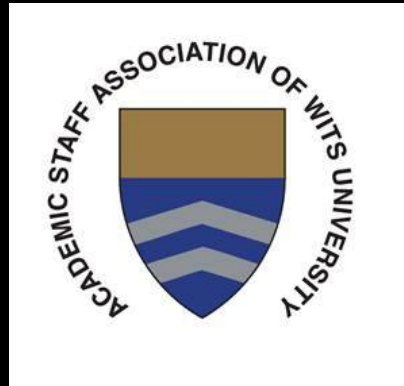


Staff Opinions on HE Funding & Protest

22-28 September 2016

www.asawu.org.za



Participation & Limitations

- 364 responses
- (n = 780 ASAWU members)
- Most responses on 22 and 23 September
- Survey was open from 22-28 September 2016

- Not *statistically representative* of all academic staff at Wits
- But strongly indicative of views and opinions of ASAWU members in a particular moment in time

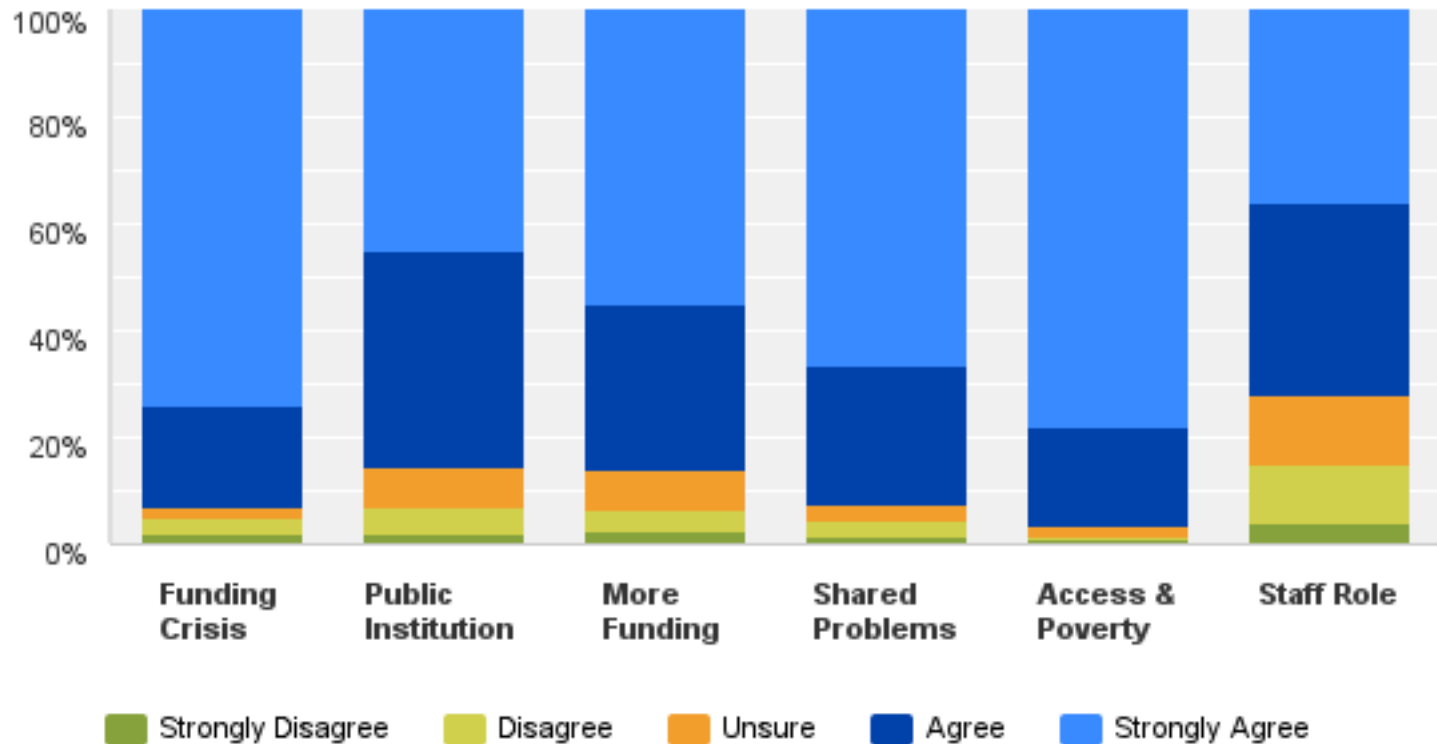
Aims & Hypotheses

- To gauge opinions of staff members on key issues related to HE “crisis” and student activism
- H1: Staff understand and care about the substantive issues at play in HE
- H2: Staff understand and support student activism around free education
- H3: Staff are willing to get involved to change things

