



Report

"Equity and Efficiency in Health Care" Second Biennial Conference of ASHE

sponsored by Duke University and co-sponsored by the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Durham, NC
June 22-25, 2008

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Report on “Equity and Efficiency in Health Care”: 2nd Biennial Conference of ASHE

Executive Summary

October 21, 2008

The 2nd Biennial Conference of ASHE held at the Duke University, June 22-25, 2008 follows the pattern of success achieved in the inaugural conference held in 2006. The ratings of those in attendance who responded to the online questionnaire and those who provided personal comments were very positive in virtually every aspect of the conference. In fact, the responses to the online questionnaire rated the Duke conference even higher than did those responding to the evaluation of the previous conference. The papers continued to be of very high quality and span almost every area of health economics, thanks to the quality of the abstract submissions and the work of the Scientific Committee. The number of papers presented was expanded to over 460. Over 50 posters were on display at the poster session. One session was presented as a panel. A specially planned double session in which papers were presented that contained unique and complex econometric problems was very popular. As with the Madison conference, presenters and attendees were particularly happy with the three paper sessions, which provided ample time for serious discussion. The ability of participants to network with colleagues was outstanding, and the social affairs were highly praised by the 675 attendees. The sponsor list expanded to 22 organizations including two government grants. There were fourteen on-site exhibitors. This represents a substantial increase over the inaugural conference.

The overall success was facilitated by the excellent facilities of the Fuqua Business School and the R. David Thomas Conference Center on the beautiful campus of Duke University, the quality and convenience of food provided on all occasions, the convenience of the hotels and the fine summer weather in Durham. The only major weather mishap was the rain shower that was inconveniently timed to begin as people were ready to make the short walk from the DTC to the Washington Duke Hotel.

Plenary session speakers Mark McClellan, President Jody Sindelar and Nobel Laureate Gary Becker were given high marks by all in attendance.

Upon recommendation from the Awards Committee, the Board approved the institution of the Victor Fuchs Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented to current president Michael Grossman by Victor Fuchs via satellite. The ASHE Medal winner, Laurence Baker, Stanford University, continues to set a very high standard for this award. The Student Paper Award was presented to, Susan Feng Lu, Northwestern University, for her paper titled “Multi-tasking Information Disclosure and Product Quality: Evidence from Nursing Homes.”

Responses from the on line questionnaire reveal that the Second Biennial ASHE Conference met and exceeded the very high standards established in the inaugural conference. Responses to this evaluation tool reveal that it was a success in every dimension and clearly promotes the mission of ASHE “to promote excellence in health economics research and provide a forum for emerging ideas and empirical results of health economics research.”

Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and Program Planning Committee (PPC)

The local organizing committee has the important responsibility of bringing local information to the Program Planning Committee. This group has significant input into recommending locations for social events, special features in the program particularly appropriate for the location, the choice of plenary speakers and serves as hosts and hostesses during the conference. The Program Planning Committee has overall responsibility for every aspect of the program. For this conference the LOC and PCC worked efficiently as one committee.

Frank Sloan

J. Alexander McMahon Professor of Health Policy and Management and Professor of Economics, Duke University

Edward Norton

Professor, Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health and Department of Economics, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (currently holds similar positions at University of Michigan).

Michael Grossman

President Elect of ASHE, Distinguished Professor, CUNY Graduate School and Program Director of Health Economics, NBER.

Jody Sindelar

President, ASHE, Professor, Yale University and NBER, Yale School of Public Health, Yale University School of Medicine and NBER.

Richard Arnould

Executive Director of ASHE and Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of Illinois.

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee has the extremely important task of reviewing the abstracts submitted for possible inclusion in the program. This committee sets the quality standards necessary to assure that the papers are of high scientific quality.

Laura M. Argys (University of Colorado Denver) ~ **Dick Arnould** (University of Illinois) ~ **David J. Becker** (University of Alabama at Birmingham) ~ **Farasat A. S. Bokhari** (Florida State University) ~ **W. David Bradford** (Medical University of South Carolina) ~ **Derek S. Brown** (RTI International) ~ **H. Shelton Brown** (University of Texas School of Public Health) ~ **Susan Busch** (Yale University) ~ **David Canning** (Harvard School of Public Health) ~ **Kitt Carpenter** (University of California, Irvine) ~ **Cyril F. Chang** (University of Memphis) ~ **Sajal Chattopadhyay** (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) ~ **Jon Christianson** (University of Minnesota) ~ **Philip Cook** (Duke University) ~ **Alison Cuellar** (Columbia University) ~ **Dhaval Dave** (Bentley College) ~ **Jeffrey DeSimone** (University of Texas at Arlington) ~ **Marisa E. Domino** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) ~ **William H. Dow** (University of California, Berkeley) ~ **Sarah Duffy** (NIH/NIDA) ~ **Randall P. Ellis** (Boston University) ~ **Roger Feldman** (University of Minnesota) ~ **Paul Fishman** (University of Washington) ~ **Gary M. Fournier** (Florida State University) ~ **H. E. Frech III** (University of California, Santa Barbara) ~ **Thomas E. Getzen** (Temple University) ~ **John Goddeeris** (Michigan State University) ~ **Allen Goodman** (Wayne State University) ~ **Henry Grabowski** (Duke University) ~ **Mike Grossman** (City University, New York) ~ **Jose Guardado** (American Medical Association) ~ **Timothy Halliday** (University of Hawaii at Manoa) ~ **Jill Boylston Herndon** (University of Florida) ~ **Bradley J. Herring** (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) ~ **Richard A. Hirth** (University of Michigan) ~ **Thomas J. Hoerger** (RTI International) ~ **David H. Howard** (Emory University) ~ **Kyoungrae Jung** (Pennsylvania State University) ~ **Robert Kaestner** (University of Illinois at Chicago) ~ **Teresa L. Kauf** (University of Florida) ~ **Meredith Kilgore** (University of Alabama at Birmingham) ~ **Art King** (Lehigh University) ~ **Douglas Leslie** (Medical University of South Carolina) ~ **Pierre Léger** (HEC Montréal) ~ **Kirsten Long** (Mayo Clinic) ~ **Frances Lynch** (Kaiser Permanente) ~ **Will Manning** (University of Chicago) ~ **Tim McBride** (Saint Louis University) ~ **Kathryn McCollister** (University of Miami) ~ **John McConnell** (Oregon Health & Science University) ~ **Ellen Meara** (Harvard Medical School) ~ **Jennifer M. Mellor** (College of William and Mary) ~ **David Meltzer** (University of Chicago) ~ **Jean Mitchell** (Georgetown University) ~ **Wendy Morrison** (IUPUI & Regenstrief Institute) ~ **Kathleen Mullen** (RAND Corporation) ~ **John Nyman** (University of Minnesota) ~ **Albert Okunade** (University of Memphis) ~ **Adetokunbo Oluwole** (University of Kentucky) ~ **Cynthia Perry** (Urban Institute) ~ **Gabriel Picone** (University of South Florida) ~ **Thomas Rice** (University of California, Los Angeles) ~ **Christopher Roebuck** (CVS/Caremark) ~ **Jane Ruseski** (University of Alberta) ~ **Tom Selden** (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) ~ **Judith A. Shinogle** (University of Maryland) ~ **Mark H. Showalter** (Brigham Young University) ~ **Kosali Simon** (Cornell University) ~ **Merrile Sing** (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) ~ **Joanne Spetz** (University of California, San Francisco) ~ **Sally C. Stearns** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) ~ **Ming Tai-Seale** (Texas A&M Health Science Center) ~ **J. Mick Tilford** (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences) ~ **Robert Town** (University of Minnesota) ~ **Jennifer L. Troyer** (University of North Carolina, Charlotte) ~ **Vivian Valdmanis** (Widener University) ~ **William B. Weeks** (Dartmouth Medical School) ~ **George Wehby** (University of Iowa) ~ **Richard Wilke** (Pfizer Inc) ~ **Robert S. Woodward** (University of New Hampshire) ~ **Frederick Zimmerman** (University of Washington) ~ **Stephen Zuckerman** (Urban Institute)

