

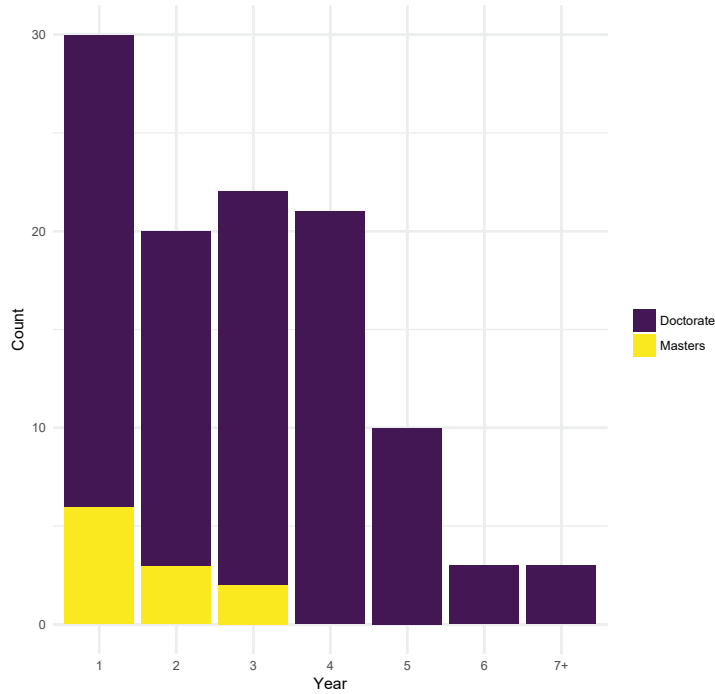
# GSO 2018 – 2019 Survey

Sam Papadakis  
Rich Posert  
Breanna Caruso  
Patrick Flynn

**Abstract:** We had 117 respondents, with an even spread over years enrolled. The vast majority of respondents were PhD students. We will continue to use email as our primary communication tool, but have already made substantial changes to the website and will continue to improve it. The main issues that students would like the GSO to focus on are Pay, W-2s, and Career Development. Other issues were still listed as important, and the GSO will continue to support other organizations that make these issues their focus. Students' favorite events were the barbeques, but we find these results somewhat unreliable due to our phrasing of the question. A minority of respondents are saving the way they want. Most either need a pay increase in order to be able to save, want the ability to save into a tax-favored account, or both. Students are largely ambivalent about our relationship with the administration.

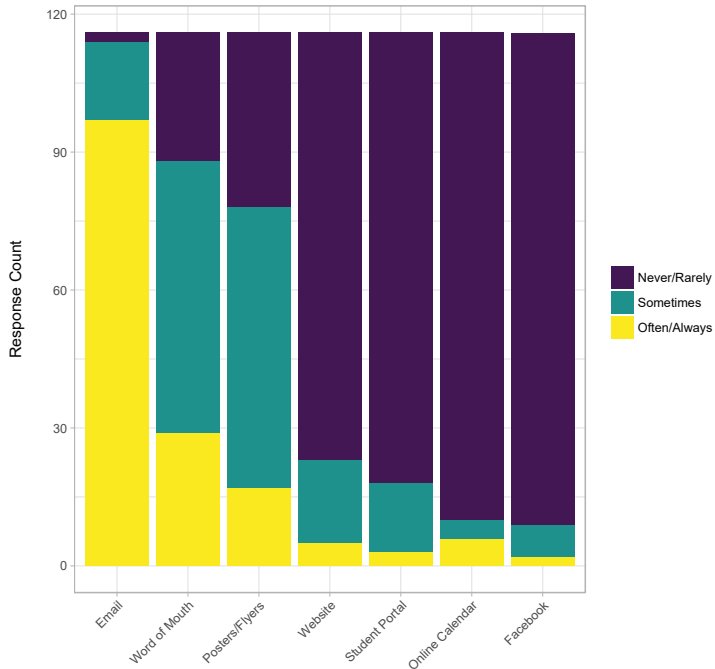
**Transparency:** 119 students responded, with 69 of those filling out the incentive form. Two responders clearly acting in bad faith (checking the same box in every question, even when that made no sense considering what the answers were) were eliminated entirely. Responders who misunderstood the issues question and checked more than one "Most", "Second-most", or "Third-most" choice were not considered for that question, but were included in the rest of the survey. Seven responders who did not include either their year (five) or their degree type (two) were not included in the demographics results, but were included in every question. One dietetic intern responded and was excluded from the results, since the GSO does not represent interns.

