



November 23, 2022

Dear UWinnipeg researchers,

In response to a number of questions and concerns about the efficacy of the internal research grants program from researchers, the Research Office launched a call for feedback based on proposed changes. The first round of feedback included:

1. an informal consultation with members of the Research Committee and Senate Research Policy Committee in June 2022;
2. a survey (open from September 20 - November 15, 2022);
3. a virtual forums on October 31; and
4. a second virtual forum on November 4.

We received feedback from 75 (up to 64 in each question, as some respondents did not answer every question) faculty members in the survey and 16 faculty members at the forums (11/16 also submitted survey responses). Feedback was also sent directly to the Research Office via email. The feedback we received came from researchers from all faculties and spanned 21 departments. A summary of the feedback provided is available in the following pages.

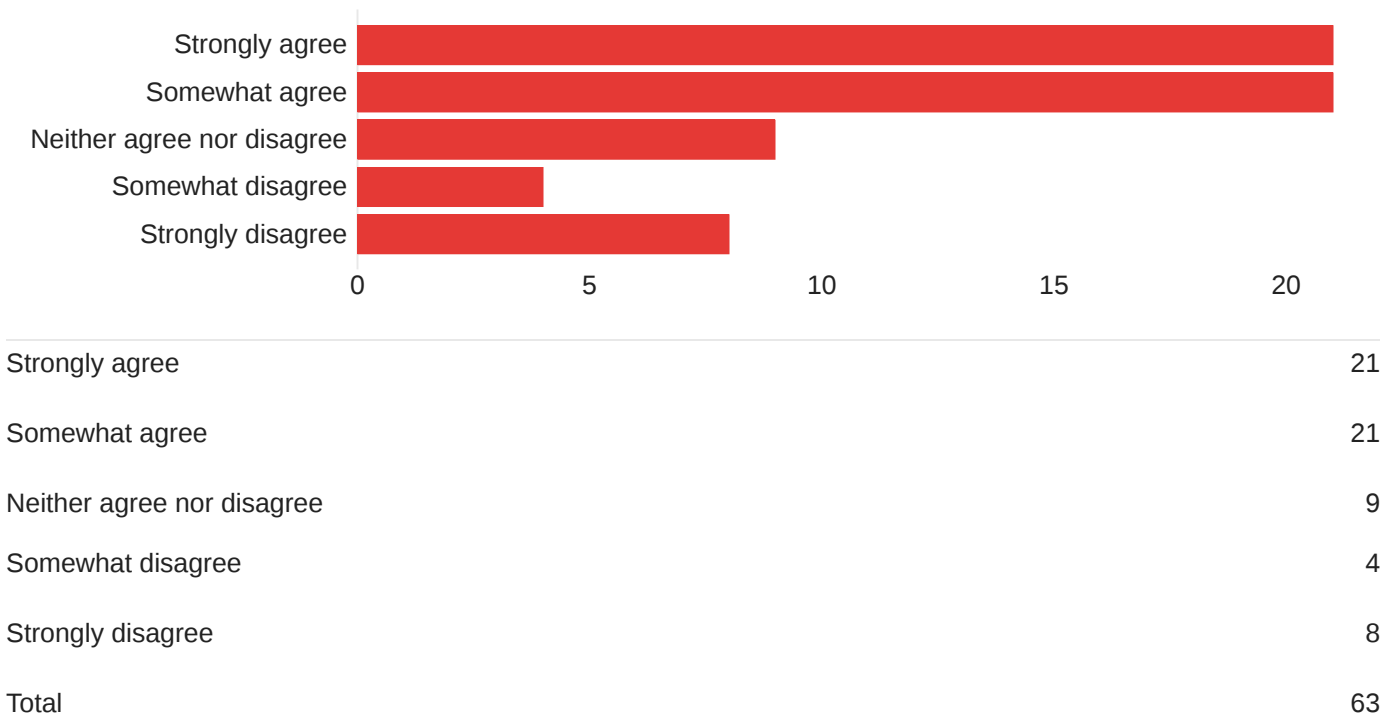
Next steps in the feedback process is to bring the proposed changes, with alterations from the open round of feedback, to the Senate Research Policy Committee (November 30, 2022) and to Senate in early 2023.

Importantly, these proposed changes have not been enacted and are still under consideration.

