

# The Graduate Leadership Council 2007 Annual Report

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\* **Denotes presenters**

# Presentation Outline

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## ■ **Introduction:**

- Description & Purpose of the GLC
- Graduate Student Survey

## ■ **Topics:**

- Graduate Student Contribution
- Graduate Student Life
- Health Insurance
- Humanities & Social Science
- Student Satisfaction

# Graduate Leadership Council

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## ■ Composition

- Delegates from graduate student organizations recognized by TGS:

**BGSA:** Black Graduate Student Association

**CGSA:** Chicago Graduate Student Association

**CSSA:** Chinese Students & Scholars Association

**GSA:** Graduate Student Association

**G-SALSA:** Graduate Student Association for Latino and Spanish Activities

**QPGSA:** Queer Pride Graduate Student Association

# Graduate Leadership Council

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- Purpose of the GLC:
  - To promote a **successful graduate educational experience**, and act as a platform for **voicing common graduate student concerns**.
  - To **facilitate communication and interaction** between the graduate students and university administration.
  - To assist TGS and the University in **planning and implementing policies, events, and initiatives** that concern graduate students.

# Graduate Student Survey

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- Used to assess graduate student needs and concerns
- Sent to all students in TGS via e-mail in October
- 967 graduate students took the survey
  - Approximately 1/3 of total population
  - Indicative of graduate student demographics

# Graduate Student Contribution

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Research

Teaching and Mentoring



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# Graduate Student Contribution