Sponsorship and Grants

The officers and management of ASHE are very aware that a conference of this caliber and size could not be conducted without the generous support of the sponsors and grantors. Their donations and grants permit ASHE to include many activities and events that would not be possible without their support. This support allows us to have a reasonable registration fee, scholarships for student members, include everyone in all events, to have free workshops, and outstanding plenary sessions with receptions and dinners. We sincerely thank the sponsors and grantors for their support.

Granting Agencies

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Wiley-Blackwell
Agency for Health Research & Quality
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United BioSource
Analysis Group
Elsevier Inc.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
ASHE / iHEA
RTI
Fuqua HSM
Cornerstone

Awards Committee and Awards Presented

Victor Fuchs Lifetime Achievement Award	ASHE Medal	Student Paper Award
awarded biennially for lifetime contributions to the field of health economics, was presented to: Michael Grossman President Elect of ASHE, Distinguished Professor, CUNY Graduate School and Program Director of Health Economics, NBER.	awarded biennially to an economist age 40 or under who has made significant contributions to the field of health economics, was presented to: Laurence Baker Professor of Health Research and Policy and CHP/PCOR Fellow, Department of Health Research and Policy, Stanford University	awarded to the student who wrote the best sole-authored paper while still holding the status of student in the two years prior to the conference, was presented to: Susan Feng Lu Northwestern University, for her paper titled "Multi-tasking Information Disclosure and Product Quality: Evidence from Nursing Homes."

Awards Committee

Edward Norton

Chair, Professor, Department of Health Policy and Administration, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

M. Kate Bundorf

Assistant Professor, Health Research and Policy, Stanford University

Jose Escarce

Professor, UCLA General Internal Medicine

Susan Ettner

Professor, Department of Health Services, UCLA School of Medicine

Martin Gaynor

E.J. Barone Chair in Health Systems Management, Professor of Economics and Health Policy, Carnegie-Mellon University

Donald Kenkel

Professor, Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

Melayne McInnes

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of South Carolina/Columbia

Bobbie Wolfe

Professor, Departments of Economics, Population Health Sciences and Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jody Sindelar

Professor, School of Public Health, Yale University, President Elect, ASHE, ex officio

Richard Arnould

Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois Executive Director, ASHE, ex officio

Registration and Presentations

Registrations	Total Numbers
Total Paid Registrations	679
Pre-Conference Registrations	149
Oral Presentations	481
Total Organized & Invited Sessions	155
Poster Presentations	58

Pre-Conference Sessions

Organizer	Topic	Session Length	Attendance
Randall Ellis	Risk Adjustment and Predictive Modeling	Half Day	9
Willard Manning et al	Econometrics of Health Costs, Expenditure and Utilization Data	Full Day	45
Edward Sondik	Using National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Data Linked to Administrative Records	Half Day	56
Joel Hay	Economic Evaluation of Drugs, Devices and other Medical Interventions	Half Day	10
Herbert Wong	Introduction to the Research Databases of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	Half Day	29

Program and Venue

A small number of changes were introduced into the program this year, and by the responses to the evaluation, they were well received. The **Opening Plenary was moved to Sunday evening** to provide more room in the program for concurrent sessions. This event was held at the **Washington Duke Hotel**. The speaker was **Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.A.**, Senior Fellow and Director of the Engelberg Center for Healthcare Reform, and Leonard D. Schaeffer Director's Chair in Health Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution, and former administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Mark gave a very challenging address on **Reforming Health Care Delivery**. In this address he indicated that health economists could and should play a substantial role in reforms of health care financing as well as health care delivery. This provided an excellent take off for the concurrent sessions that began Monday morning. This event was followed by a reception at the beautiful Washington Duke Hotel.

The second change was that the **Presidential Address** was presented during the lunch period on Monday by **Jody Sindelar**, ASHE president and Professor, Yale University School of Public Health, Yale University School of Medicine and NBER. Jody provided a very useful discussion of what behavioral economics can do for health economists' research.

The final plenary was a very significant event in the short history of ASHE. It opened with the presentation of the awards described earlier in this report. **Victor Fuchs was present via satellite** to express his gratitude to the organization for naming the lifetime achievement award after him. He then **presented the award to President elect Michael Grossman**. This was followed by a keynote address presented by **Nobel Laureate Gary Becker**, University Professor of Economics and Sociology at the University of Chicago, Professor Graduate School of Business and the Rose-Marie and Jack R. Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institute. The unplanned relationship between these three leaders in the field was very interesting. Professor Becker mentored Mike Grossman's graduate work at Columbia University and Victor Fuchs gave Mike his first job. Professor Becker presented an outstanding paper on household and market returns to education with insights into the role of health in this process. This event, followed by a southern barbeque, was **sponsored by AmgenMed**.