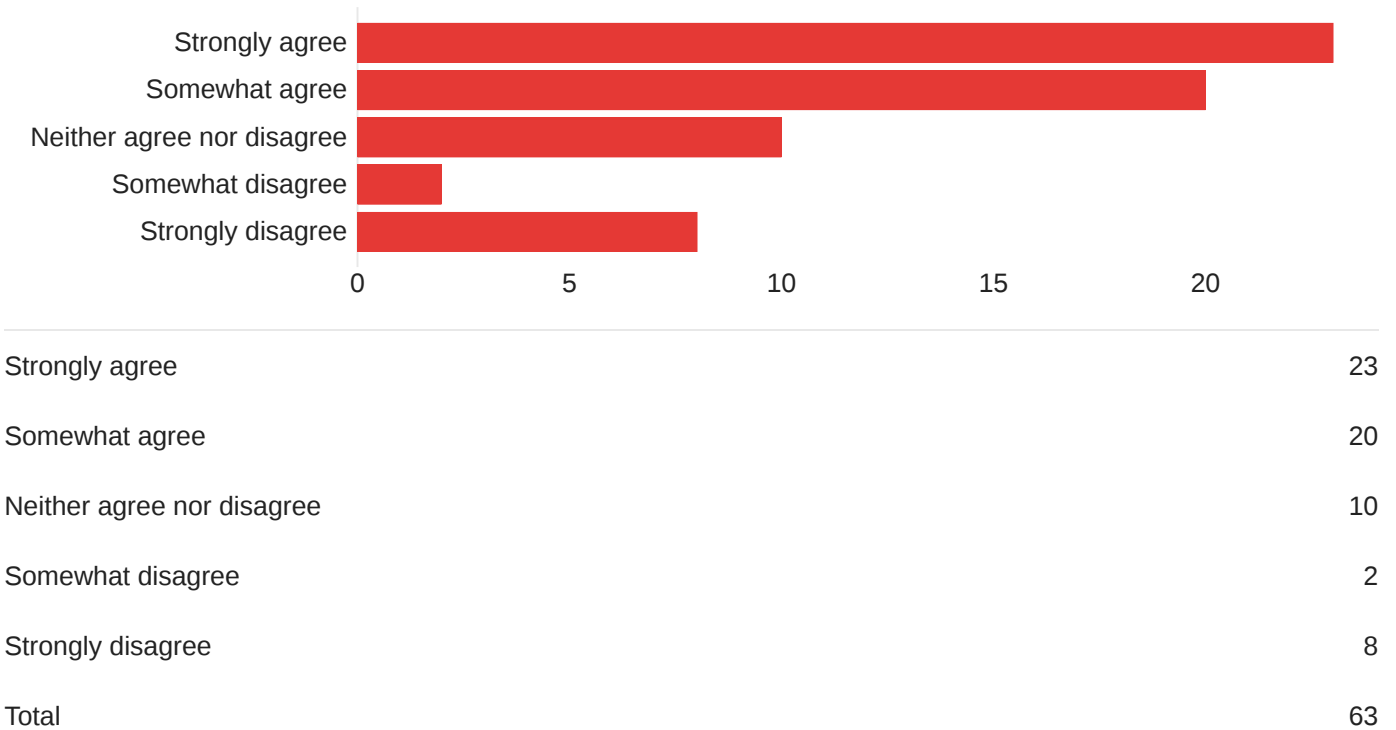
Sincerely,

The Research Office Team

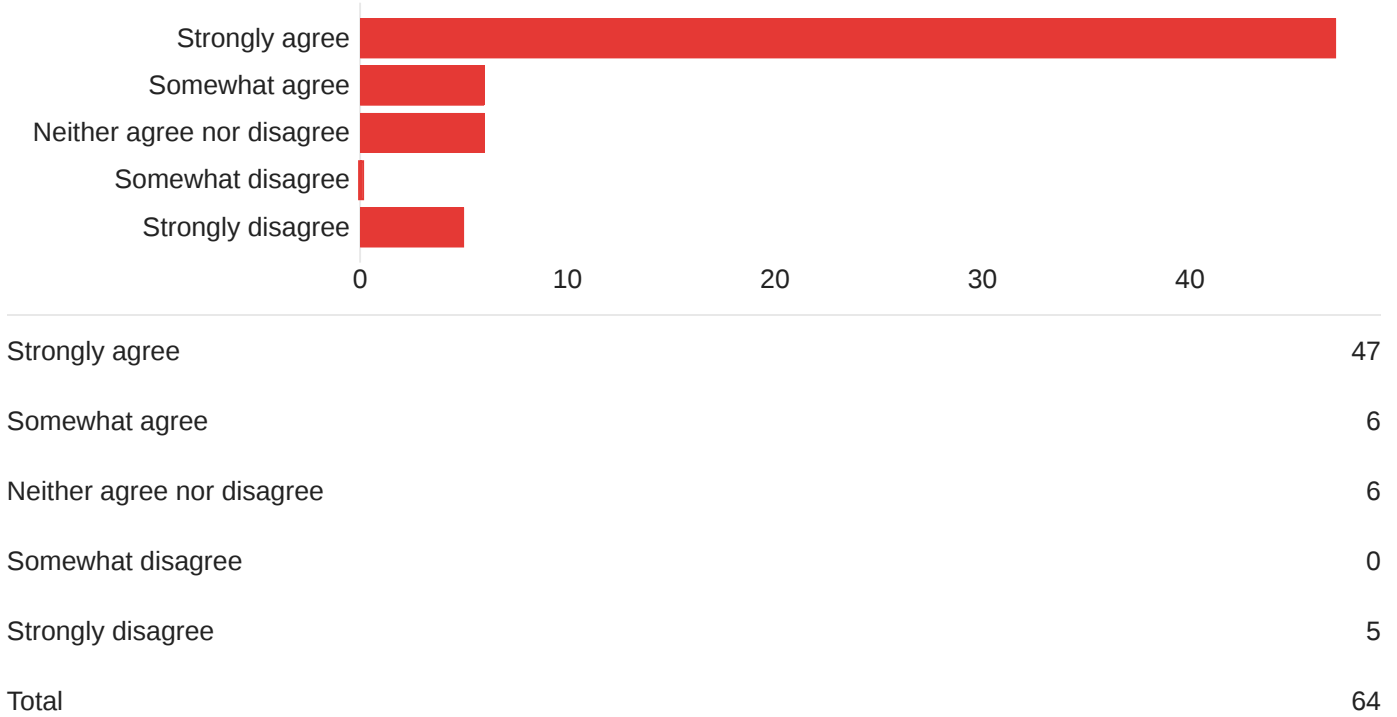
Proposed Change #1 - What do you think of the amalgamation of 4 internal research grants into the Standard Research Grant?



