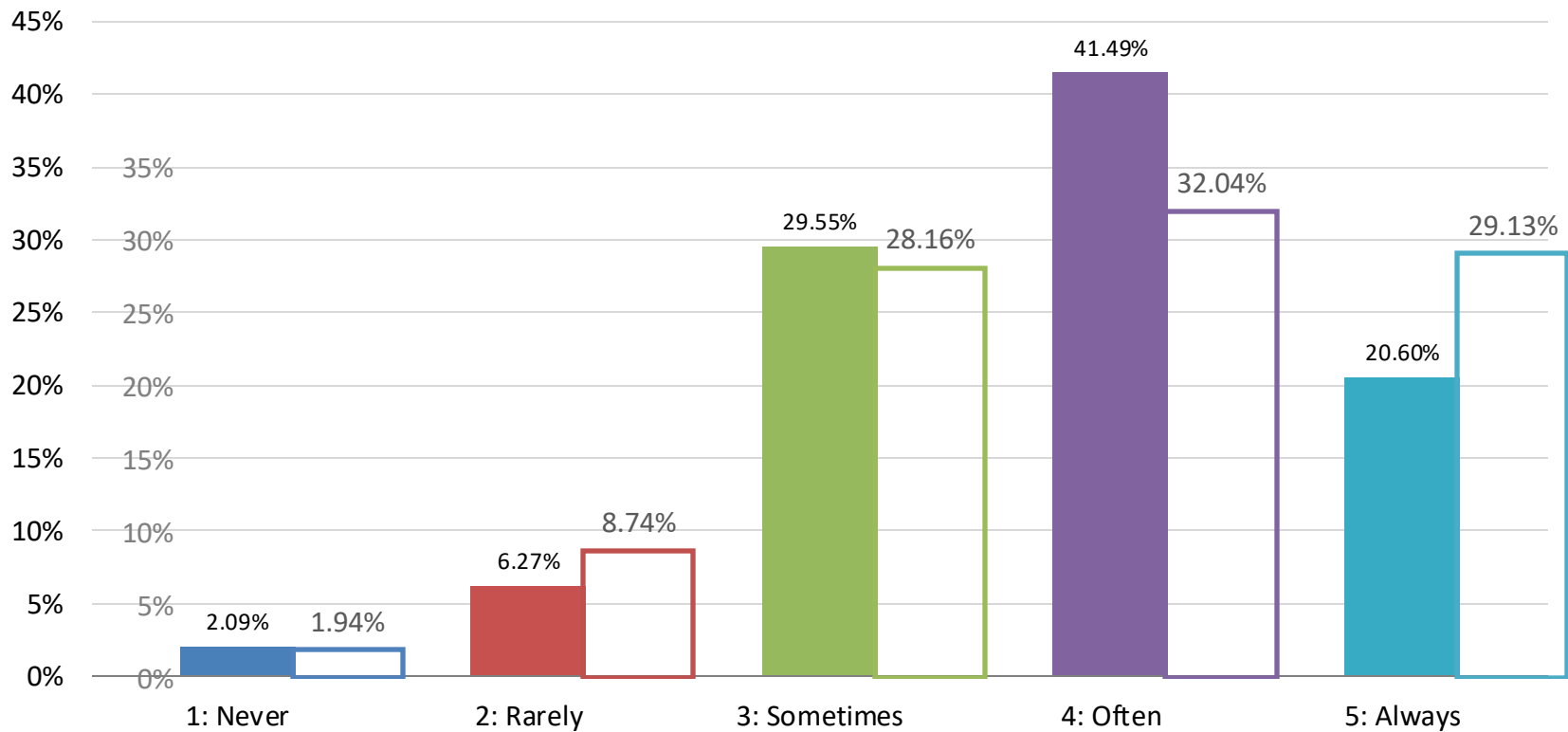Mean : 3.806 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.620 - 3.991] | Standard Deviation : 0.961 | Standard Error : 0.095

QuestionPro

allowed you to learn in an inclusive classroom environment?