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Areas of impact

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graph TD; A[Areas of impact] --> B[Research]; A --> C[Teaching/Mentoring]; B --> D[High-impact publications<br/>Patents<br/>Millions of dollars in research grants<br/>and funding]; C --> E[Professors focus on course content<br/>Interest in academic careers<br/>Preparation for teaching];
```

**Research**

**Teaching/  
Mentoring**

High-impact publications  
Patents  
Millions of dollars in research grants  
and funding

Professors focus on course content  
Interest in academic careers  
Preparation for teaching

# Graduate Student Contribution

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## ■ Research Contribution

- 56% of survey respondents reported doing majority of research in lab/office
- 16.5% conduct research other than their advisor's work
- 90% report spending 30+ hours/week toward their degree.
- Large number of grants, accolades, and awards

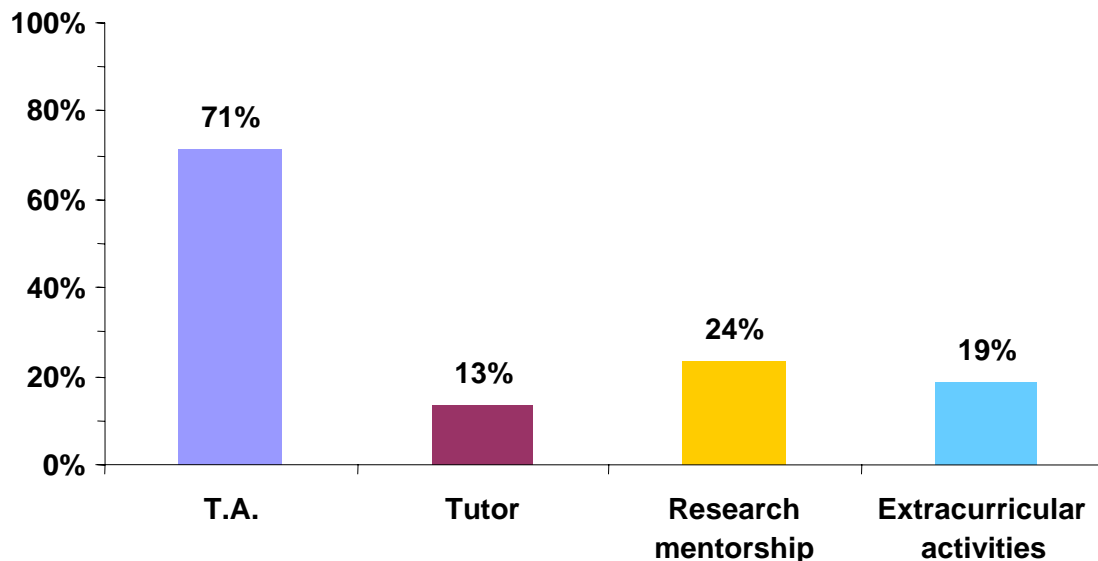