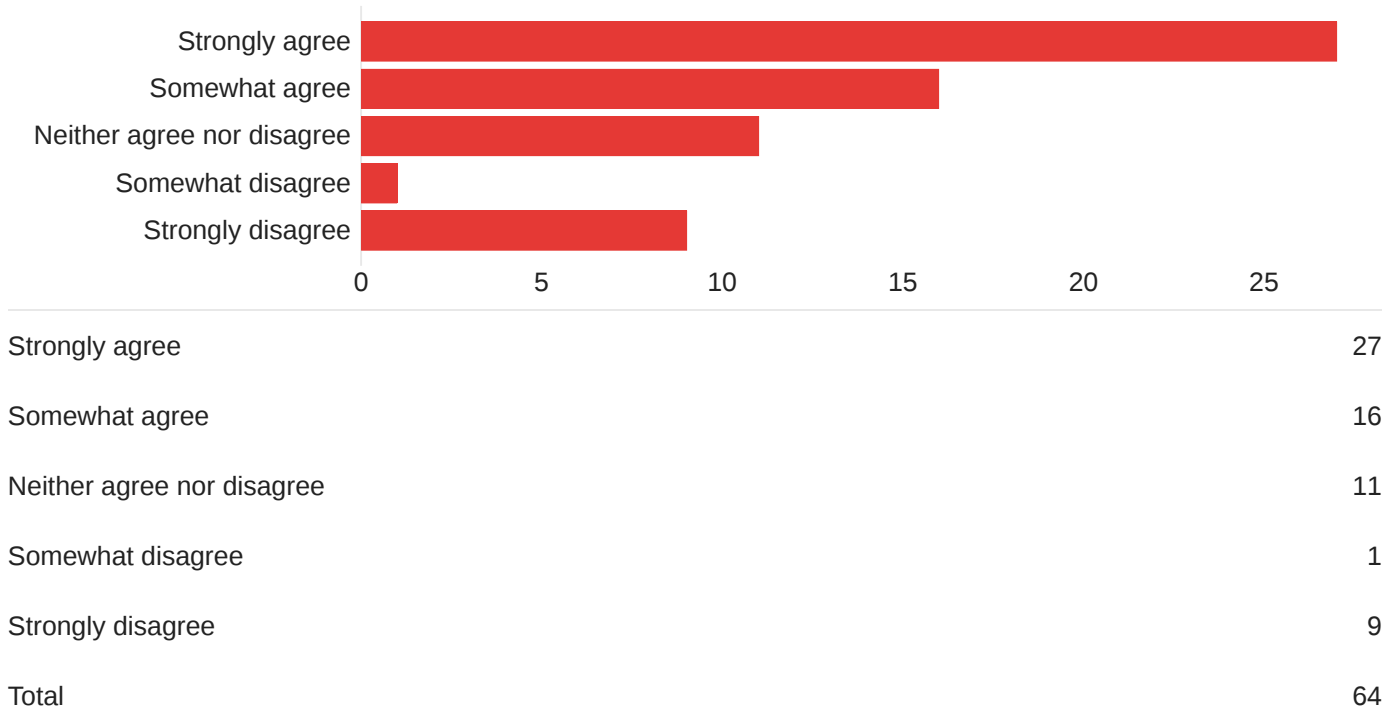
Proposed Change #1 - What do you think about the \$3,000 value of the Standard Research Grant?