There were **14 concurrent sessions** throughout Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This provided room for **155 sessions** in which **481 papers were presented**. In addition, **58 posters were on display**. It is safe to say that virtually every topic in health economics received some attention. The survey reveals that those present at the conference thought the papers were of high quality. The 3 paper session with designated discussants is a highly desirable format.

The **R. David Thomas Center** and the **Fuqua School of Business** on the campus of **Duke University** provided an excellent facility for the conference. **Concurrent sessions were held in state of the art conference rooms** that ranged in capacity from 50 to over 125 people. The Fuqua School also provided excellent space for registration, exhibitors, the poster session, lunches and breaks. All activities except the opening plenary session were held at one location which provided great ease for social and business networking among the attendees and excellent attendance at the sessions. In addition, many of those in attendance were housed in the adjoining **R. David Thomas Center** and the nearby **Washington Duke Hotel**. Others stayed in the Millennium Hotel, the Hyatt and other nearby hotels.

The academic setting of Duke University and the convenience and reasonable rates at the hotels in Durham added to the enjoyment of attending the conference.

Finances

The meeting was financially successful as revenues of \$451,390 almost exactly equaled expenses of \$451,523.* This permitted ASHE to cover overhead associated with the planning of the conference and to make a contribution to overhead owed to iHEA. We feel this was a financially successful meeting. **The success is aided by the substantial support from the granting agencies and sponsors.**

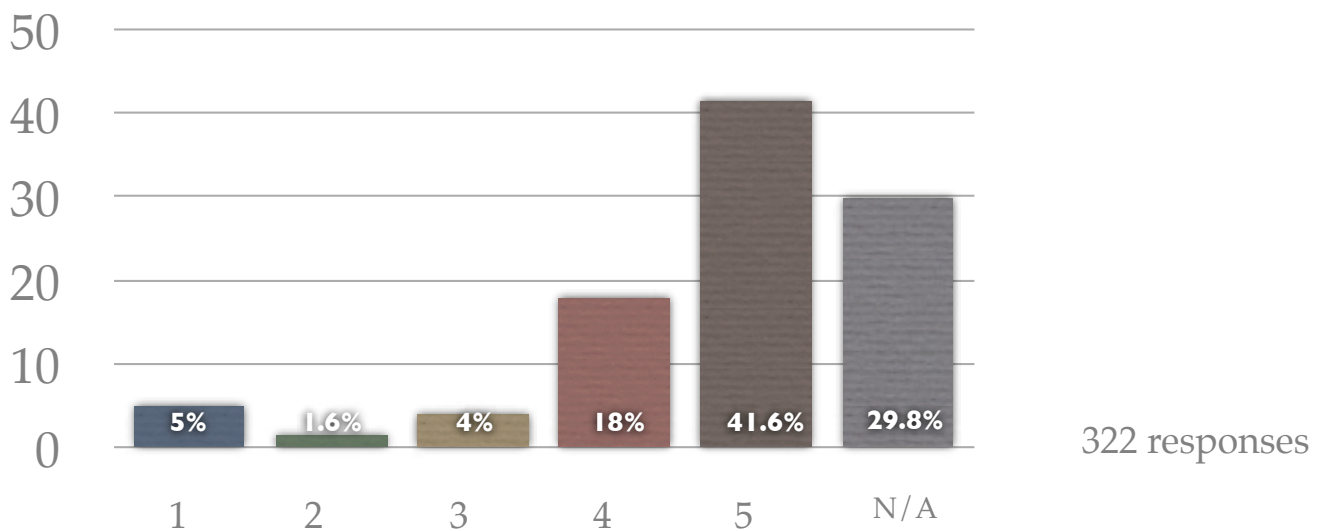
* These amounts are subject to revision due to late arrival of certain receipts and expenses.

Online Post Conference Questionnaire

Respondents to the online post conference questionnaire gave the conference very high marks. People were asked to provide a 1-5 score on most of the questions, where **1 is the lowest ranking** and **5 the highest**. To highlight a few of the results, **over 87% gave the conference rating of 4 or 5**; over 92% thought it was the right length. The number of papers per session, quality of papers and chairing of sessions also received very high ratings. Even in the area of "satisfaction with discussants" (where we know there were some glitches) almost 70% were satisfied with the discussants.

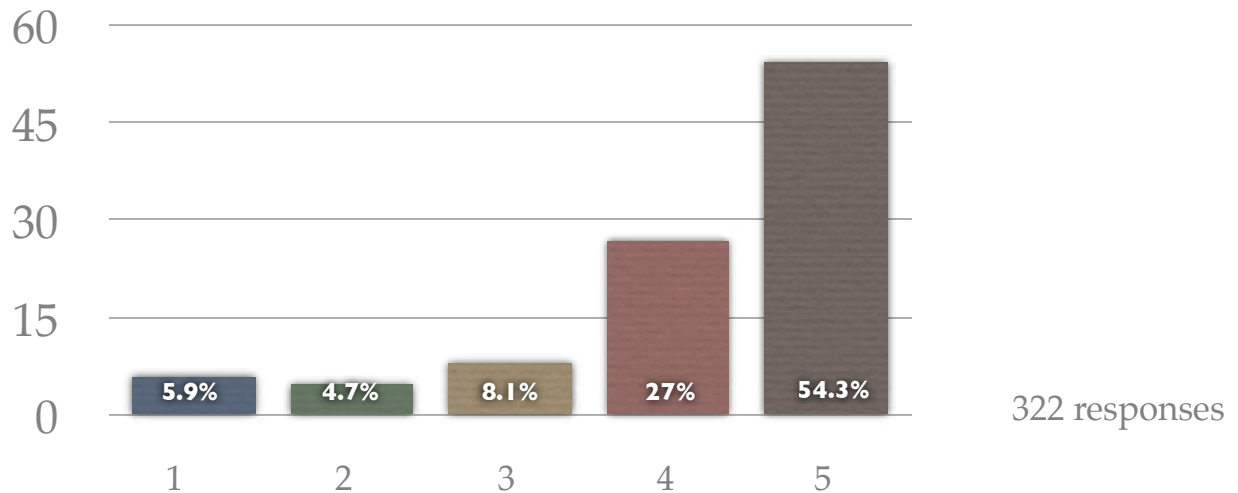
We believe this response suggests a high level of satisfaction with virtually every aspect of the conference. In spite of this, there are areas where there can be improvement. The officers and management of ASHE will work to increase the quality of the next conference to ensure we meet the high expectations repeat attendees will have.

