Graduate Student Feedback

On behalf of the BE Student Board
and graduate student body

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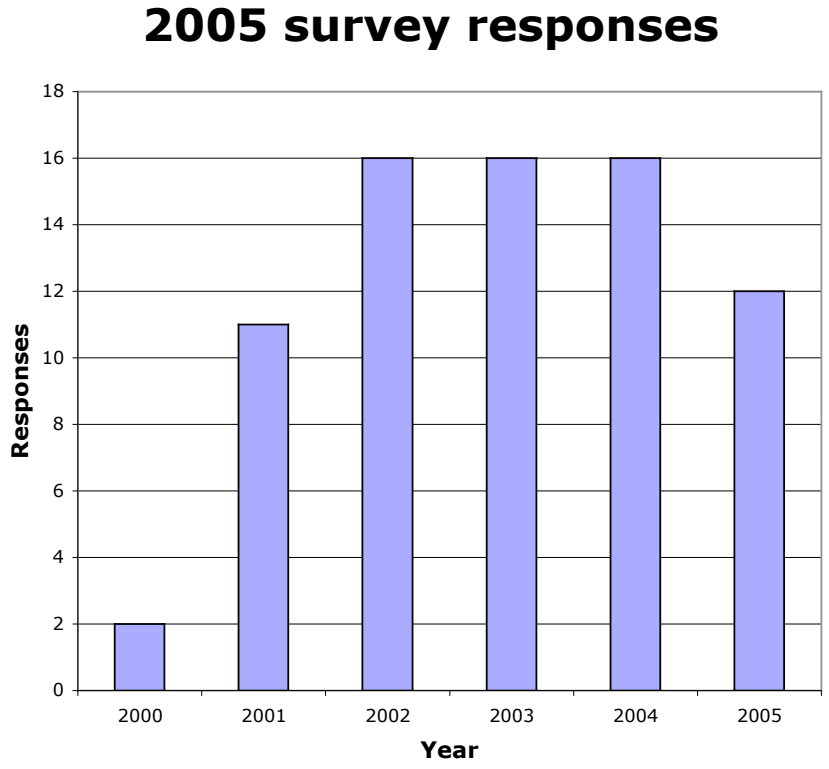
Feedback Sources

- 2005 BE survey
  - 56 Bioengineering
  - 10 Tox
  - 6 ABS
- Direct comments
  - ~20 responses
- 2004 BE survey



Topics for Review

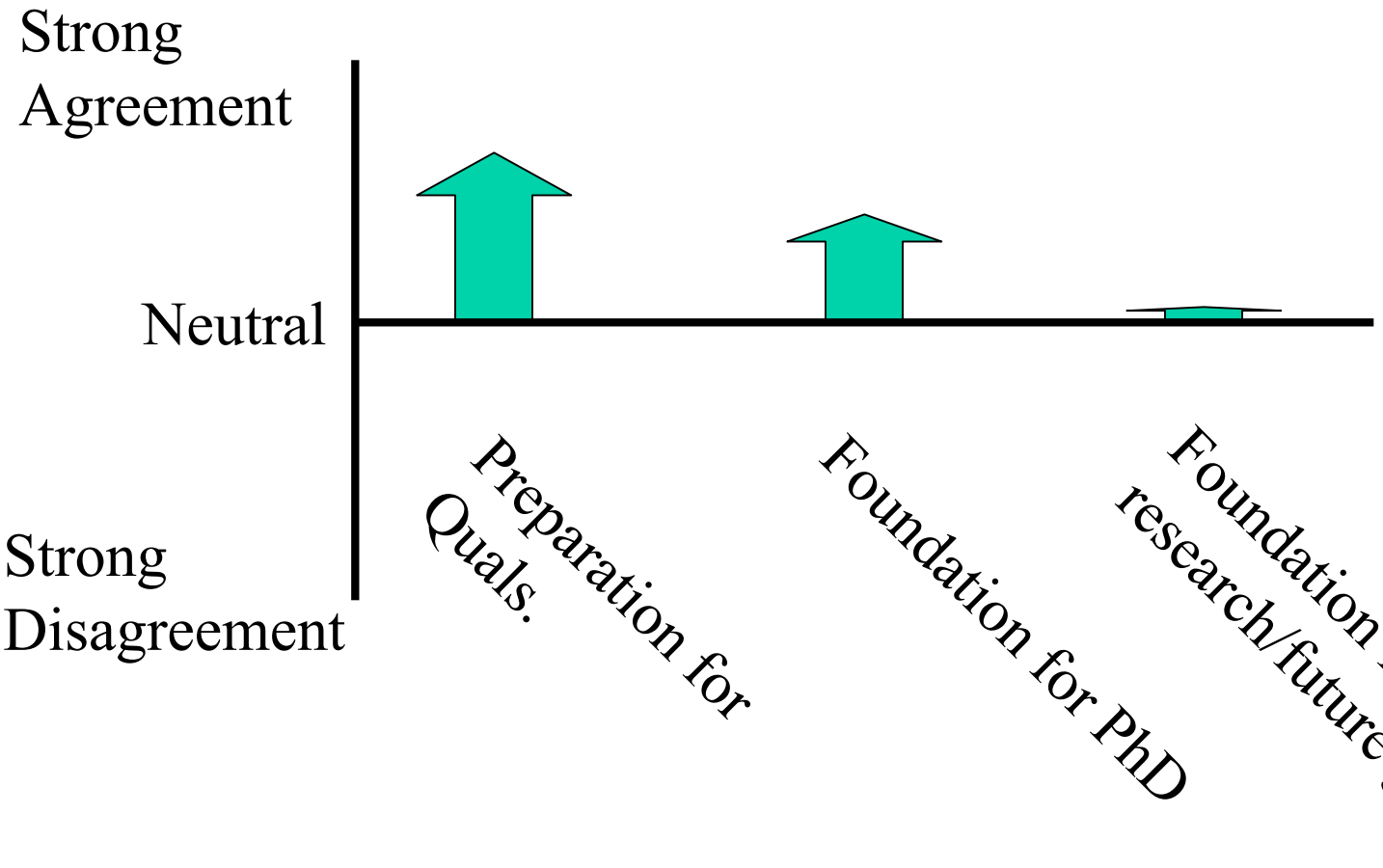
1. Curriculum
2. Funding support policy
3. Thesis advisor selection process & policies
4. Qualifying exam procedures
5. Admission process and policies
6. Mentoring and advising during years 3+
7. TA experience