Respondant demographics



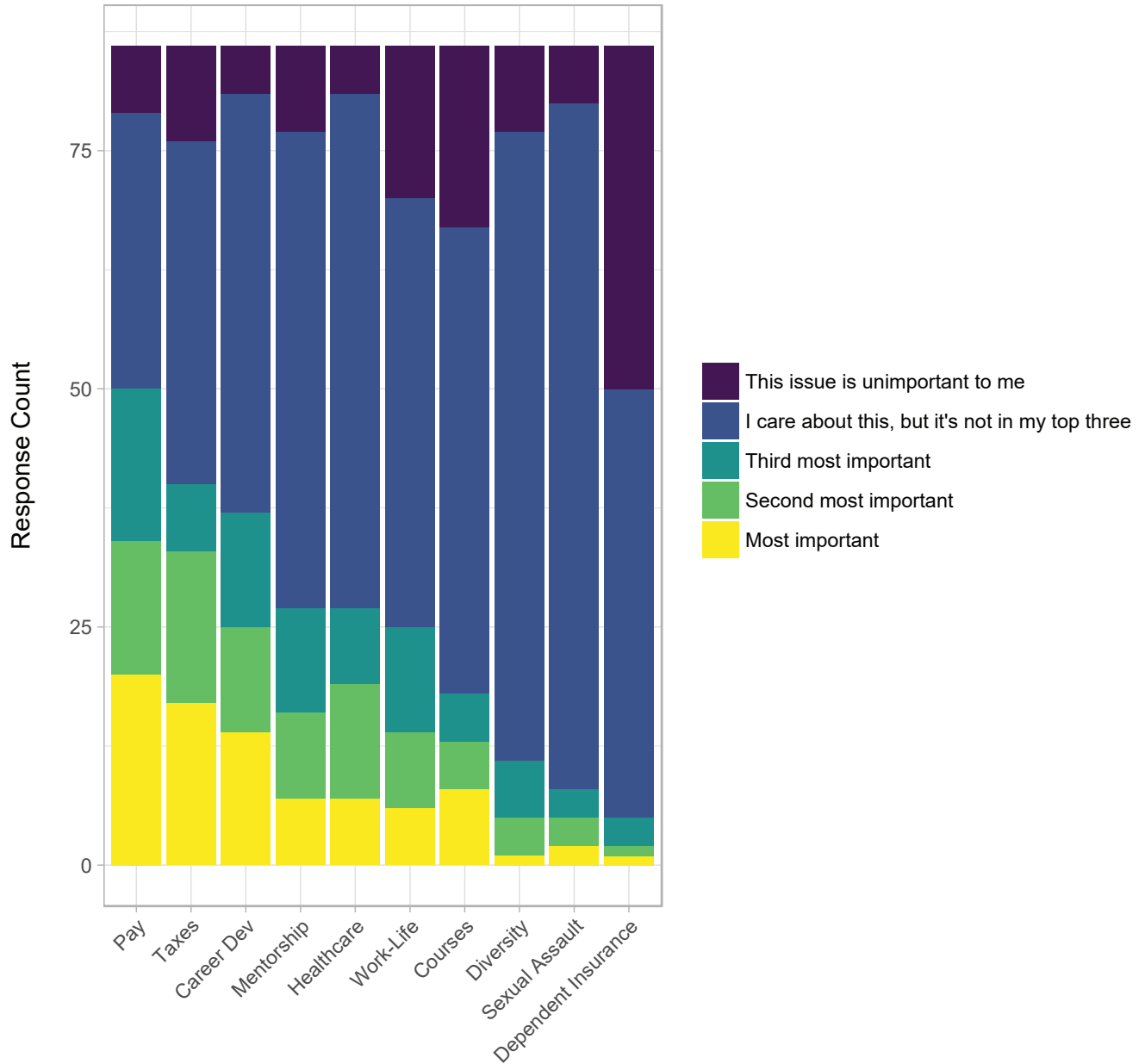
Respondents were distributed as expected across the student years. Totals: 101 PhD (88.6%), 13 Masters (11.4%). In ascending order of student year: 30, 21, 22, 23, 10, 3, 3 respondents. These totals include seven respondents who didn't include a year but did include a degree or vice-versa, and so may not align with the information in the graph. As mentioned above, one first-year dietetic intern responded but was excluded.