SATISFACTION WITH REVIEW PROCESS



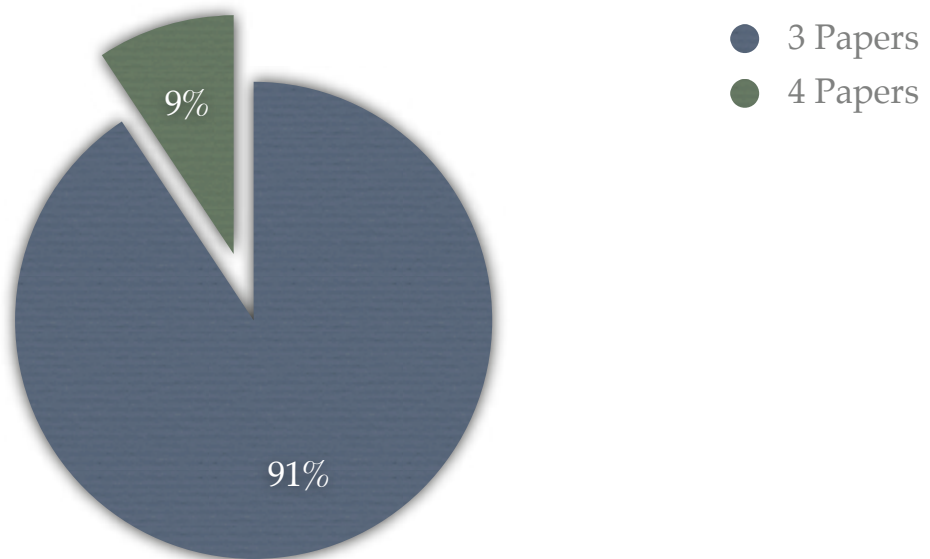
Compared to Madison, we are seeing an upward shift in the ratings. Over 41% of respondents gave the review process the highest rating vs. 32% in Madison.

SATISFACTION WITH REGISTRATION PROCESS



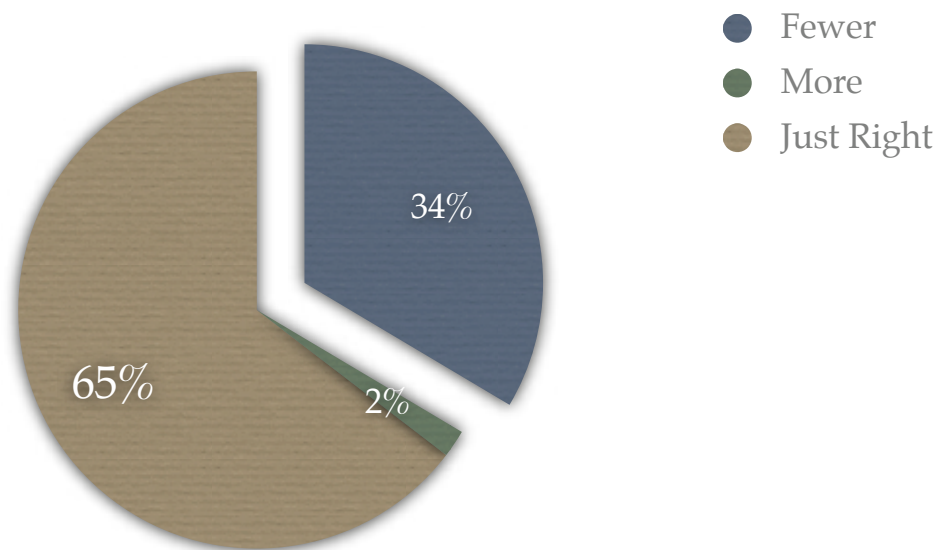
Satisfaction with the registration process continues to be positive generally. There was a small increase in the number of negative ratings.

HOW MANY PAPERS PER SESSION WOULD BE OPTIMAL?



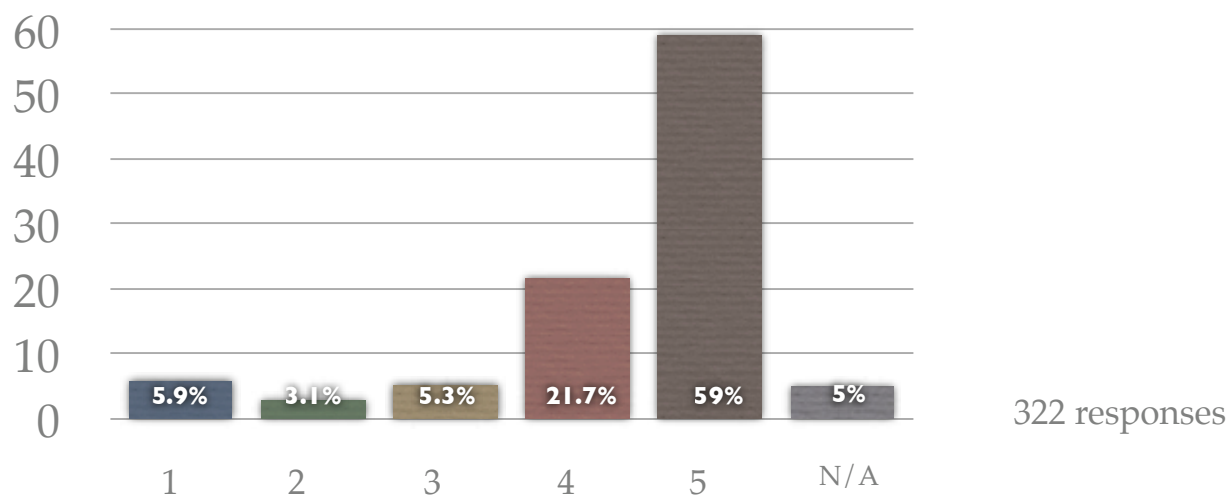
We've seen a sizeable increase in the number of people favoring 3 papers per session as the optimal number. 91% in Duke vs 79% in Madison.

HOW MANY CONCURRENT SESSIONS WOULD BE OPTIMAL?



