



**STScI** | SPACE TELESCOPE  
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE ASTRONOMY

# HST TAC Survey Summaries

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Laura Watkins, Science Mission Office

**STUC Meeting, October 2021**





# Surveys

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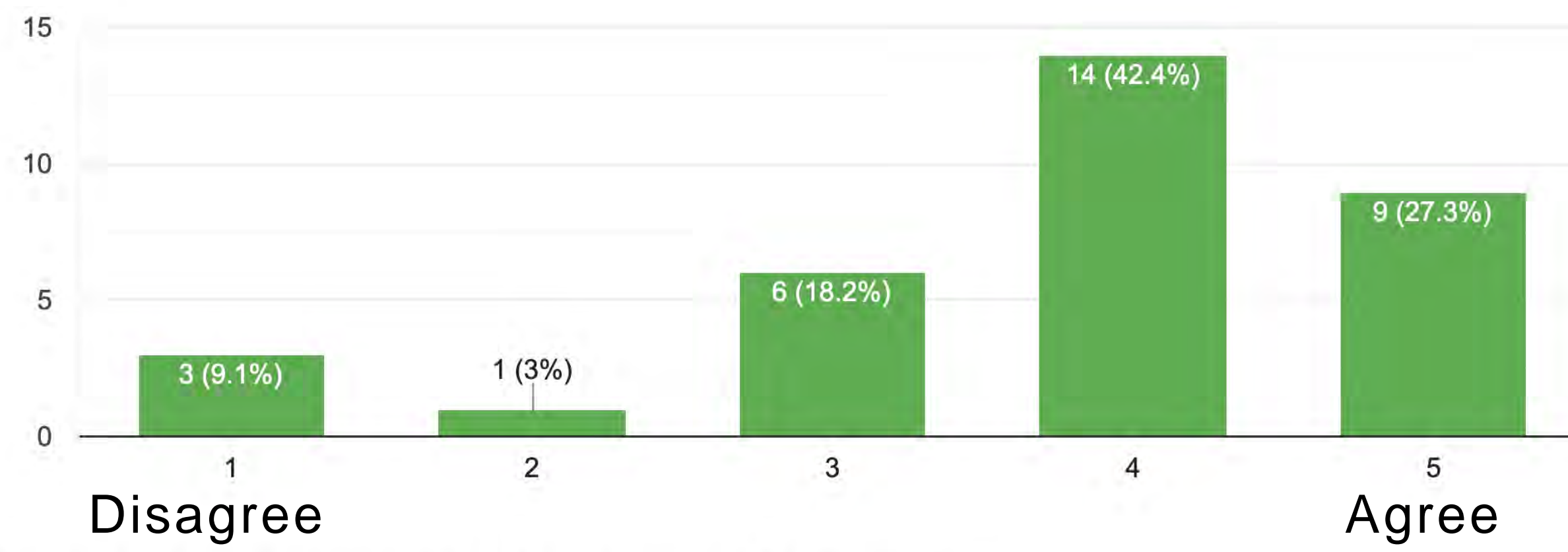
- Separate for Virtual and External participants
- Past service
- Future willingness to serve
- Ease of use / usefulness of orientation, documentation, software
- Overall thoughts about the process
- Overall positive!
- Some areas for improvement.