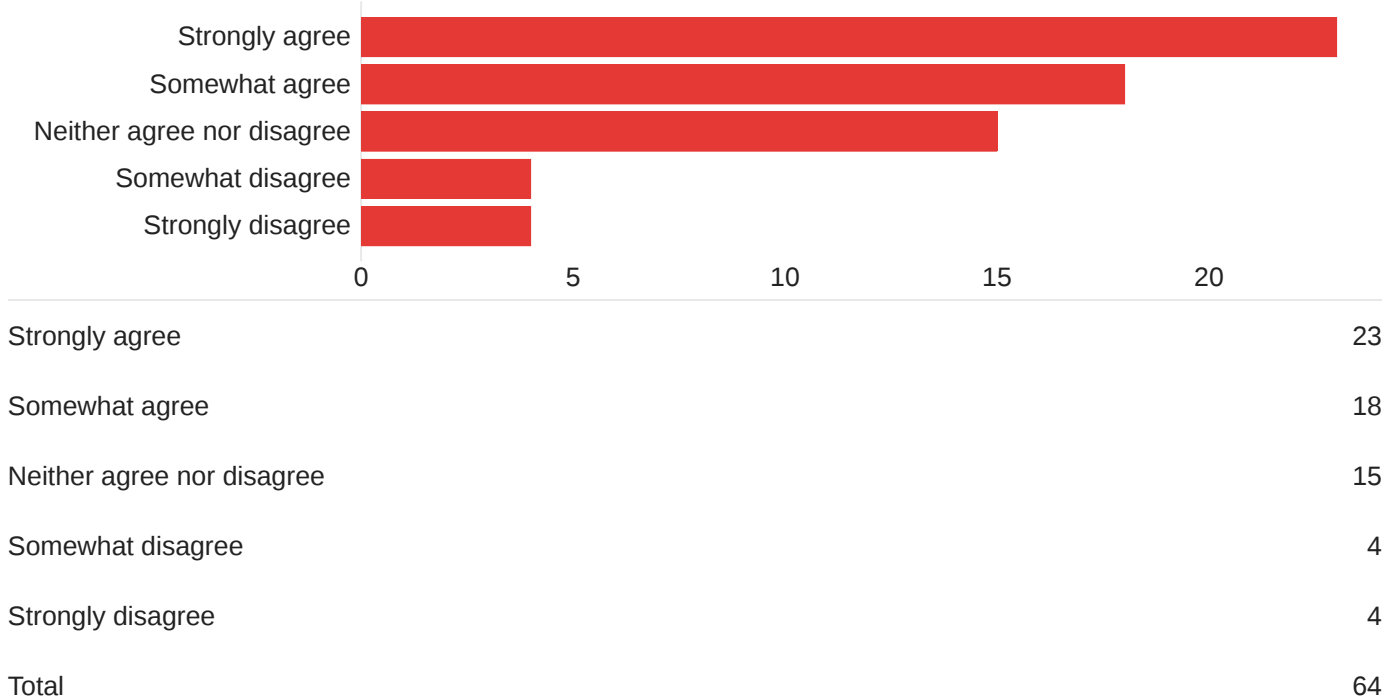
Proposed Change #1 - What do you think of making the Standard Research Grant available in all four intakes?



Proposed Change #1 - What do you think of the alteration of the Discretionary Grant into a new Rapid Response Grant?



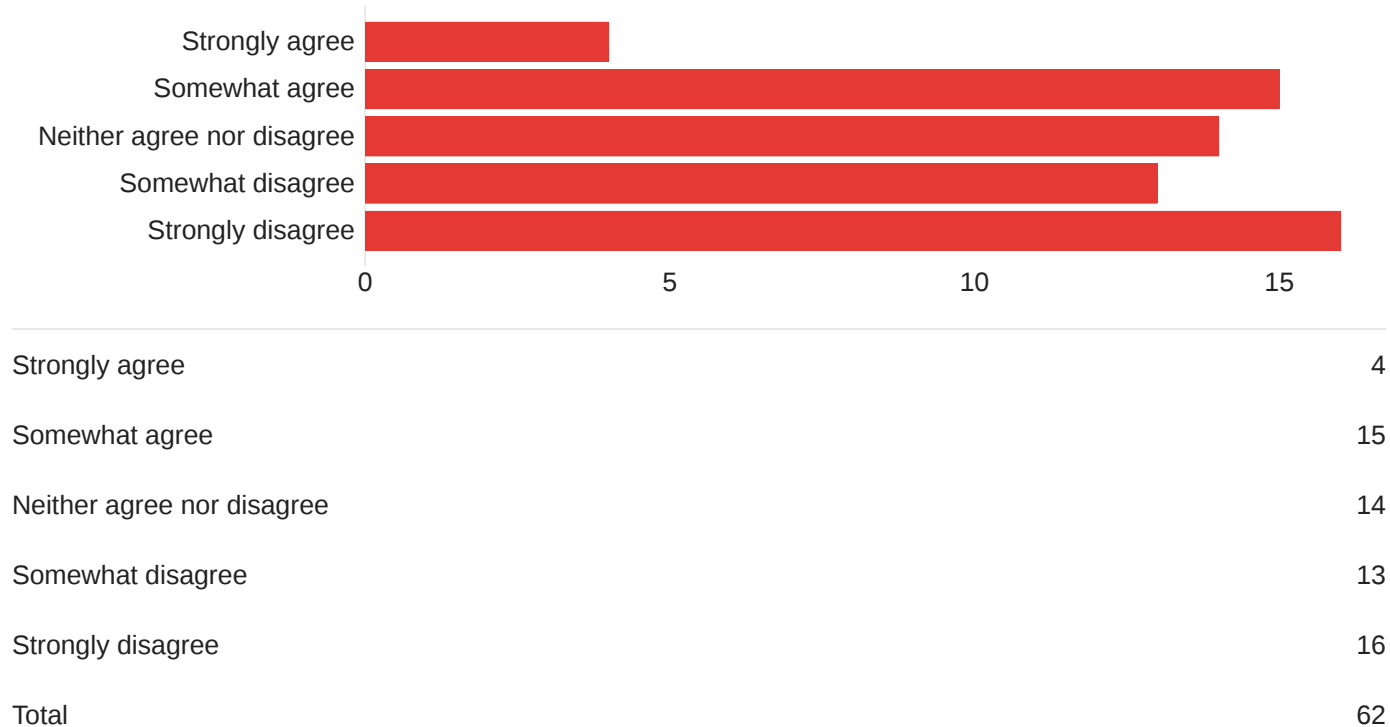
Proposed Change #1 - What do you think of changing the adjudication of the Rapid Response Grant from the scheduled intakes and adjudication by the Research Committee to a rolling deadline and adjudication by the Research Office and Vice-President, Research and Innovation?