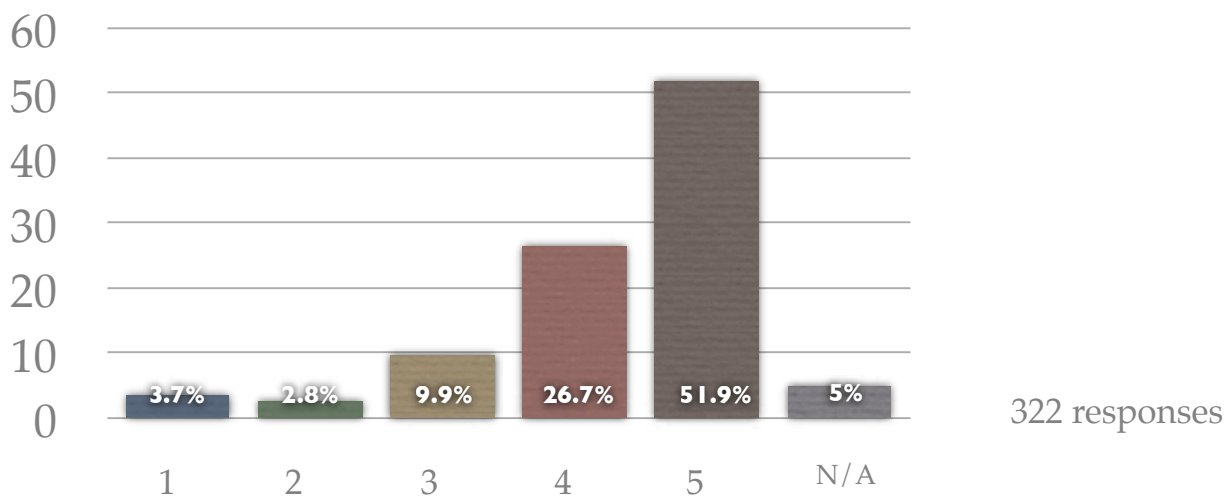
The general feeling seems to be in favor of keeping the conference to the current number of concurrent sessions or smaller. There is very little support for more concurrent sessions.

SATISFACTION WITH CHAIRING OF SESSIONS



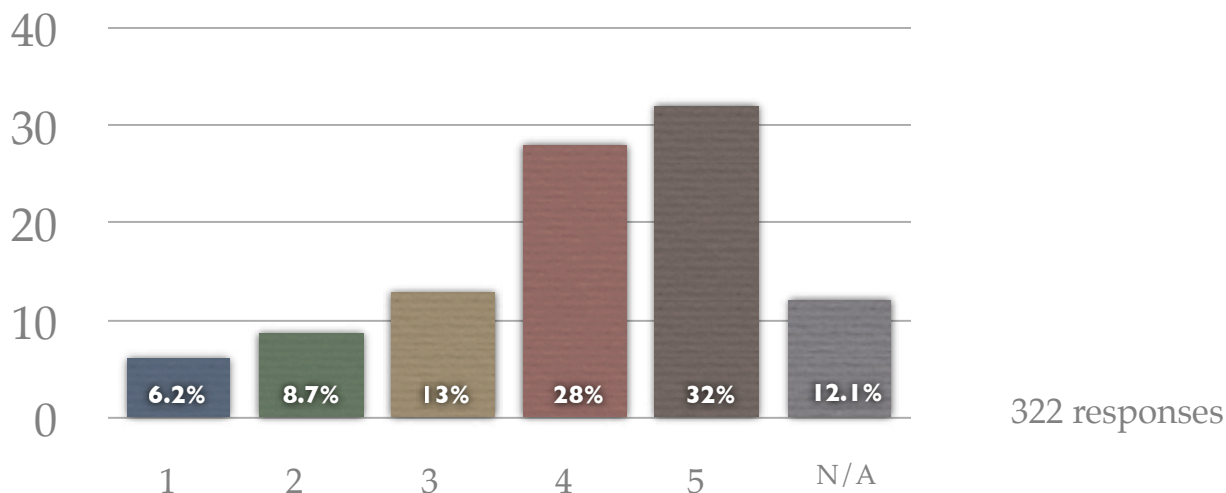
The response to the chairing of the sessions has seen a significant upward shift over the ratings at Madison. For Duke 59% gave chairing its highest ratings vs 40% in Madison.

SATISFACTION WITH DISCUSSANTS AT SESSIONS



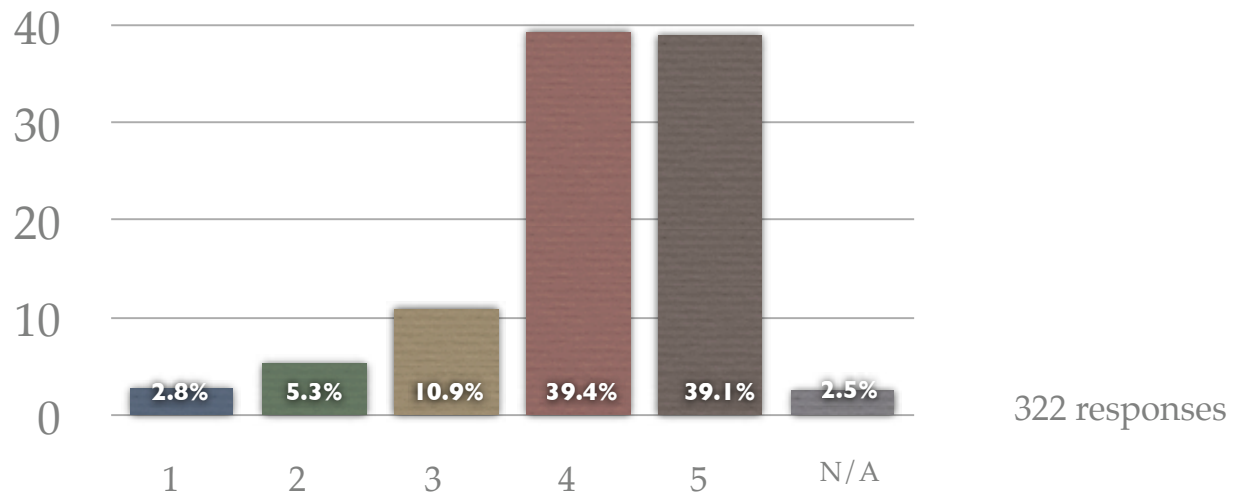
Again we're seeing a very positive shift in scores, this time for satisfaction with discussants. In Madison about 12% of respondents showed some degree of dissatisfaction (a score of 1 or 2) versus 6.5% in Duke.