Communication usage

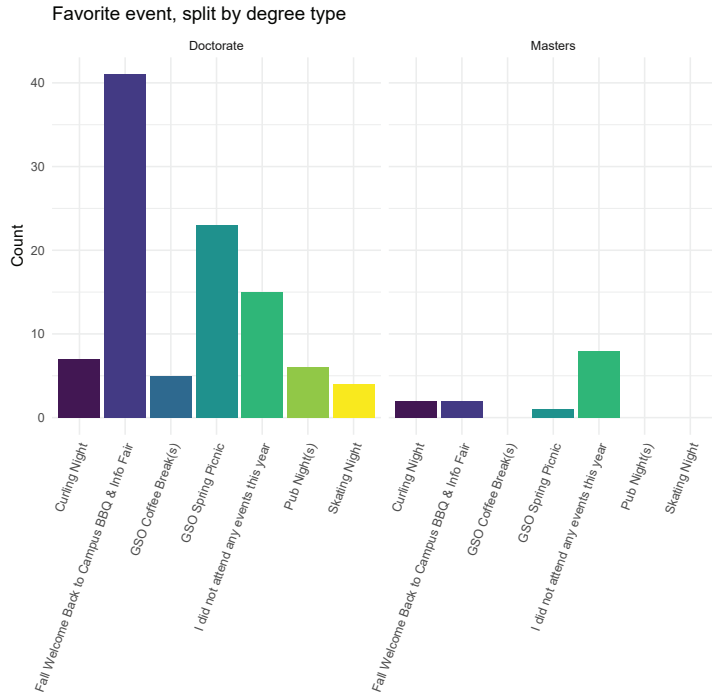


Email is the overwhelmingly preferred method of communication. We are attempting to develop a network by which we can get more word of mouth for our meetings and events, as well as developing a method for distributing fliers. We will no longer maintain the facebook page, as it appears to be unused. Breanna has already made significant updates and changes to the website, so we hope it will be more useful during this next year. Not shown here is data indicating that 87% of respondents feel we send the right amount of emails, and the plurality (40%) not caring whether they receive a newsletter or many small emails. This number increases to 65% when the respondents who prefer to receive multiple small emails is added. As such, we will not be changing our email practices this year.

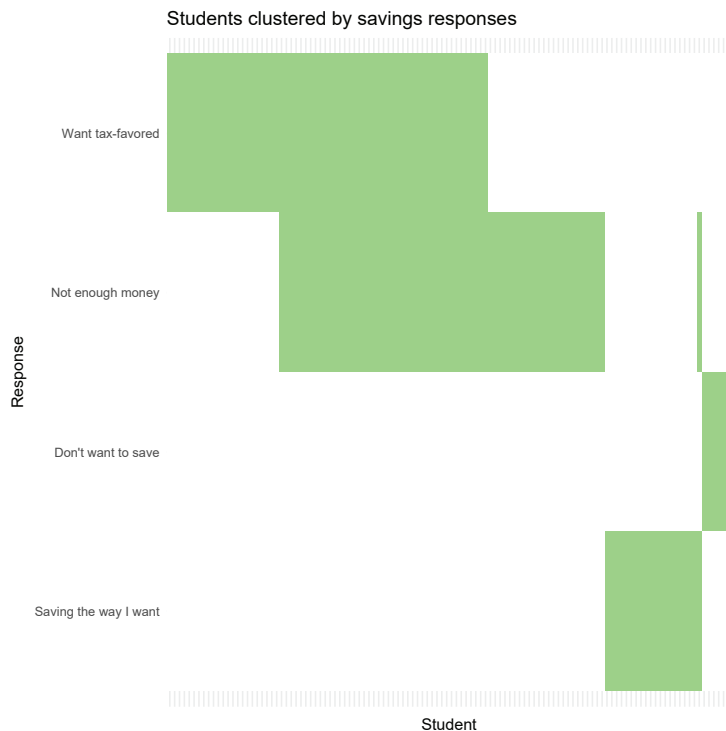
## Issues



The full text of the response options are as follows, in order of priority: Increased Pay; Taxes (tax help, switching to W-2s, etc.); Career development, networking, and internships; Student-Faculty interactions and/or Improved Mentorship; Healthcare quality/availability; Work/life balance and stress reduction; Improved courses/course organization; Increasing diversity (recruitment, inclusion at OHSU, etc.); Sexual assault/harassment accountability and/or HR; Dependent health insurance. All of these issues were marked as important by a majority of valid responses. We interpret the top three issues as those on which the GSO should focus its energies. As such, we will focus on increasing pay, moving students to W-2s (since 69% preferred W-2s and 18% wanted tax help instead, data not shown), and setting up stronger career development opportunities at OHSU. We will continue to assist other organizations dedicated to the other issues presented here, such as AVDS and WIS, but they will not be our focus. There were 86 valid responses to this question.