Summary of comments from survey and forums on Proposed Change #1:

- supportive of fewer applications to fill out and flexibility to apply for 1 grant for multiple aspects of research project
- appreciate the opportunity to apply for more than 1 per year and for these to be available in all four intakes
- will simplify things for departments, faculty, Research Office and Research Committee as it is more streamlined and efficient
- the increased funds available will allow for better coverage of research costs like publication fees and increased costs of travel
- the new Rapid Response Grant would ensure that researchers get funds quicker for unexpected research costs, especially if the application is less extensive
- would like more information on the adjudication of the Standard Research Grant with the various eligible costs, as it's unclear how a travel application would be evaluated against a research-focused application
- would prefer for the travel grants to stay on their own and not be amalgamated
- amount of new Standard Research Grant is still not enough to support costs of travel or research
- the name of the Standard Research Grant should be changed so it isn't confused with SSHRC Standard Research Grants from before 2013
- change the name of the Rapid Response Grant
- Rapid Response Grant good, but needs more clarity as to the parameters of the grant and more funds available
- Rapid Response Grant should not be administratively reviewed and should remain a peer-reviewed grant

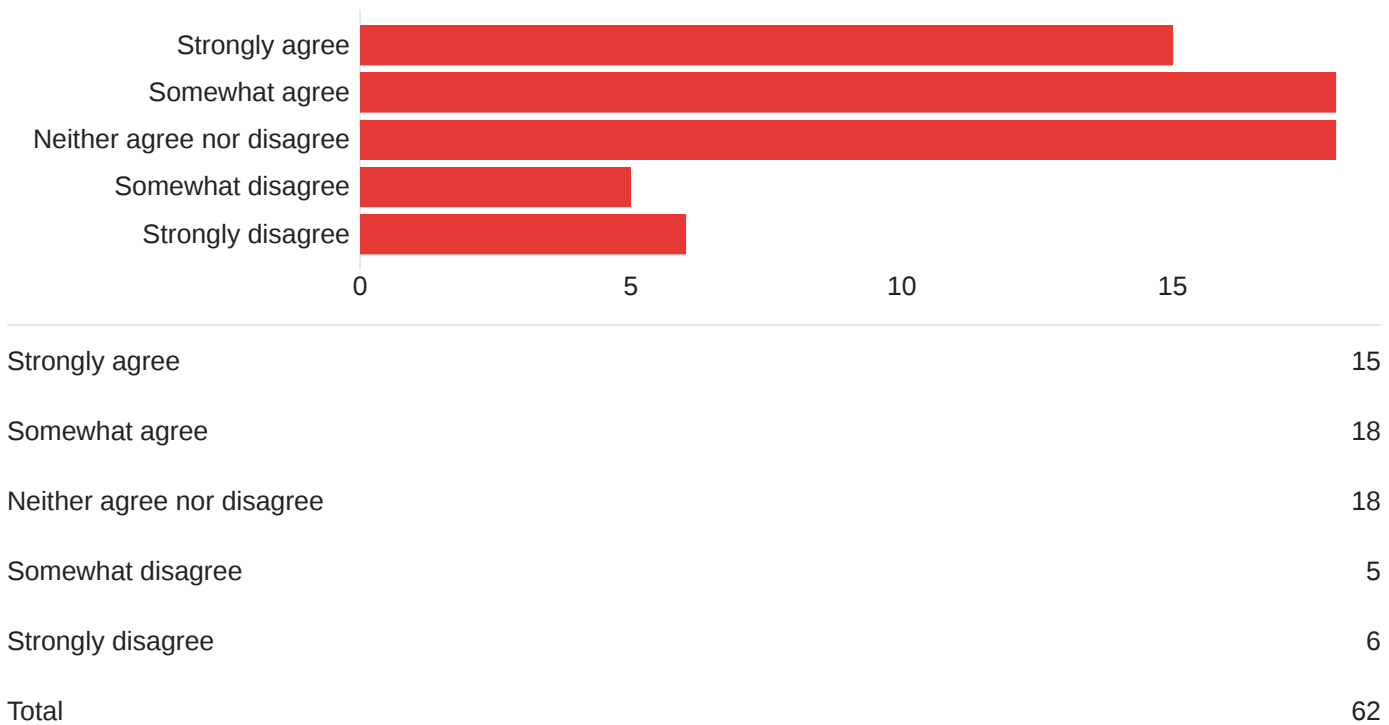
Proposed Change #2 - What do you think of decreasing the number of grants offered/increasing the degree of competitiveness for the internal grants with this change?