SATISFACTION WITH ATTENDANCE AT YOUR PRESENTATION



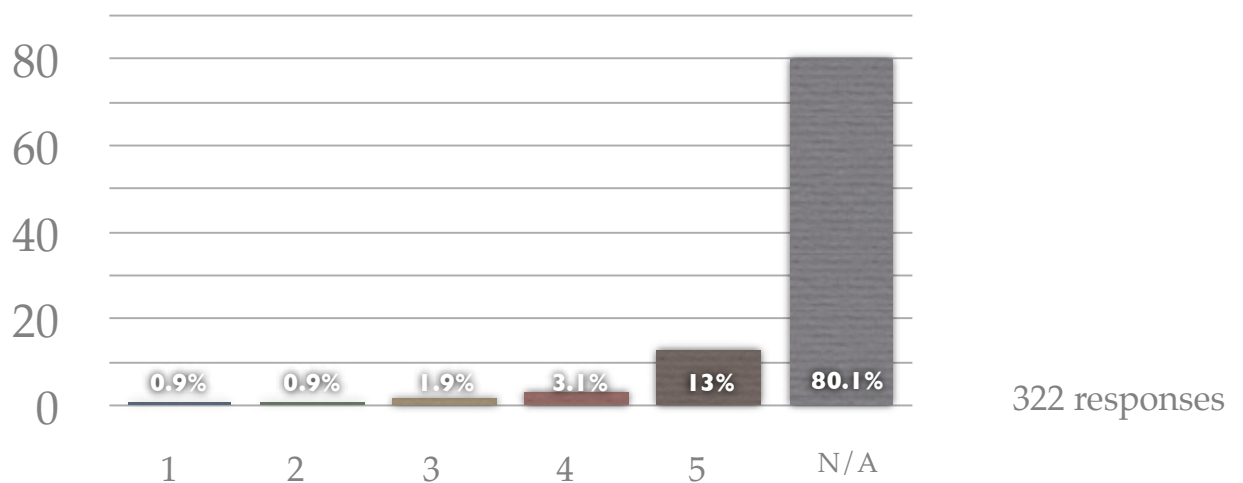
Some increases in satisfaction with attendance. 32% gave the highest rating versus 26% in Madison.

SATISFACTION WITH QUALITY OF PAPERS



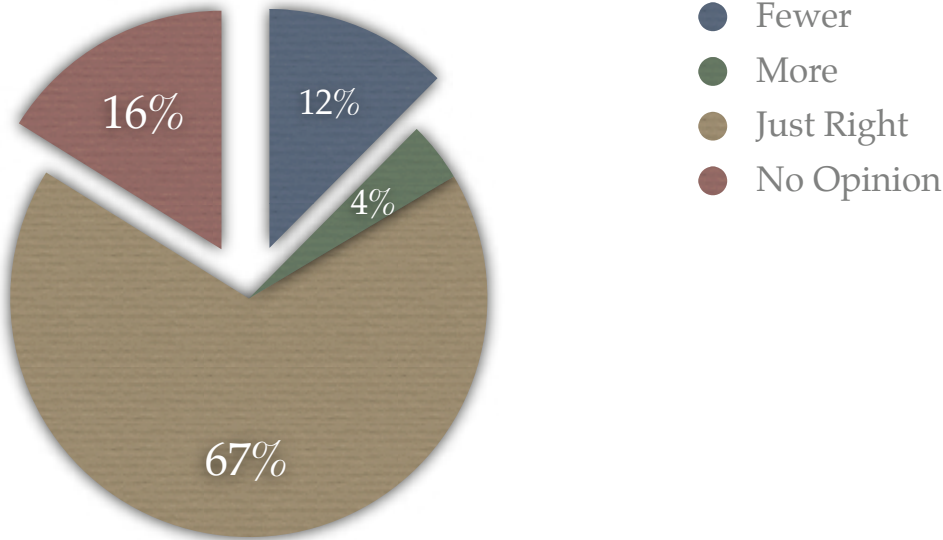
We see a continuation of the general upward trend in response. More top ratings (39%) were received than in Madison (28%), however there was a small increase (+0.9%) in people expressing dissatisfaction.

SATISFACTION WITH PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS



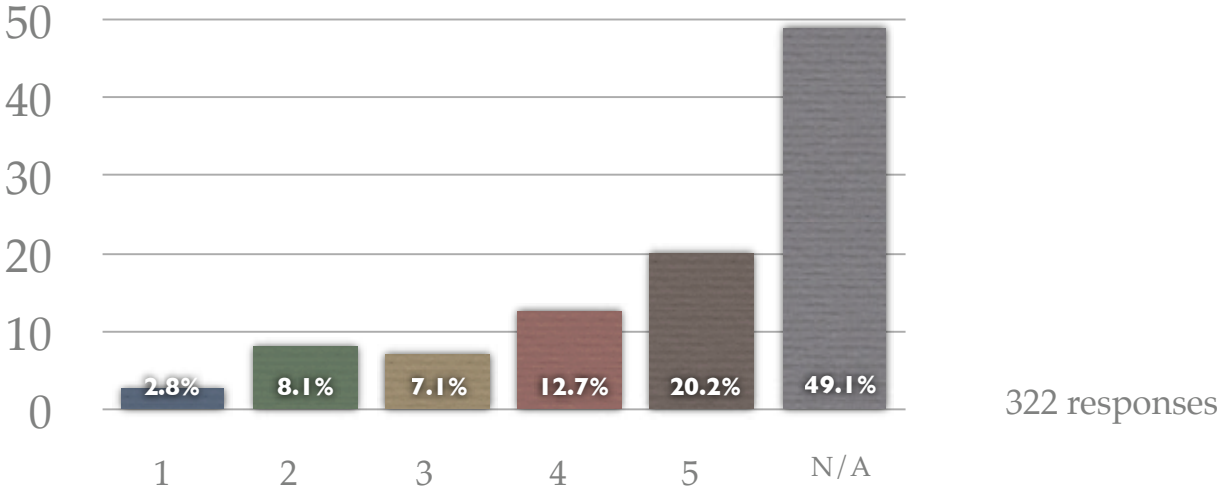
There was a small increase in the numbers of responders reporting attendance to the pre-conference session. There was a doubling of the number of highest ratings versus response for Madison.

HOW MANY PLENARY SESSIONS WOULD BE OPTIMAL?