1: Never	1.49% / 1.94%
2: Rarely	3.87% / 6.80%
3: Sometimes	20.54% / 16.50%
4: Often	44.94% / 42.72%
5: Always	29.17% / 32.04%

Mean : 3.964 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.869 - 4.059] | Standard Deviation : 0.887 | Standard Error : 0.048

Mean : 3.961 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.774 - 4.148] | Standard Deviation : 0.969 | Standard Error : 0.096
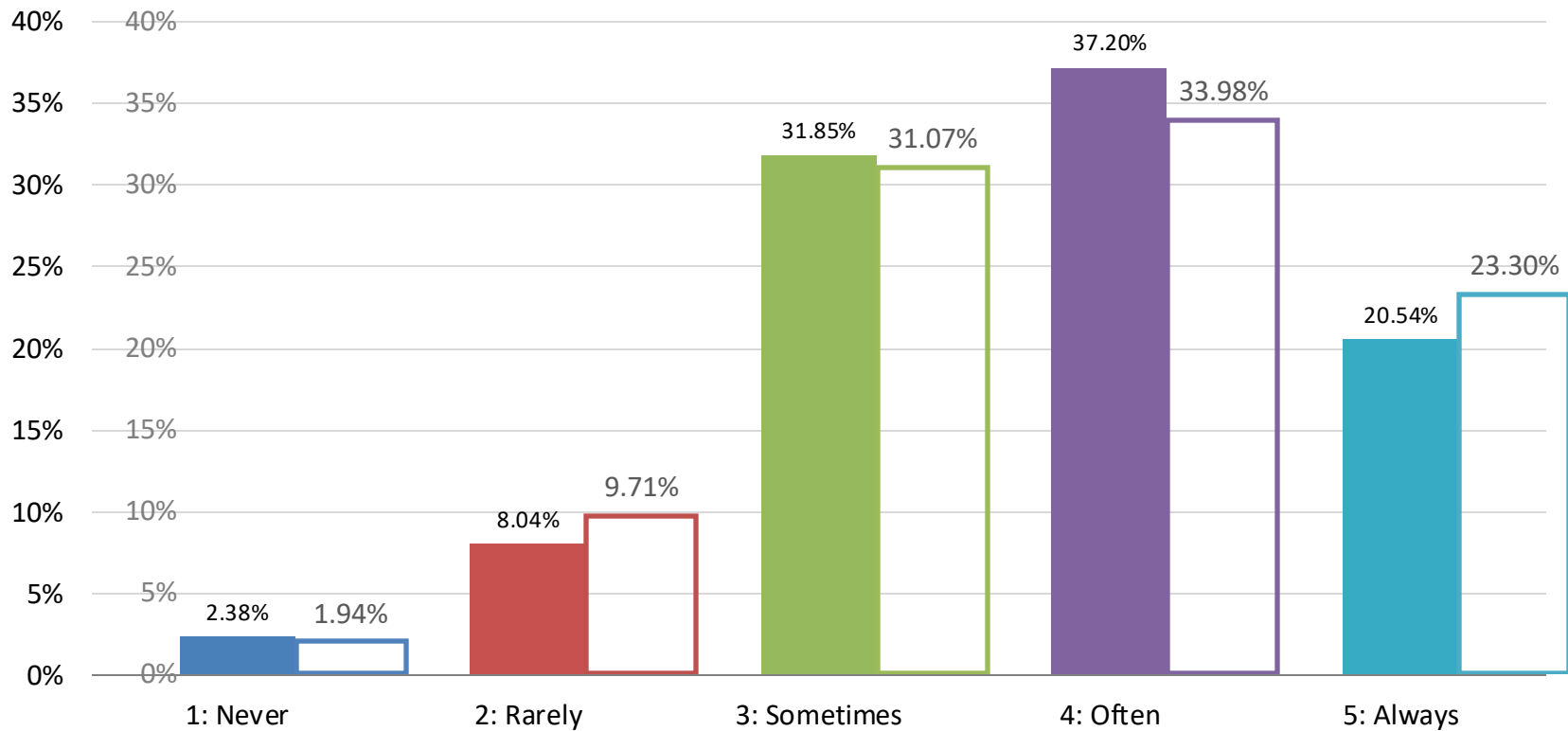
QuestionPro

helped you develop knowledge and/or skills that will be relevant to your future?