# Virtual & External: Improvements to SPIRIT Review Tool

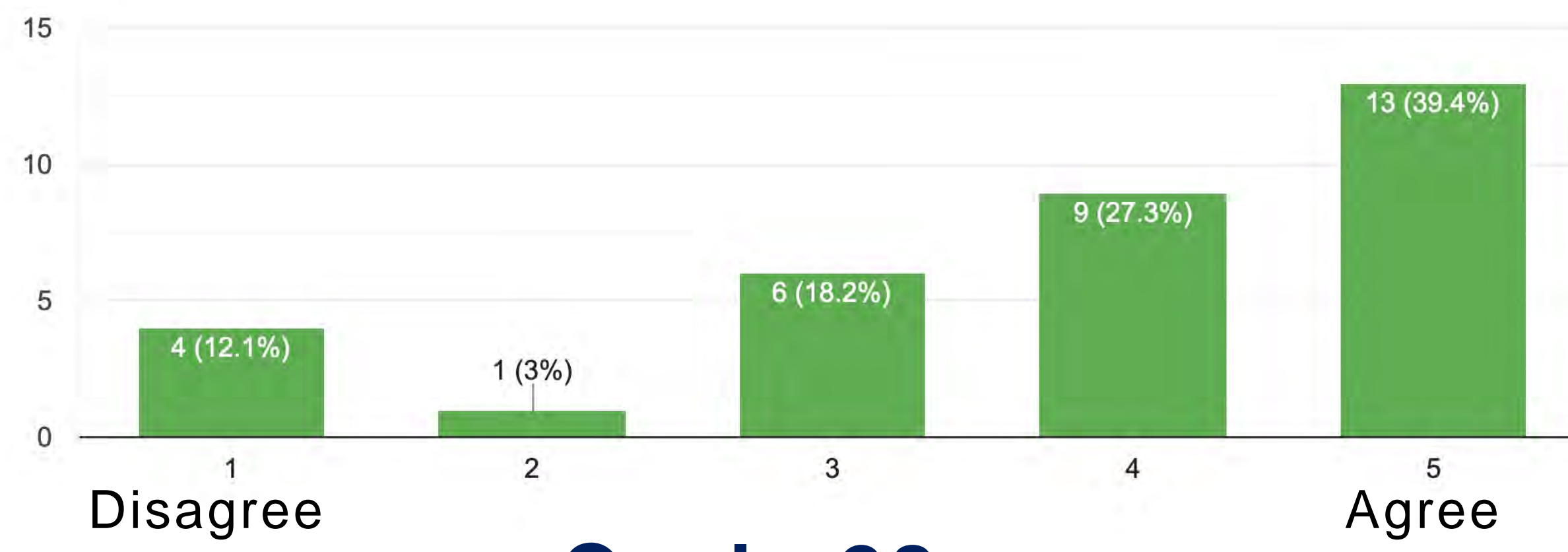
It was clear which proposals I had been assigned for preliminary grading.

33 responses



It was clear which proposals I had been assigned as a reviewer.