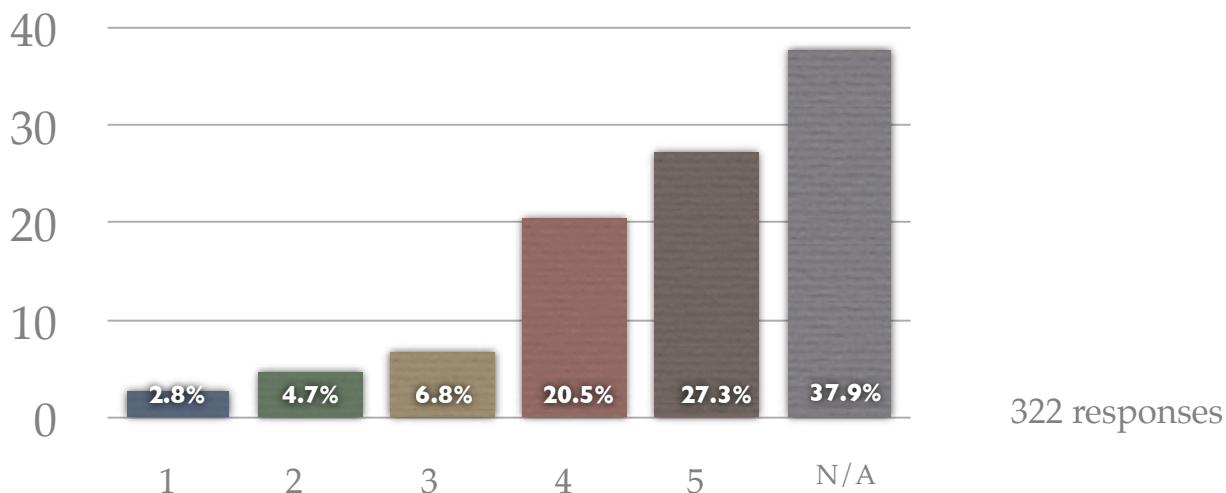
Compared to Madison more people have an opinion about the optimal number of sessions (19% had no opinion at Madison vs 16% at Duke) but the consensus still favors keeping the same amount.

SATISFACTION WITH SUNDAY'S OPENING RECEPTION



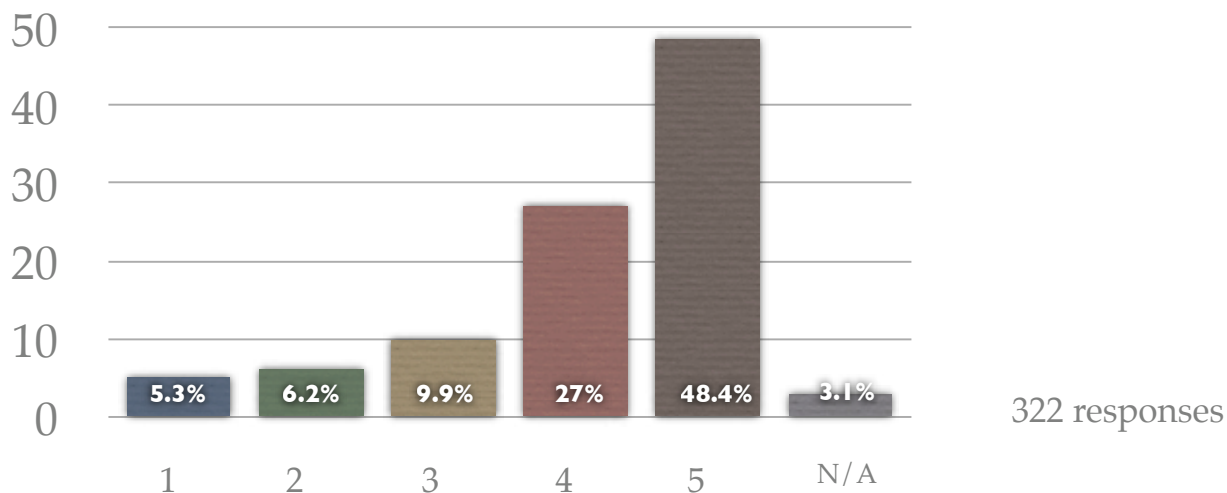
Response to the opening reception was similar to the Sunday reception in Madison, but there was an increase (+6%) in respondents reporting some degree of dissatisfaction.

SATISFACTION WITH TUESDAY'S RECEPTION



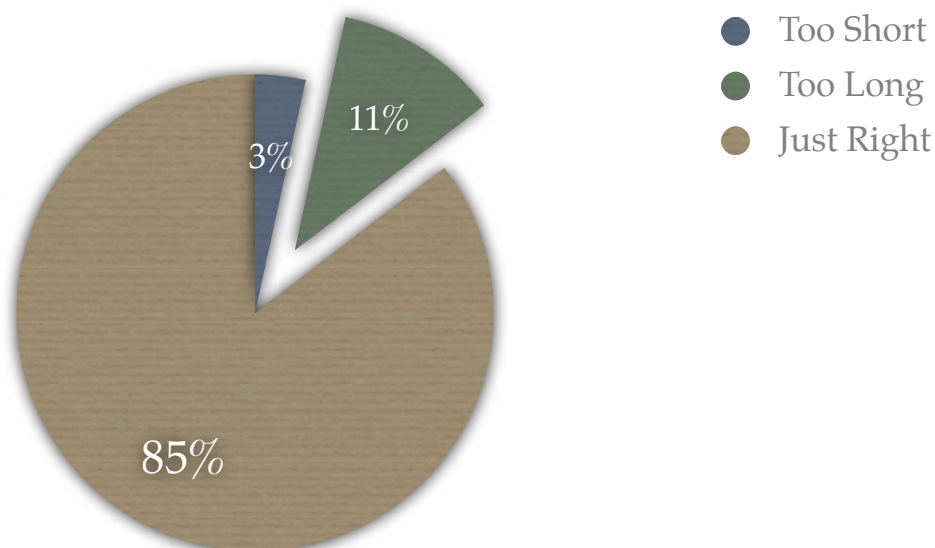
Attendance to the Tuesday reception was improved (following the pattern from Madison). Response is flatter than the very high satisfaction levels reported at Madison.