Mean : 3.722 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.623 - 3.822] | Standard Deviation : 0.930 | Standard Error : 0.051

Mean : 3.777 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.578 - 3.975] | Standard Deviation : 1.028 | Standard Error : 0.101
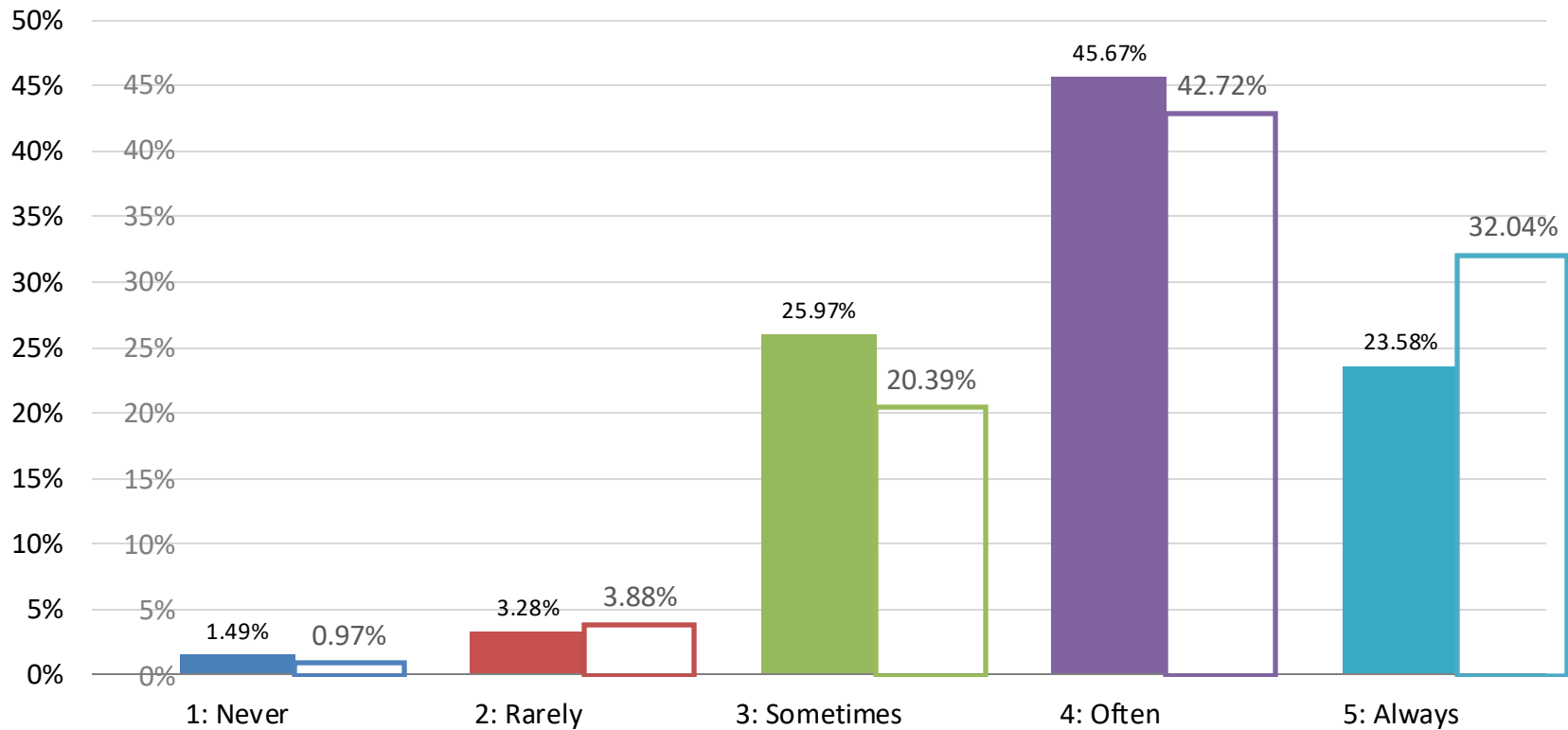
allowed you to examine issues of diversity and inclusion?