Topics for Review

- Curriculum
- Funding support policy
- Thesis advisor selection process & policies
- Qualifying exam procedures
- Admission process and policies
- Mentoring during years 3+
- TA experience

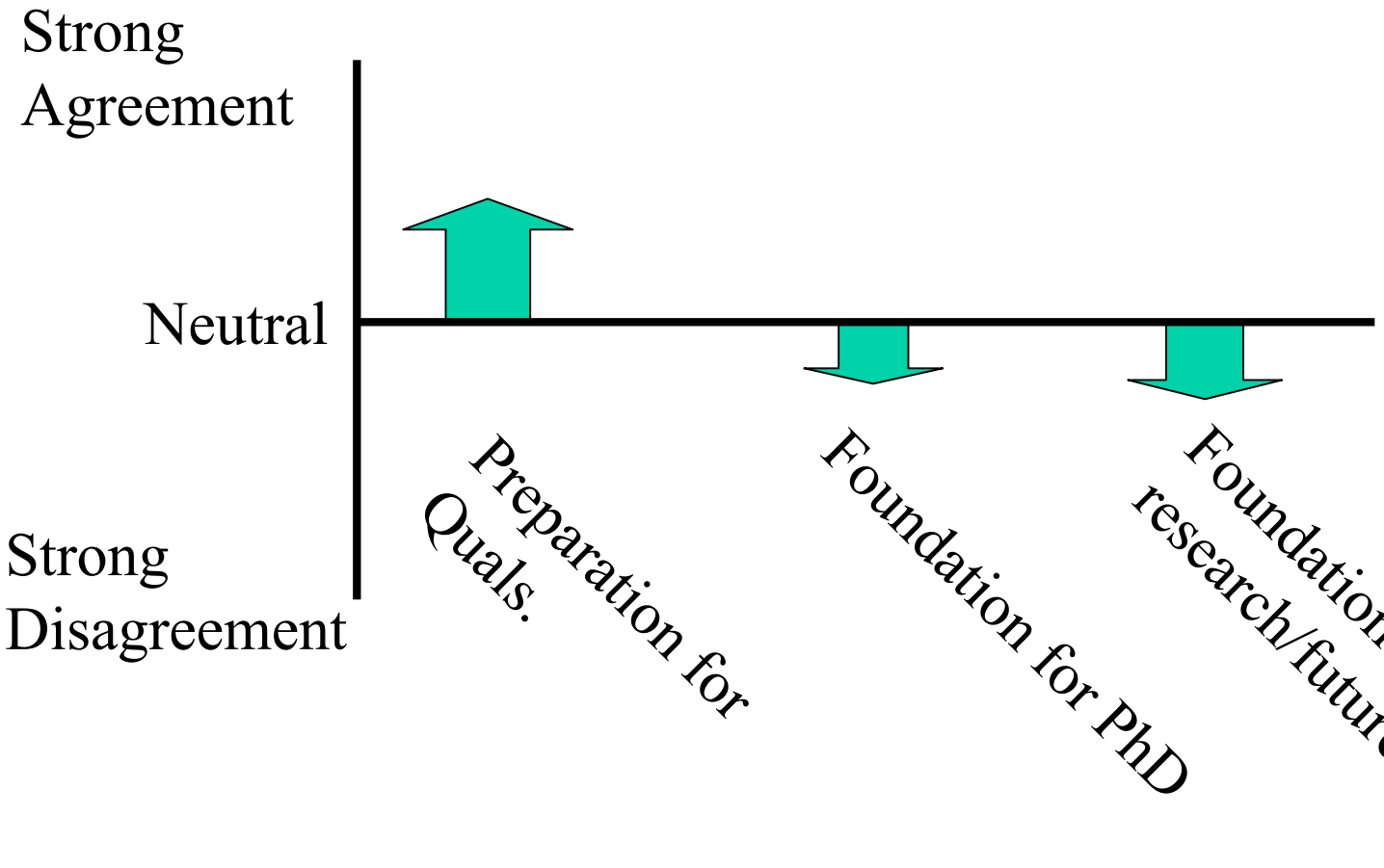
Core Classes

- Bioengineering Track



Core Classes

- Tox./Applied Biosciences Track



Suggested Curriculum Topics

- Math/Statistics/Data Analysis (10x)
- Methods-based Biology (6x)
- More topics from outside BE - electrical engineering, materials science, computer science (5x)

Core Classes

- BE.400 and BE.420 are integral core classes in everyone's opinion
- Some feel bioeng. core emphasizes mechanics over other crucial topics
- "Core Electives" - pick one of two
  - Mechanics vs. Math/Statistics vs. Methods

BE.400

- Increase the instructor/student ratio
  - Senior Grad. Students
- Restructure the project
  - Analyze the state of a field
  - Use as a mini-rotation
  - Use as a “starter project” in thesis lab
- Give different subgroups a different figure to study
- Include some of the topics that people wish were in the curriculum

Electives

- Bioengineering and Tox./ABS students all wish for a wider selection of electives
- Many don't find it easy to find a BE elective
- Suggestions
  - make the petition process more obvious
  - reexamine the list of electives

Qualifying Exam

- Written Exam
  - Valuable and worthwhile
- Thesis Proposal/Oral Exam
  - General level of satisfaction and preparedness

Thesis Advisor Selection

- Students are generally happy with the current system
- Divided on having enough time to choose an advisor (3.3+/-1.4)
- Weak support for a rotation system.
  - 27:8 in favor of optional versus compulsory
  - 13 against any rotation system

Recruitment/Admissions

- Recruitment Process
  - Positive Experience
  - Impacts Decision Process
  - Suggestions: Campus visits for international students, advanced notice of interview weekend