SATISFACTION WITH LUNCHESES, COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS



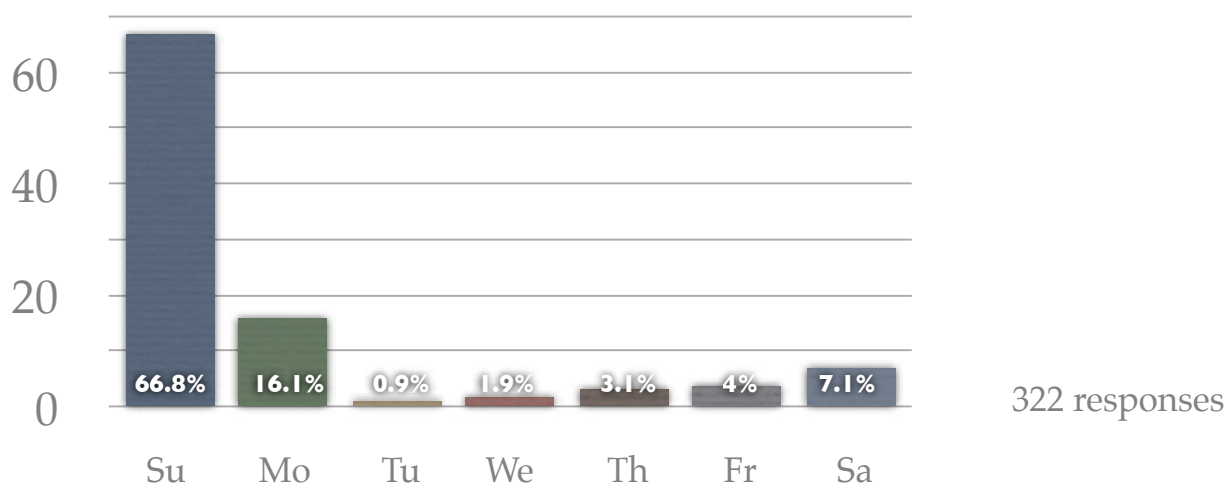
Lunches, coffee & refreshments continue to be well received.
75% of respondents gave a rating of 4 or higher.

LENGTH OF THE CONFERENCE



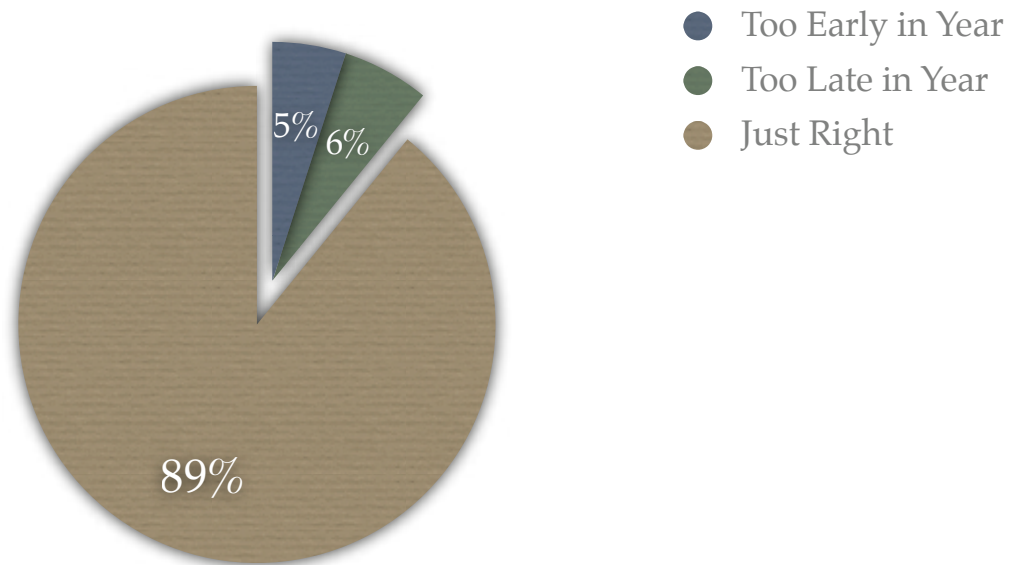
The overwhelming consensus is that the conference is just right however there has been an increase in both people who think that it's too short (+2.5%) and too long (+3.3%).

WHAT DAY SHOULD THE CONFERENCE START?



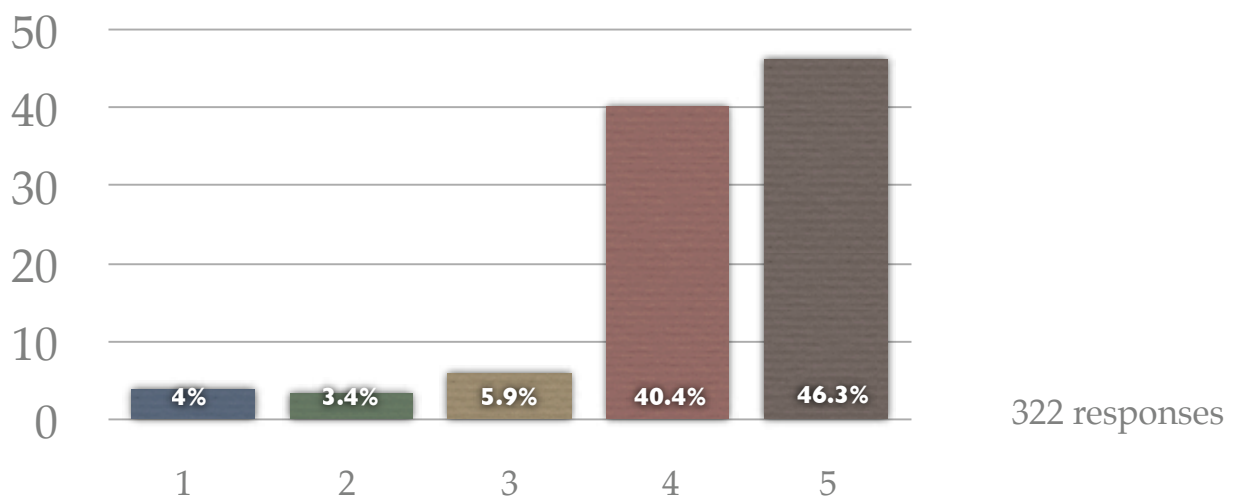
Continuing the pattern we saw in the Madison survey, we are seeing an evolving consensus that Sunday is the best day to begin the conference. 67% at Duke support Sunday vs 56% at Madison.

TIME OF YEAR FOR THE CONFERENCE



Fewer respondents think the conference is too early or too late in the year compared to Madison, but (like Madison) the overwhelming consensus is to keep things as-is.

OVERALL CONFERENCE RATING



The overall ratings are very high. 86.7% of respondents gave the conference a rating of 4 or higher. At Duke, 46.3% of respondents gave the highest rating compared to 42.1% at Madison.

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