	2.38% 1.94%	8.04% 9.71%	31.85% 31.07%	37.20% 33.98%	20.54% 23.30%
	1: Never	2: Rarely	3: Sometimes	4: Often	5: Always

Mean : 3.655 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.551 - 3.759] | Standard Deviation : 0.971 | Standard Error : 0.053

Mean : 3.670 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.476 - 3.864] | Standard Deviation : 1.004 | Standard Error : 0.099
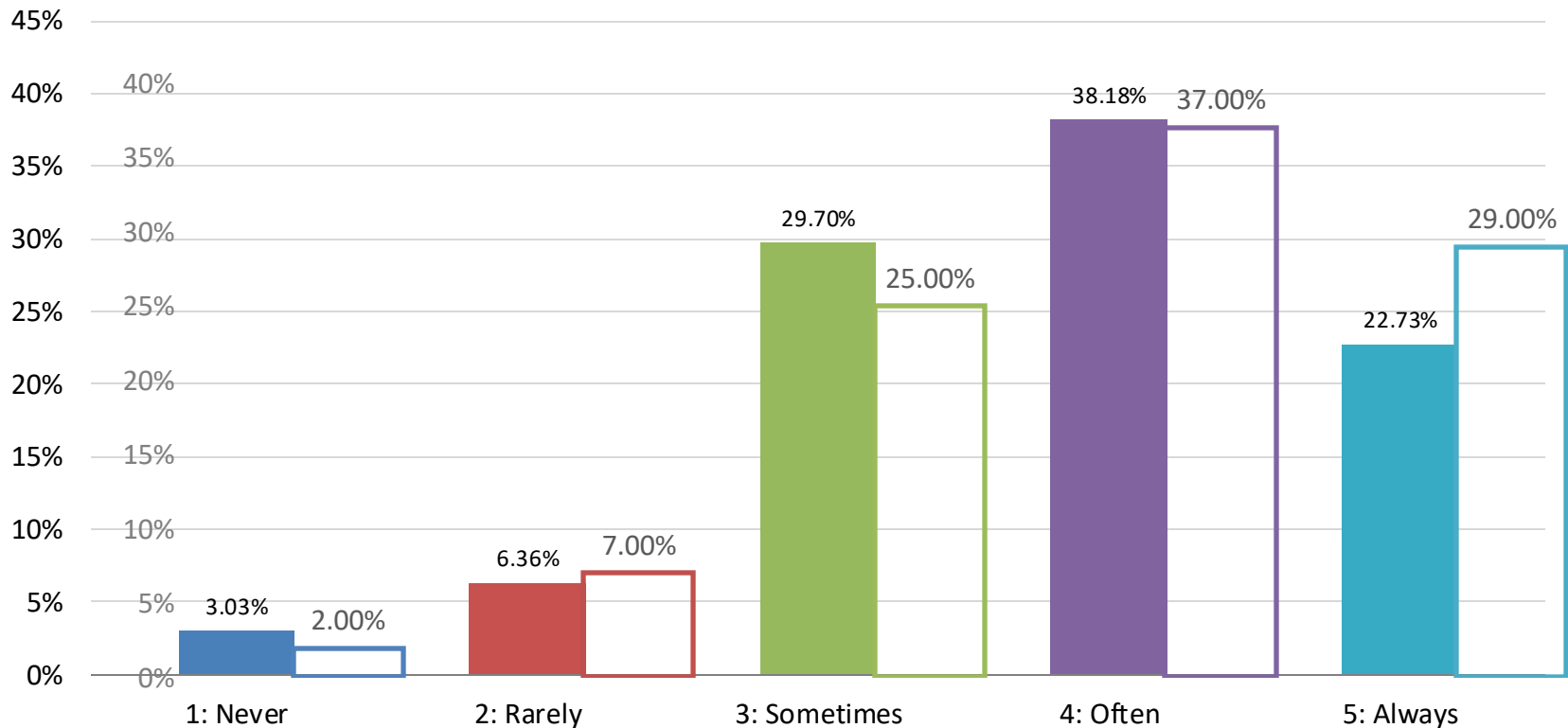
QuestionPro

helped you make connections between specific concepts and ideas across multiple courses?