Findings H1

Q1 Your views on government funding to Higher Education

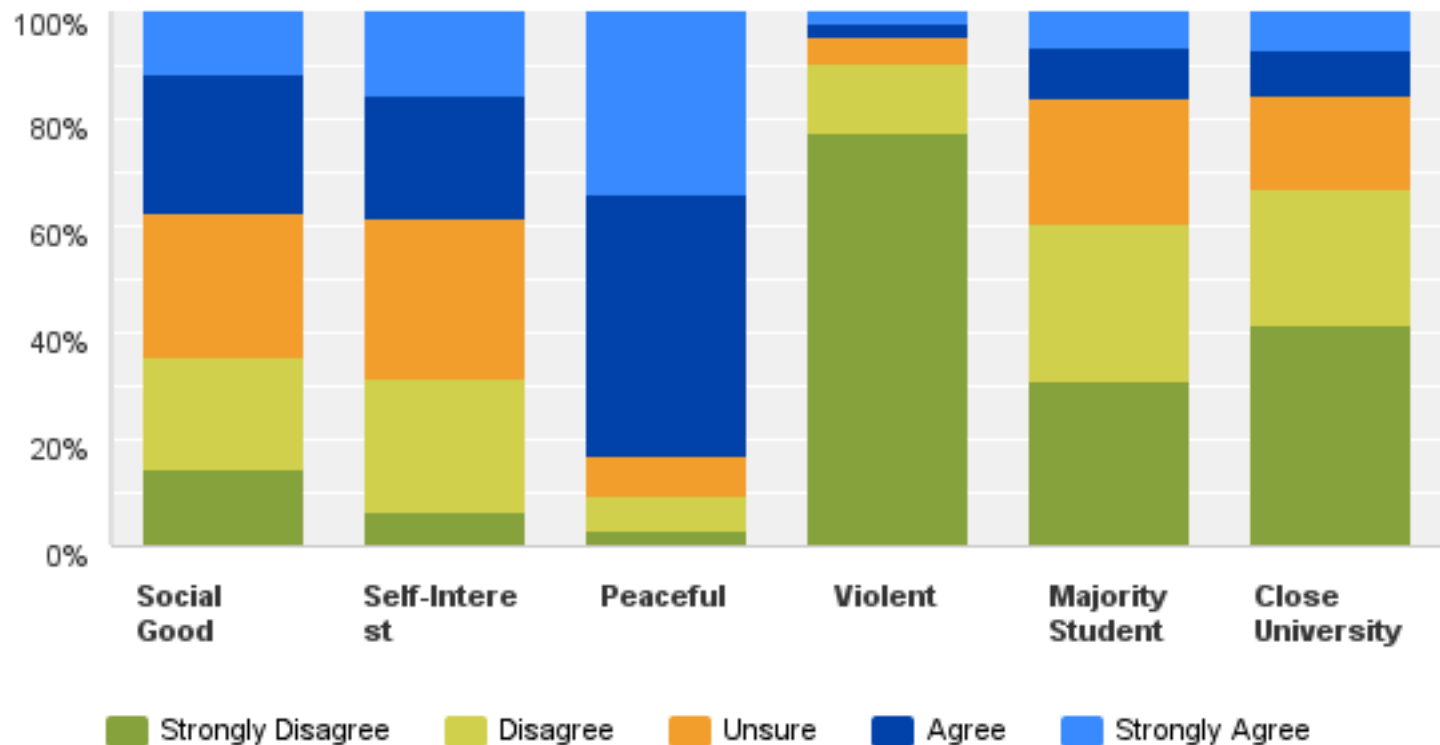
Answered: 363 Skipped: 1



Findings H2

Q2 Your views on the current student protests.