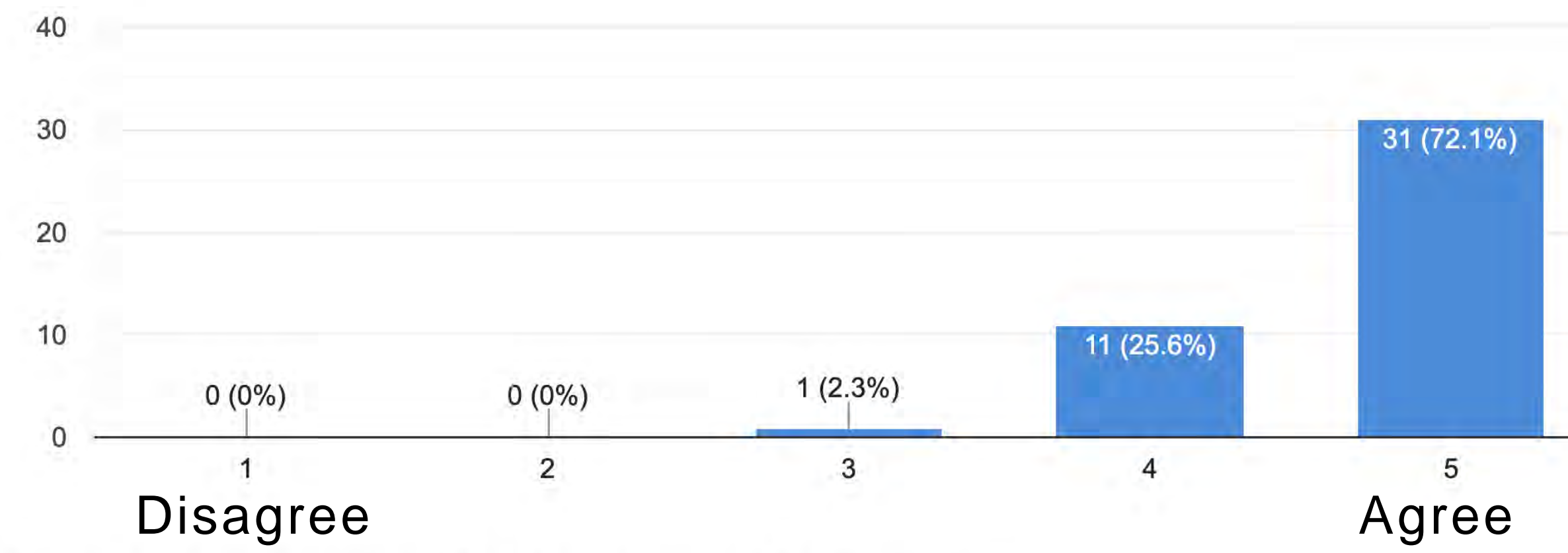
33 responses



**Cycle 28**

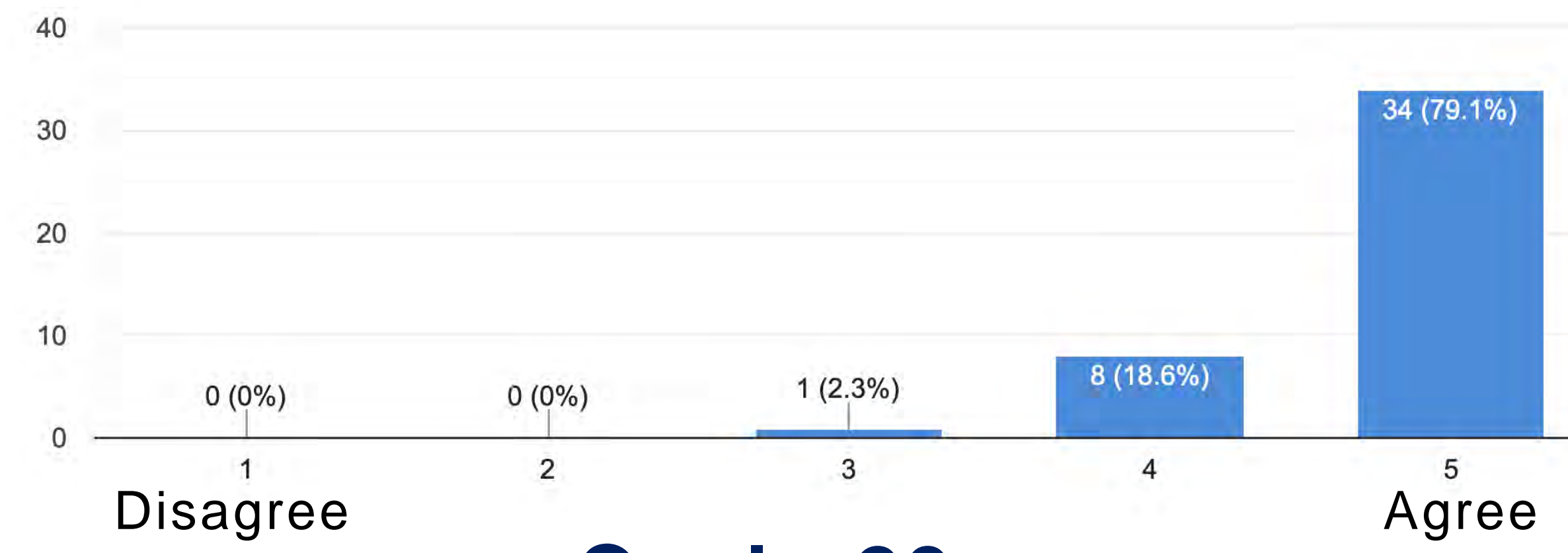
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43 responses



It was clear which proposals I had been assigned as a reviewer.