- Admissions: Trend towards BME-dominated incoming class

Mentoring in Years 3+

- Career Development
  - 50:50 split between industry and academia (23 academia, 22 industry, 4 other)
  - Majority still feel uninformed and unprepared for career search and making career decisions
- BE Board Initiatives
  - Industrial Seminar Series
    - Students are aware of the series and more than half have attended 3 or more
  - Academic Career Workshops

Suggestions to Aid Career Development

- Resource lists (10x)
  - Alumni/corporate contact list
  - Corporate partnerships/recruitment pages
  - Information about career paths
  - Listing of institute resources
- Practical Experience (5x)
  - Job shadowing opportunities
  - Industrial internships
  - Academic experience (more to come)
- Advising (6x)
  - Career search
  - Steps to prepare for a career

TA Requirements

- General Comments
  - Very positive and worthwhile experience
  - Sense of disparity in time commitment and workload
  - Split on whether this disparity is unfair

    (24 yes, 20 no)
- Suggestions
  - Gathering data on TA workload
  - Use to redistribute number of TA's per class (11x)
  - Set loose guidelines for number of hours, expectations (6x)
  - Formal meetings to discuss expectations and opportunities

Teaching/Course Development

Great Interest in Course Development and Teaching Opportunities

- Seminars/workshops on teaching skills
- Continued role in curriculum development
- Continue/develop OpenWetWare model for course development
- Formal opportunities to partner with professors developing courses or to give lectures

Final Comments

- Most students have positive experiences with the department
- Vested interest in the direction and development of the field
- Research directions: Neurosciences (11x), Systems biology theory (4x), alternative energy (3x), bioelectrical, nanomaterials