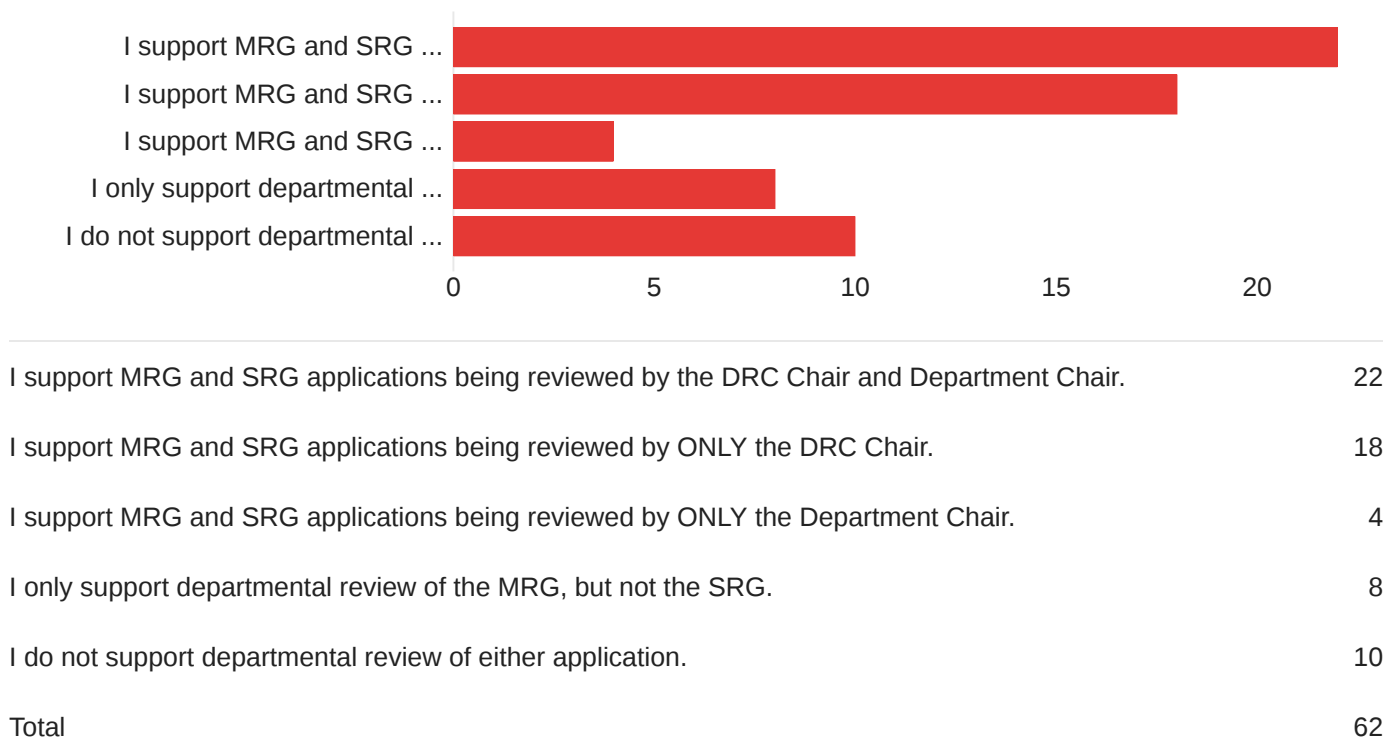
Summary of comments from survey and forums:

- since the costs of research have increased, having more funds available is important
- there is no benefit in handing out more grants if they aren't useful in terms of the amount, so increasing the amount is important
- increasing the amount would be a good way to underscore that UW is not just a teaching institute
- worried that higher amounts will mean fewer opportunities for researchers seeking more modest amounts for research
- Standard Research Grant and Major Research Grant should both be increased even more than is proposed here, as \$3,000 and \$9,000 are still not enough to make an impact as seed funding
- agree with increasing, but want to ensure that junior faculty are prioritized so they have funds available to get their research started
- would rather see grants less competitive and distributed across researchers
- it would be ideal if funds could increase, but more funds generally should be available so they aren't more competitive
- perhaps make it clear that researchers can request fewer funds so that more researchers can be funded with the total amounts available
- small Discretionary Grants are very important to researchers in the humanities and should not be eliminated as peer-reviewed grants

Proposed Change #3 - What do you think of changing the number of reviewers on each grant?



Proposed Change #3 - What level of departmental review do you support?