Mean : 3.866 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.773 - 3.958] | Standard Deviation : 0.863 | Standard Error : 0.047

Mean : 4.010 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.840 - 4.180] | Standard Deviation : 0.880 | Standard Error : 0.087
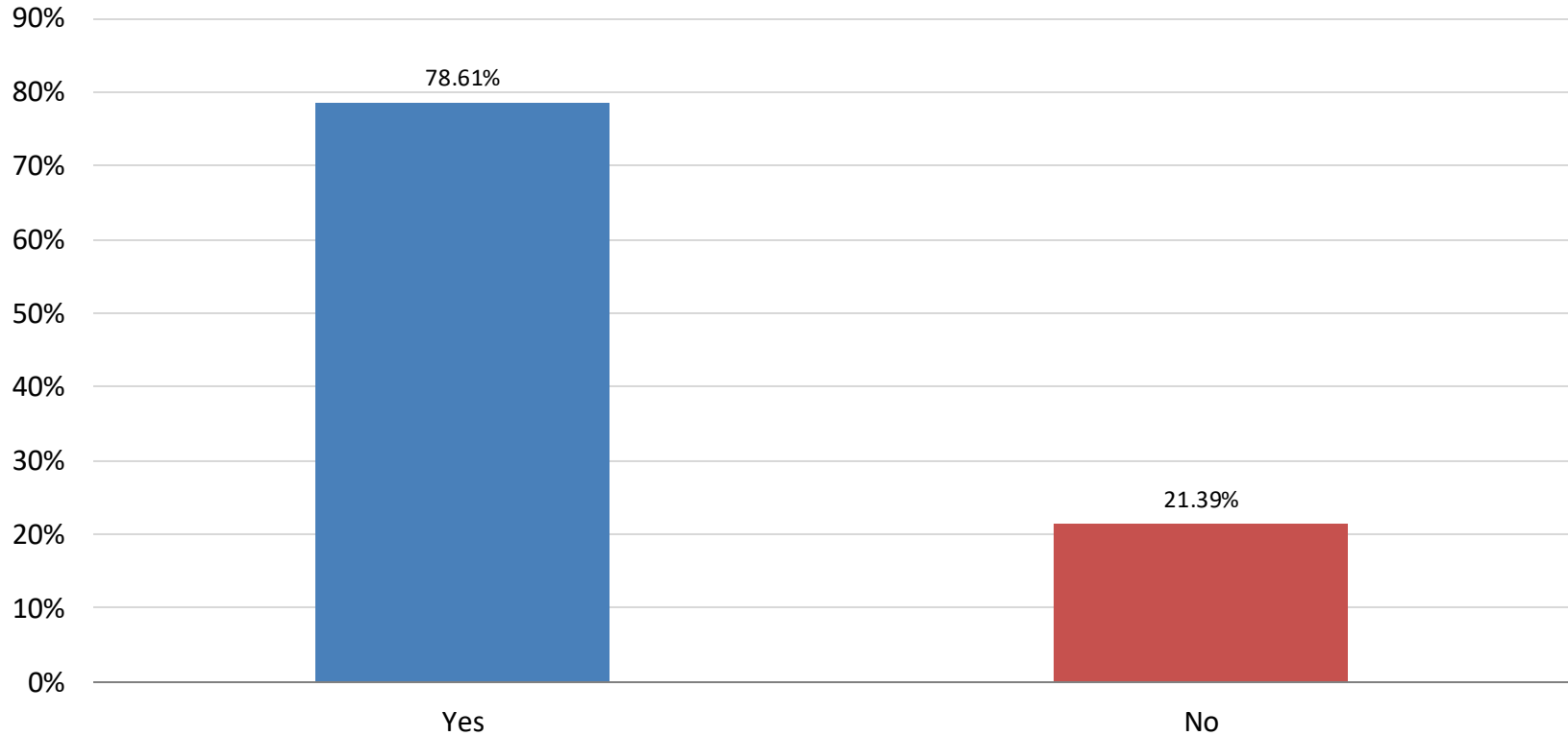
QuestionPro