43 responses



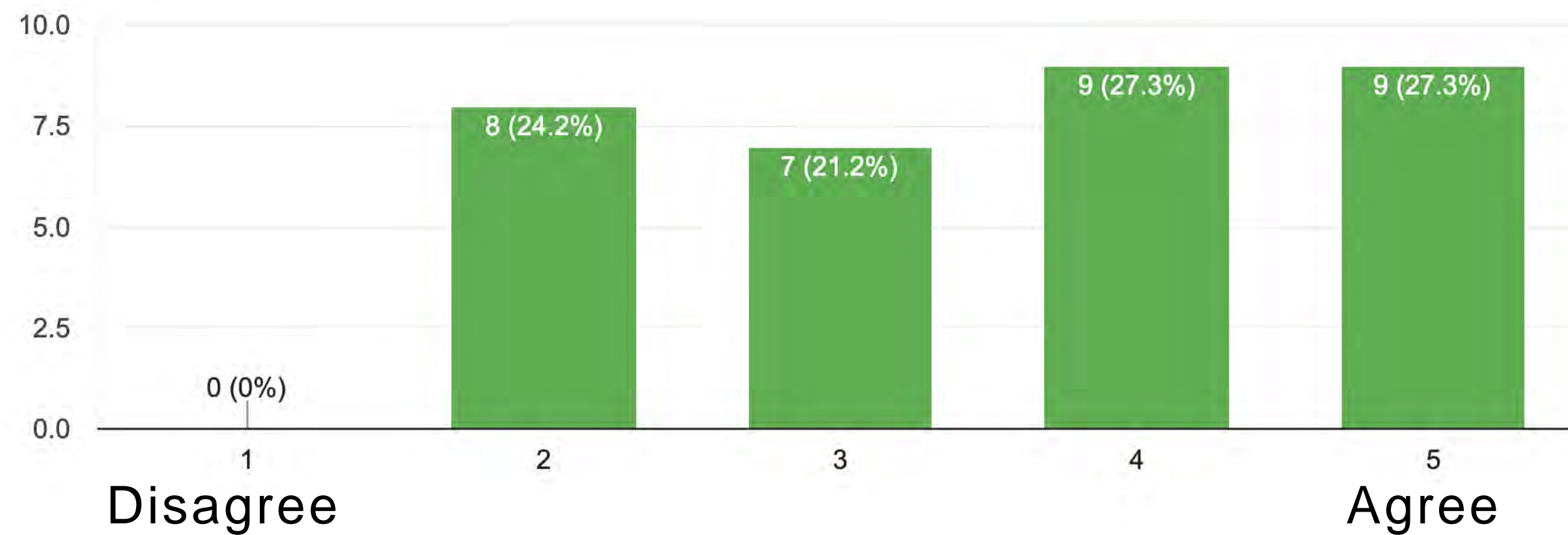
**Cycle 29**



# Virtual & External: Improvements to Review Documentation

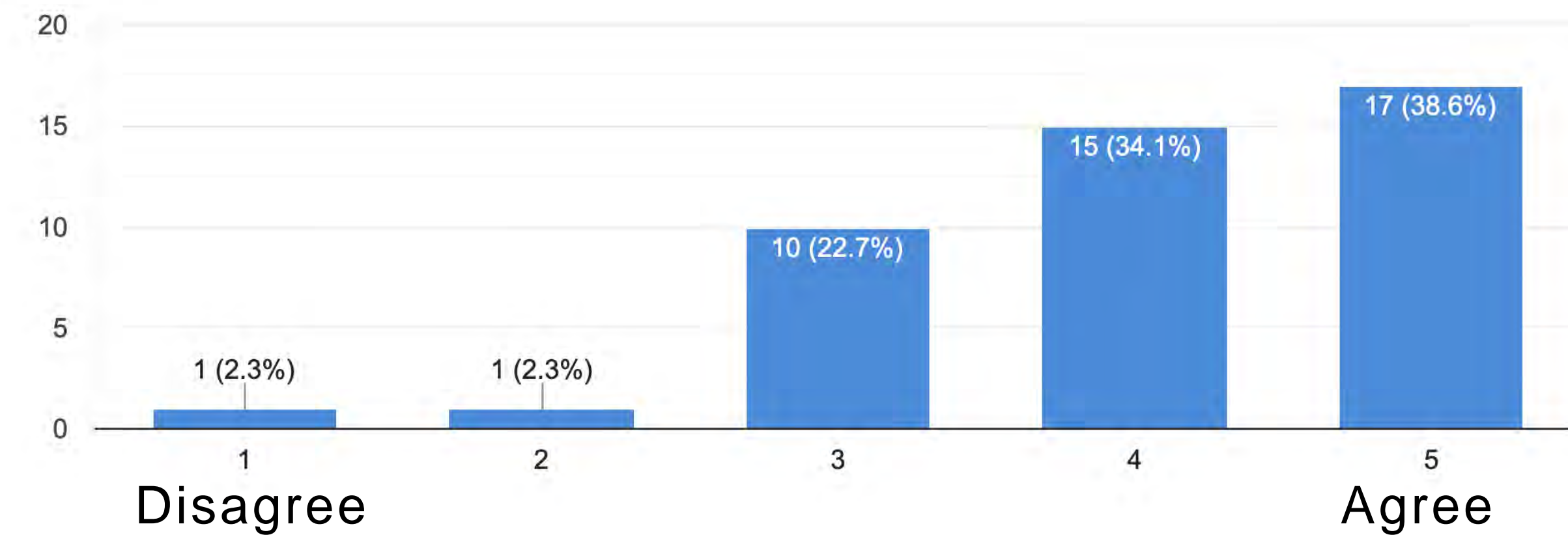
The online documentation for the review process was clear.