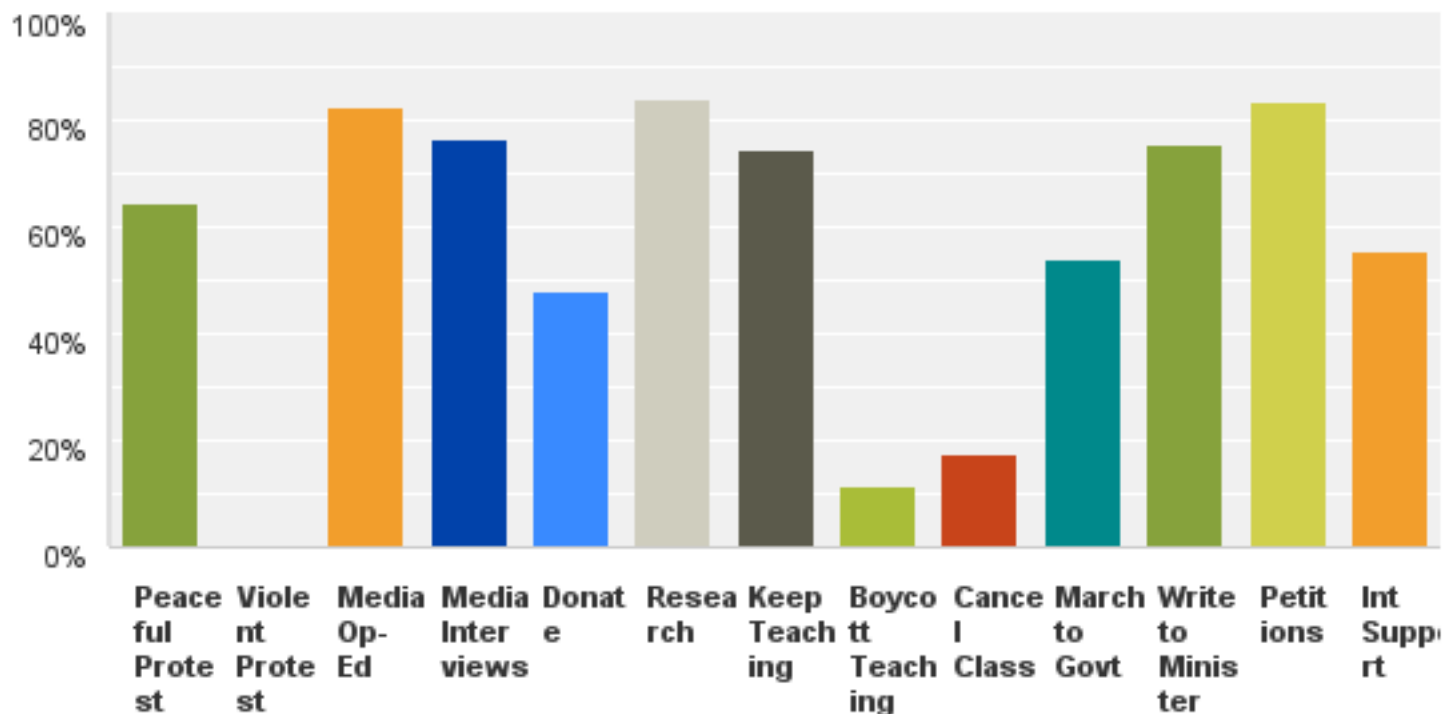
Answered: 363 Skipped: 1



Actions

Q3 It is appropriate for academic staff to take the following actions to campaign for accessible education (please tick ALL those you agree with):

Answered: 355 Skipped: 9



Resolutions, ASAWU calls for

- Increased public funding for higher education. Universities need to be considered as a public good and funding needs to reflect the important role they play in social and economic development.
- Increased effort towards transforming university spaces and decolonising the learning environment. Such a request requires not just rethinking course content but also pedagogical approaches and governance structures
- The complete removal of security forces – be they private or police – from campus. Teaching and learning cannot take place in a context of securitization.

Resolutions, ASAWU calls for

- A cessation of the use of violence and destruction of infrastructure by all parties involved – be it students, private security, or police. In a democracy there are many non-violent avenues to resolve our problems and differences.
- Genuine dialogue between university management and students in order for the academic project to resume as soon as possible. Such dialogue should emphasise commonalities such as better funding for higher education and be concluded with a University Assembly.
- Academics across South Africa to engage in a National Day of Action to support improved funding for and transformation of higher education so as to resolve this crisis and to address the impacts of massification on the university sector.