# Graduate Student Contribution

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## ■ Teaching and Mentoring

- Graduate students contribute through teaching and mentorship of undergraduates
- Largest contributions as teaching assistants (71%) and as research mentors (24%)

**“In what context(s) do you interact with the undergraduate population?”**



# Graduate Student Contribution

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- Graduate students impact research and teaching / mentoring
- Issues impacting graduate student life are important to the entire NU community
  - *Transportation*
  - *Health insurance*
  - *Graduate student rights*
  - *Diversity*

Addressing these issues will work to:

**Maintain and increase the productivity of current graduate students**

**Recruit the brightest, most capable students**

# Graduate Student Life

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Student Population and Funding  
Transportation  
Activities Fee  
Family and Childcare

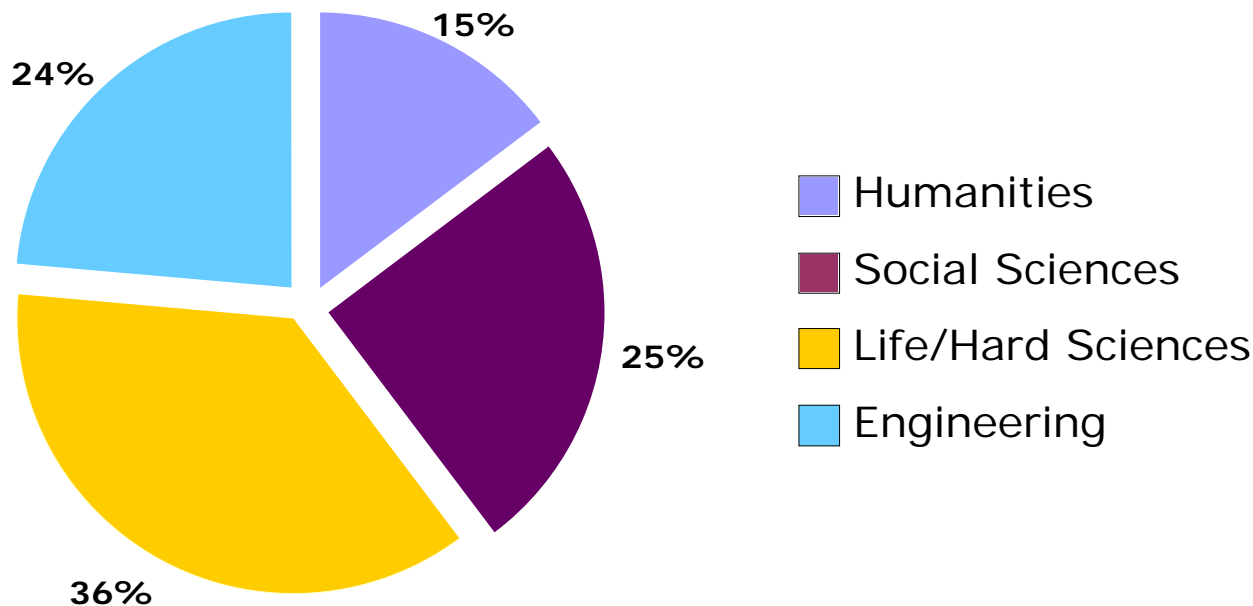


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# Graduate Student Population

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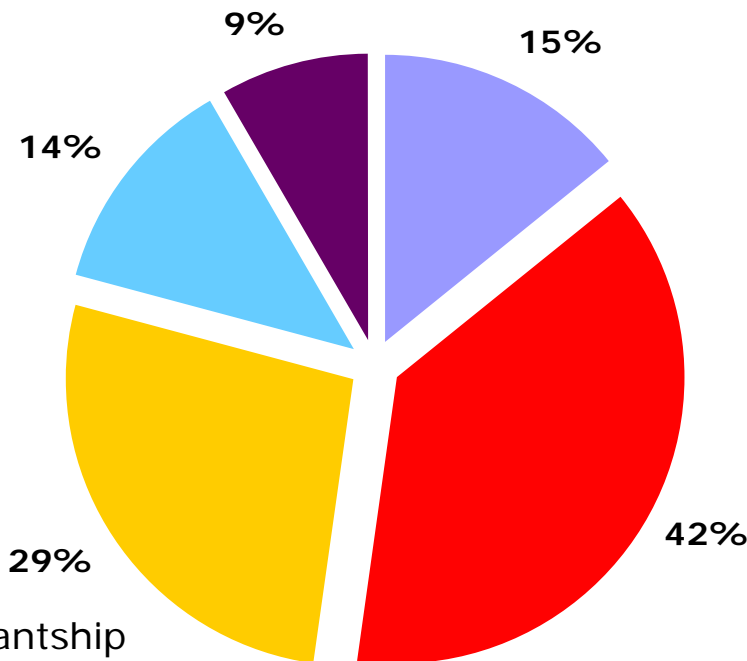
- 91% of graduate students are in doctoral programs
- 78% primarily work on the Evanston campus



# Graduate Student Funding

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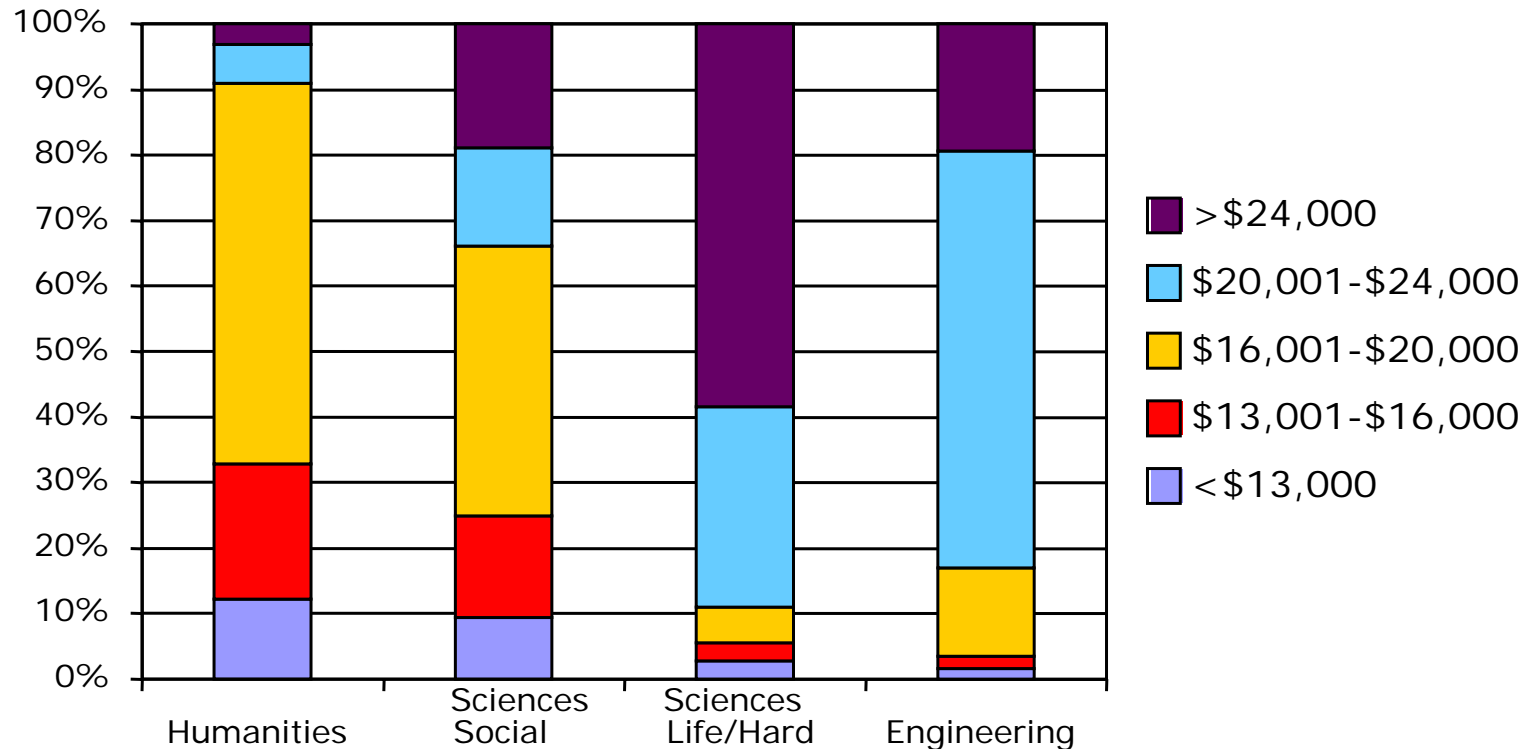
- Base stipend for University Fellows: \$1,635 per month, for a 9-month period (total: \$14,715)



- Teaching Assistantship
- Department/University Fellowship
- External grants/fellowship from advisor
- External grants/fellowship obtained by student
- No funding

- Students obtain funding from a variety of sources
- No correlation between funding source and discipline

# Graduate Student Funding



- Correlation between discipline and stipend
- Affects quality of life, apartment choices, etc.

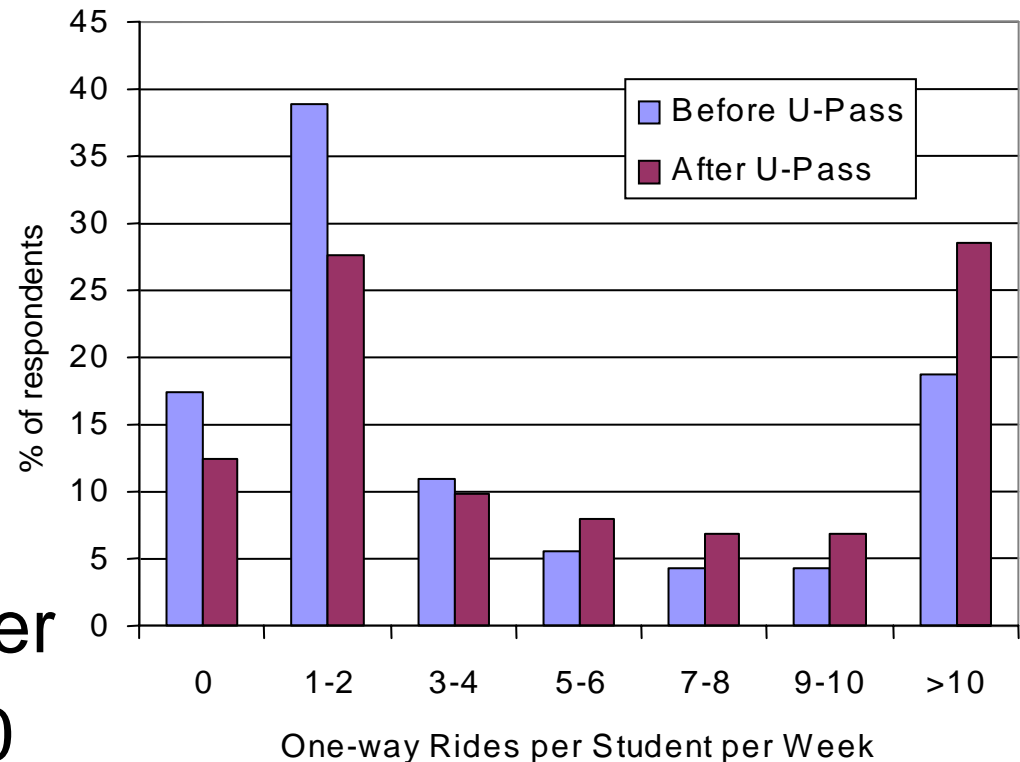