Proposed Change #3 - Internal Grant Review Process

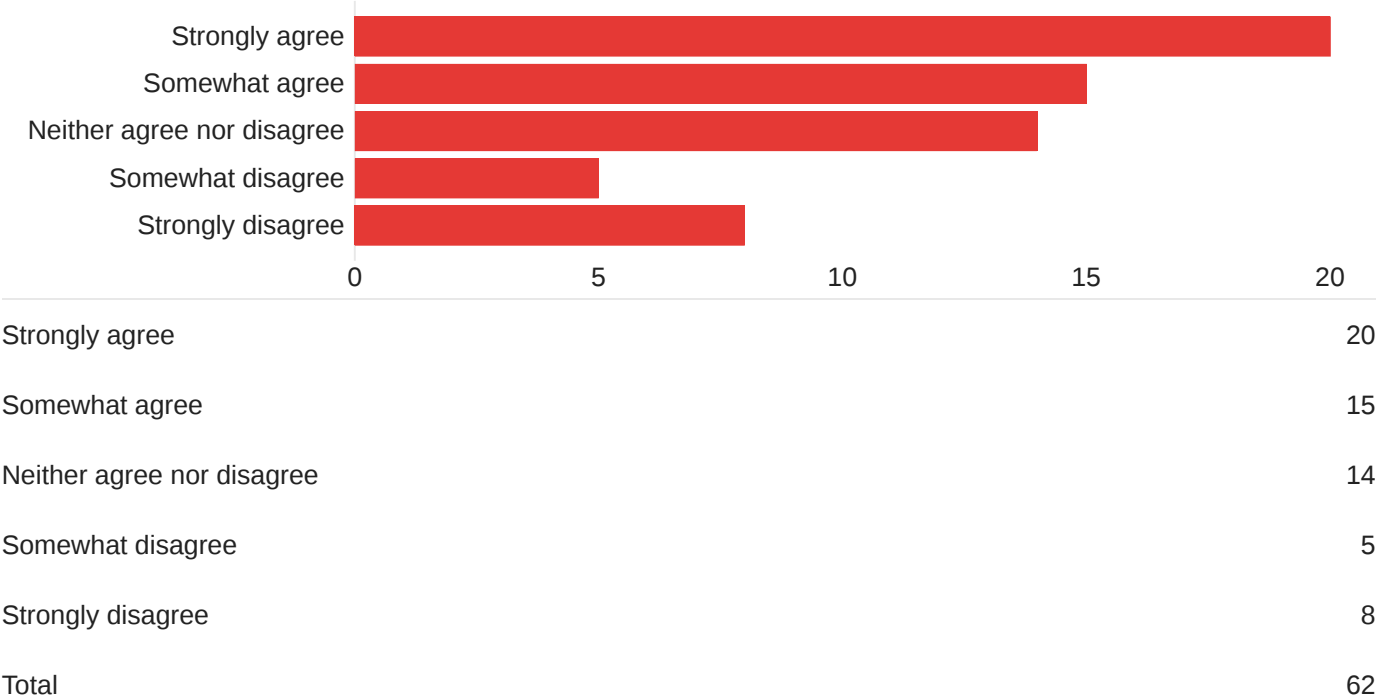
Summary of comments from survey and forums:

- colleagues are overloaded, so only requiring review from one member of the department is enough to provide peer review/every effort should be made to reduce committee and administrative workloads
- increasing the size of the Research Committee is a good idea so there is better expertise for reviewing applications
- current system is onerous and is more of a rubber stamp from departments, so one is enough
- current department reviews are 95% positive, so they are not diagnostic of quality
- difficult question, as only having one department review would help with admin burden, but having only one point of view might cause issues in some cases where the person reviewing doesn't personally support the research done by a colleague
- the number of reviewers should reflect each department committee's capacity for review
- increasing the number of reviewers doesn't increase the rigor of the review process, just increases the number of opinions of non-experts; one review is enough
- having two reviewers (Chair + Department Research Committee Chair) is important for a balance of perspectives, as sometimes one reviewer isn't as aware of or understands the specialized field of the researcher
- since the department chair speaks to productivity and feasibility and department research chair speaks to scholarly significance, both reviews are necessary
- disclosure of research can be harmful at early stages, so having many people review applications in the department can be detrimental to the researcher

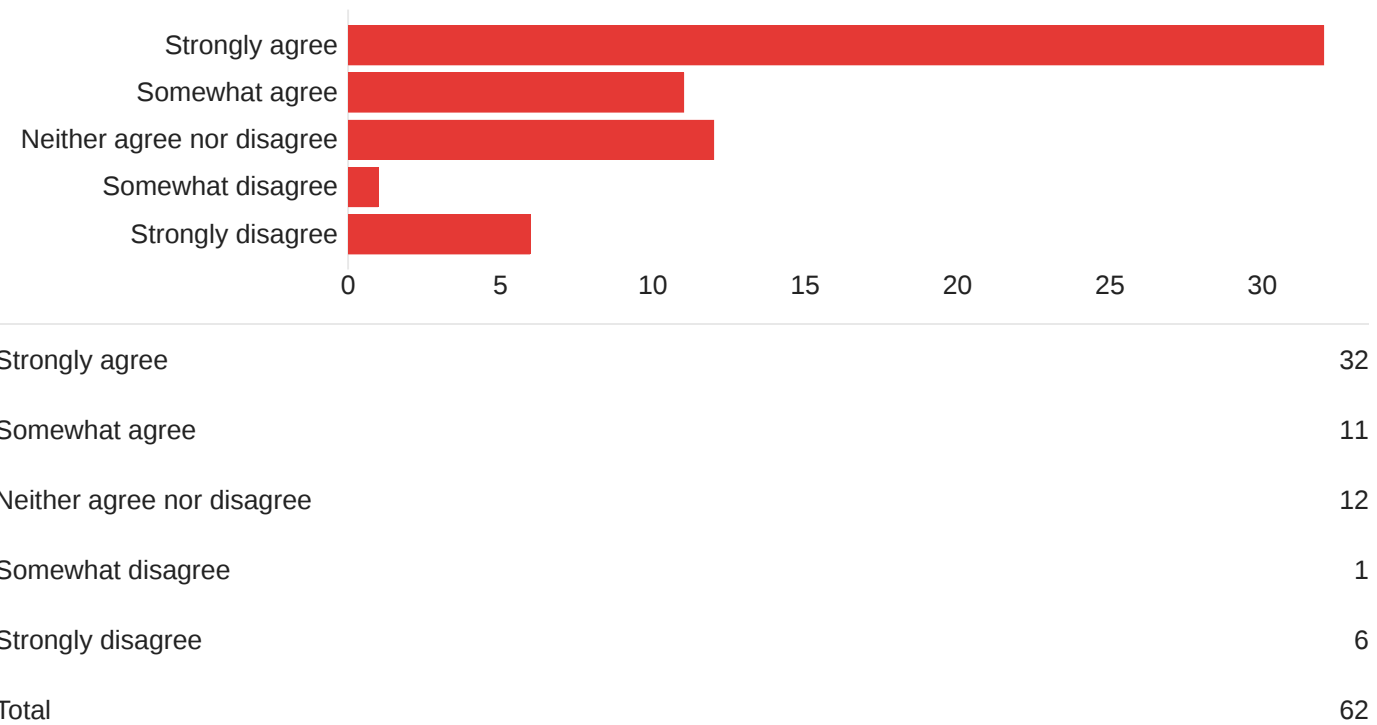
Proposed Change #4 - Grant eligibility for Postdoctoral Fellows and Senior Research Associates