helped you develop the knowledge and skills needed for engaged, active citizenship in your local, regional, national, and world communities?
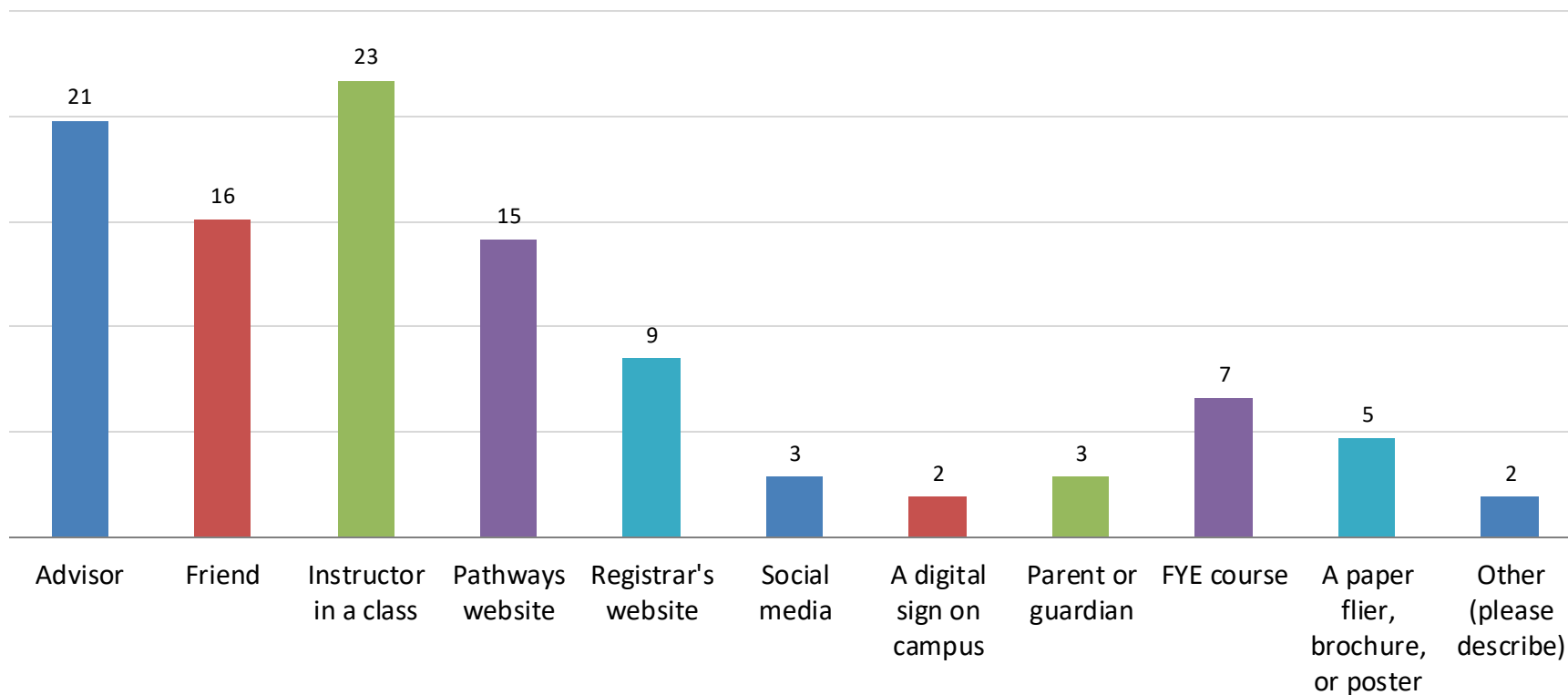

Mean : 3.712 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.606 - 3.818] | Standard Deviation : 0.986 | Standard Error : 0.054

Mean : 3.840 | Confidence Interval @ 95% : [3.646 - 4.034] | Standard Deviation : 0.992 | Standard Error : 0.099

QuestionPro

Have you ever heard of any of the 30 Pathways minors listed below? (n=332)

![Bar chart showing responses. "Yes" bar: 78.61%. "No" bar: 21.39%.]

QuestionPro

Where did you hear about Pathways minors? Check all that apply. (n=45)

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences in your Pathways courses?

- I don't know if I've even taken a pathway yet.

- Everything learned there has a contribution to my overall holistic college education.
- The offering here at Virginia Tech is very robust, modular, and relevant/applicable to many different industries! I love it.
- I really enjoyed taking pathways courses and feel like they enhanced my knowledge on a variety of topics. It was also nice to have a class that was not always directly related to my major/minor.
- I think it has been awesome being able to go beyond the typical STEM courses of an engineering major and being able to do something new. ….. force me to use a different side of my brain compared to my other classes like math or science. Additionally, I loved doing discussions in order to develop communication skills, ….

- Some are fun but sometimes course load is too much for not being a major course.
- They can be fun and interesting, but they mostly serve to distract me from what I am really passionate about studying. I also find that the effort that everyone puts into them, classmates and faculty alike, is pretty minimal.
- Pathways in my opinion is not exactly helpful for students trying to graduate on time/save money. Students are drained of their own resources enough and adding classes that a lot of times have nothing to do with their major just drains them even more.