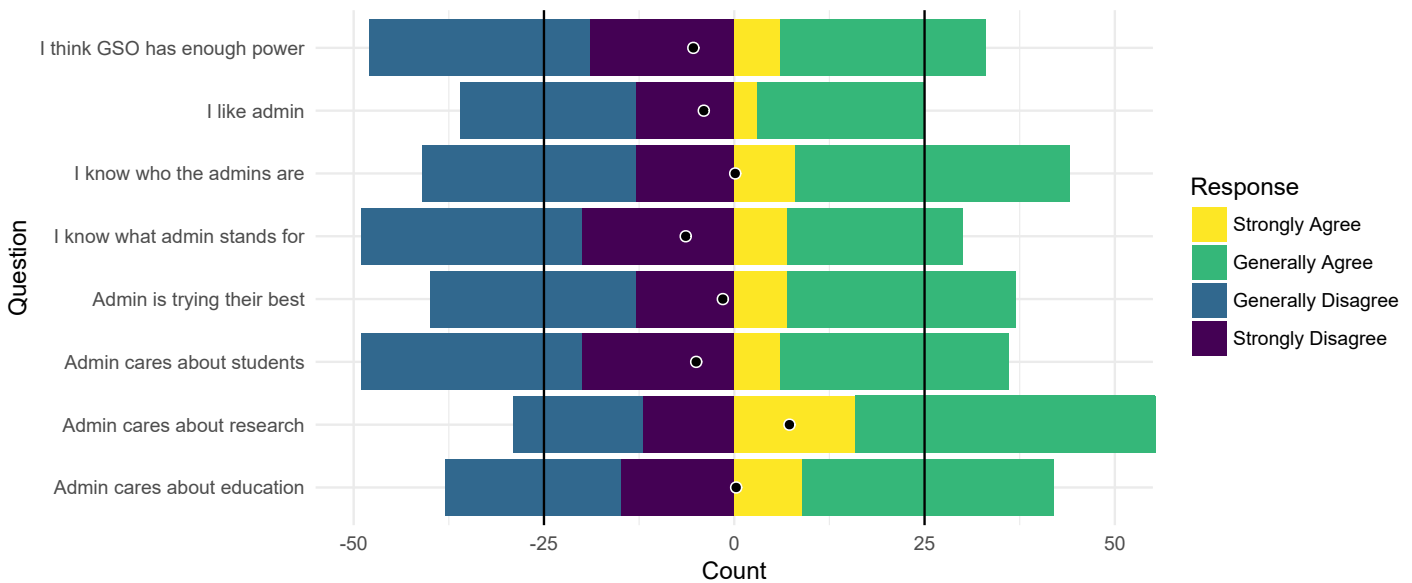
Our results indicate that the BBQs are the most popular events the GSO hosts. However, attendance of these events is more-or-less mandatory, especially the (overwhelmingly most-popular) Fall BBQ. As such, we wish we had reworked this question to try to probe which of the other, more regularly held events was more popular. For instance, ignoring the “Did not attend” and the semi-required events, curling is most popular; this is backed up by attendance rates. Next year we will recommend that the GSO reword this question, but in the mean time we will take into account the copious specific comments we recieved on this question. We also hope to include more masters students in events, and encourage suggestions from these students on how we can accomplish that.



Each respondant is a vertical bar, filled green when a response was selected and left white when a response was not checked. The students were then clustered by their responses, giving a clear set of four groups: Students who want a tax-favored savings account but are otherwise happy with saving (23 students, 20%), those who need more money to be able to save but would otherwise be happy to do so (24 students, 21%), those who need both a tax-favored status and more money (43 students, 37%), and those who are currently satisfied with their savings arrangements (either saving how they want, or happy to not save at all; 26 students, 22%). These results match our issues results well, as the top two both here and there are pay increase and W-2s.

There were 116 responses to this question  
Percentages are rounded.

## Administration impressions



Students were asked to rate their agreement with several statements about the administration, defined as “deans and head faculty that vote at Grad Council”. Responses of “No opinion” were discarded on a per-statement basis (i.e., if a student responded “Generally agree” to statement 1 and “No opinion” to statement 2, only their response to statement 2 was removed). Counts of the remaining four options were summed, and the “disagree” sums multiplied by -1. These values were then plotted as seen above. Then, “generally” was weighted as 1 per response, while “strongly” was weighted as 1.5 per response. A weighted mean was calculated and plotted as a black dot. Thus, a “generally” and “strongly” count equally for the bar chart, but a “strongly” counts for 1.5 times as much as a “generally” for the plotted mean value.

Overall, students appear largely ambivalent about the administration and their efforts to promote science. However, students with strong feelings tend to be more negative than positive. The only areas that the administration clearly needs to improve in are demonstrating that they care about students and showing what they stand for. We will therefore invite the administration to attend meetings or communicate with students through GSO emails about upcoming initiatives to improve the student life and research environment at OHSU.

These are the salient results of the 2018 - 2019 GSO survey. Specific questions about results can be directed to Rich Posert. A dataset will be made available on the GSO website for 1 year. This dataset will have specific comments removed, and the responses will be scrambled.