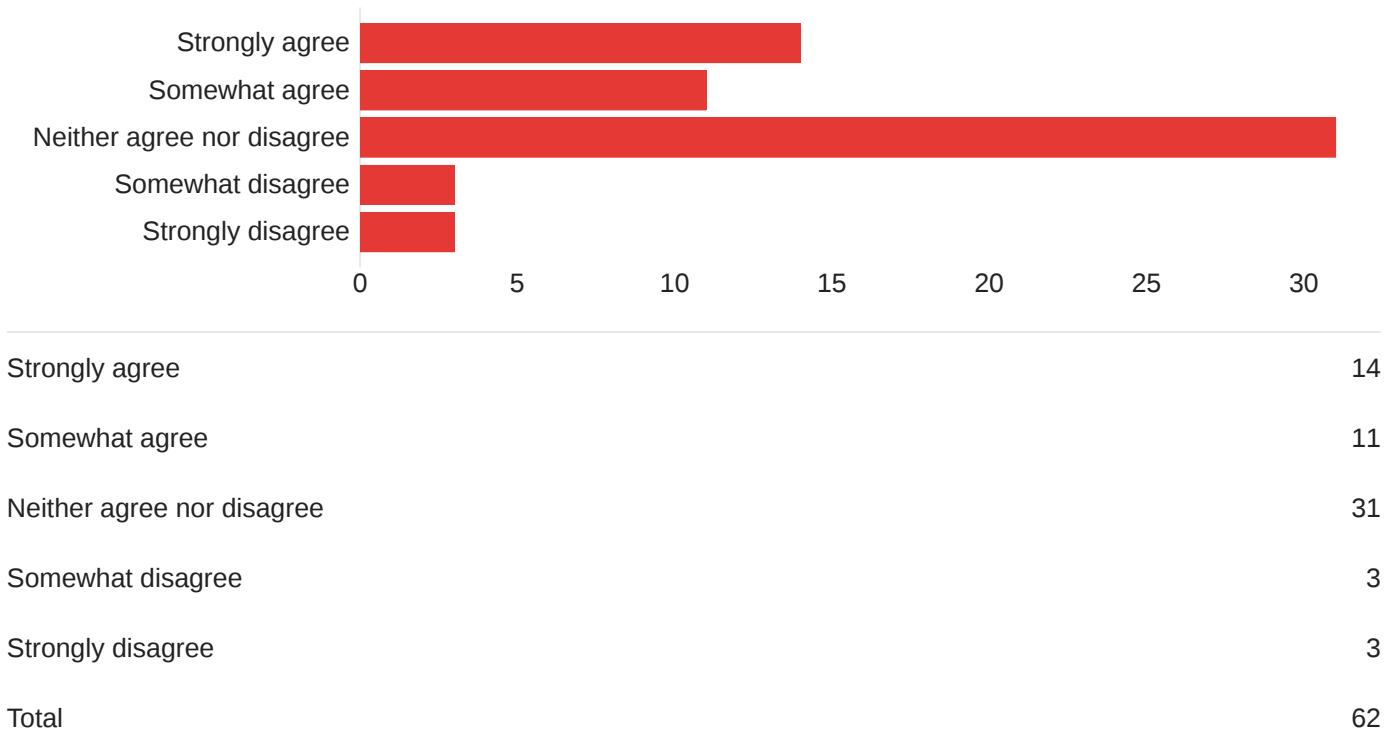
This proposed change was removed from this round of considerations.

Proposed Change #5 - What do you think of increasing the Undergraduate Student Research Award/Graduate Student Research Award amounts and requiring matching funds from researchers to bring them in line with the NSERC USRAs?



Proposed Change #5 - What do you think of adding a new internal Undergraduate Student Research Award for international students (the NSERC USRAs currently do not allow international student applicants, but the current internal USRAs do)?





Summary of comments from survey and forums:

- ensuring that students from the sciences and social sciences/humanities are funded equally is important
- the travel grant for undergrads remains unchanged; this is not enough funding for travel
- more funds should be available over the entire year, in more intakes
- great idea to allocate funds to undergraduate international students
- the funds available to the graduate students should be higher than undergrad students