# Transportation: Intercampus Shuttle

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- Intercampus shuttle service for unscheduled stops has been eliminated
  - Inconvenient: only 1 stop between Chicago and Evanston
  - Safety concerns at night
  
- Recommend several non-university, scheduled stops to be added to existing route
  - Sheridan & Thorndale
  - Sheridan & Morse
  - Sheridan & Howard
  - Chicago & Dempster

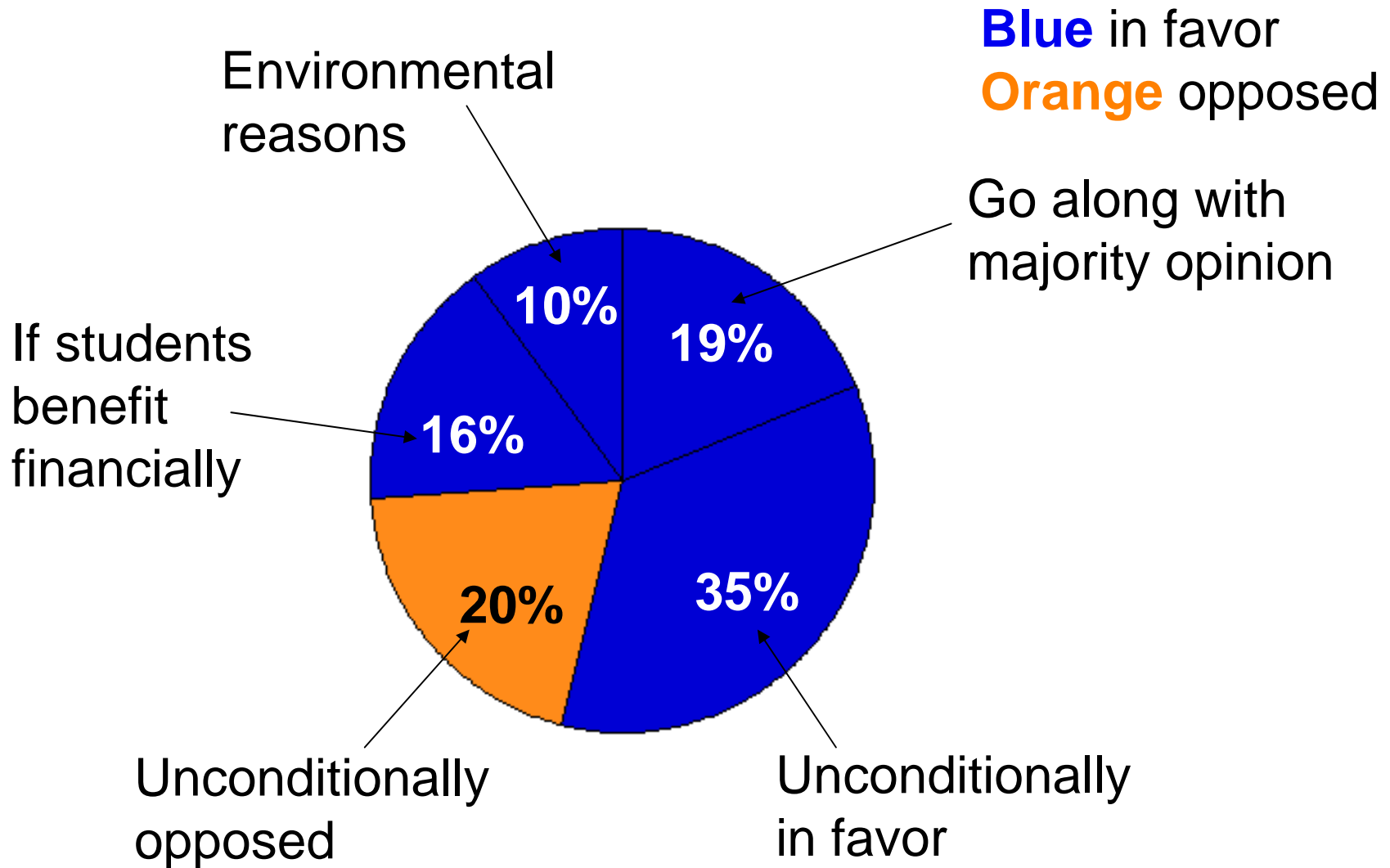
# Activities Fee: U-Pass Program

- 60% of students benefit
  - Breakeven:
    - 2.8 rides/student/week
  - ~75% would benefit if fares increased to \$3.50/ride with current ridership numbers
- Total student body saves \$34-\$66k/quarter
- Contract through 2010



# Conditions for Support

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# Activities Fee: Legal Advising

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- In Winter Quarter 2007, the Graduate School began providing free legal counsel to graduate students
  - 1 hr / student
  
- 98 students received legal advice in 2007