33 responses



The online documentation for the review process was clear.

44 responses







# Virtual Review

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- Workloads were too high for some panels.
  - We anticipated this and deliberately recruited extra panelists for some panels.
  - BUT this appears to have been insufficient.
  - *Prelim grading:*
    - Invite even more panelists so workload reduced.
    - Set target proposals per panelist, use Cy29 proposals to estimate Cy30 panelists needed.
    - Bonus: improved panelist-proposal matches.
    - Bonus: improved conflict mitigation.
  - *Improve panel meeting:*
    - Set higher triage to reduce number of proposals discussed.
    - Resurrection remains an option, panelists can “save” proposals.



# Virtual Review

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- Workloads were uneven across panels.
  - Rebalance IGM-CGM and LSS.
  - *Default (no change):*
    - Virtual: Small GOs 16-34 orbits, Medium GOs.
    - External: Small GOs 1-15 orbits, SNAPs, ARs.
  - *IGM-CGM & LSS (new):*
    - Virtual: Small GOs, Medium GOs, SNAPs.
    - External: ARs
  - *Solar System (no change):*
    - Virtual: Small GOs, Medium GOs, SNAPs, ARs.
    - External: NONE.



## Virtual Review

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- Breaks in some panels were insufficient — not frequent enough or not long enough.
  - Tied in part to workload, so mitigated by previous slide.
  - Formerly in person review, some structure imposed by meal times/coffee breaks.
  - Virtual review, left to discretion of panel chair.
  - *Improvements:*
    - STScI will set a default schedule.
    - Further discussions ongoing.





## Virtual & External: Grading Criteria and Rubric

- 3 grading criteria (Cy28) and expanded rubric (Cy29):
  - Introduced to reduce bias.
  - Rubrics: appreciated.
  - Separate criteria: mixed opinions.
  - Discussion of implementation ongoing.

Grade	Impact within the sub-field	Out-of-field impact	Suitability
1	Potential for transformative results.	Transformative implications for one or more other sub-fields.	Science goals can only be achieved by observational or theoretical analysis of HST data.
2	Potential for major advancement.	Major implications for one or more other sub-fields.	Analysis of HST data offers major advantages over data from other facilities.
3	Potential for moderate advancement.	Some implications for one or more other sub-fields.	Analysis of HST data offers some advantages over data from other facilities.
4	Potential for minor advancement.	Minor impacts on other sub-fields.	Analysis of HST data offers minor advantages over data from other facilities.
5	Limited potential for advancing the field.	Little or no impact for other sub-fields.	Analysis of HST data offers little or no advantage over other facilities or the advantages of analysing HST data are unclear.





## Virtual & External: Hybrid Review

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- External Reviewers
  - Would like feedback about how their grades/thoughts compared with others.
  - Would like to see comments from other reviewers.
- Virtual Reviewers
  - Concerns about science balance.
  - (We did offer broad science topics.)
- SPG discussion of implementation ongoing.