  - Lease/sublease drafting
  - General criminal cases
  - Immigration issues
  - Accidents-personal injury and property damage
  - Moving and parking violations

# Family Care Policies

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- Great improvements for families
  - More changing tables around campus
  - Maternity leave policy (6 weeks paid)
  - Nursing mother rooms in two locations
  - Family Day Out event sponsored by TGS
  
- Still a lot of hurdles for parents on campus
  - High cost of dependent health care
    - ~33% are married, ~13% have children
  - High cost/lack of information on childcare:
    - >\$20,000 / yr for NU subsidized Kindercare
  
- Recommendations
  - Parent focus groups – how to best help
  - Extend maternity policy to include other family leave
  - Childcare at University events that are after hours

# Health Insurance

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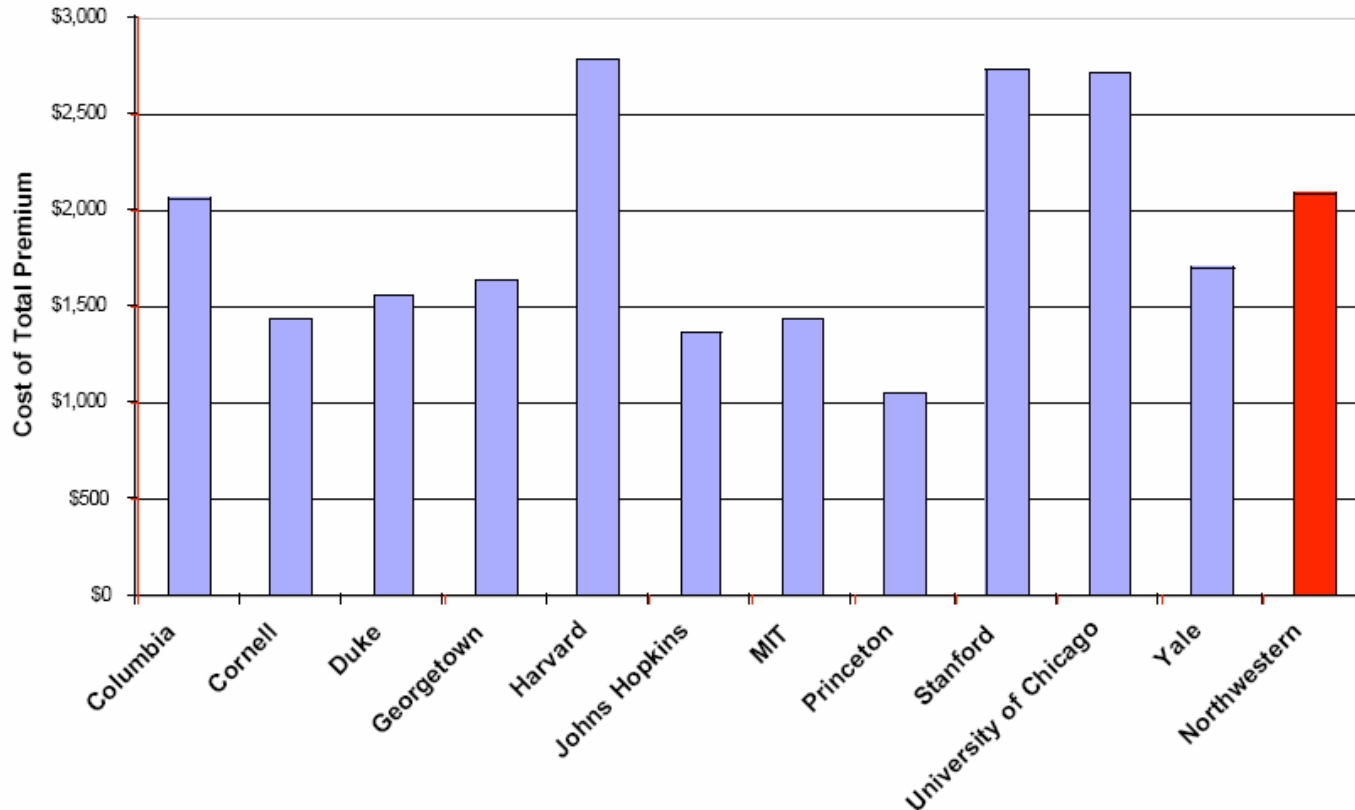
Cost of Health Insurance  
Health Services  
Recommendations to TGS



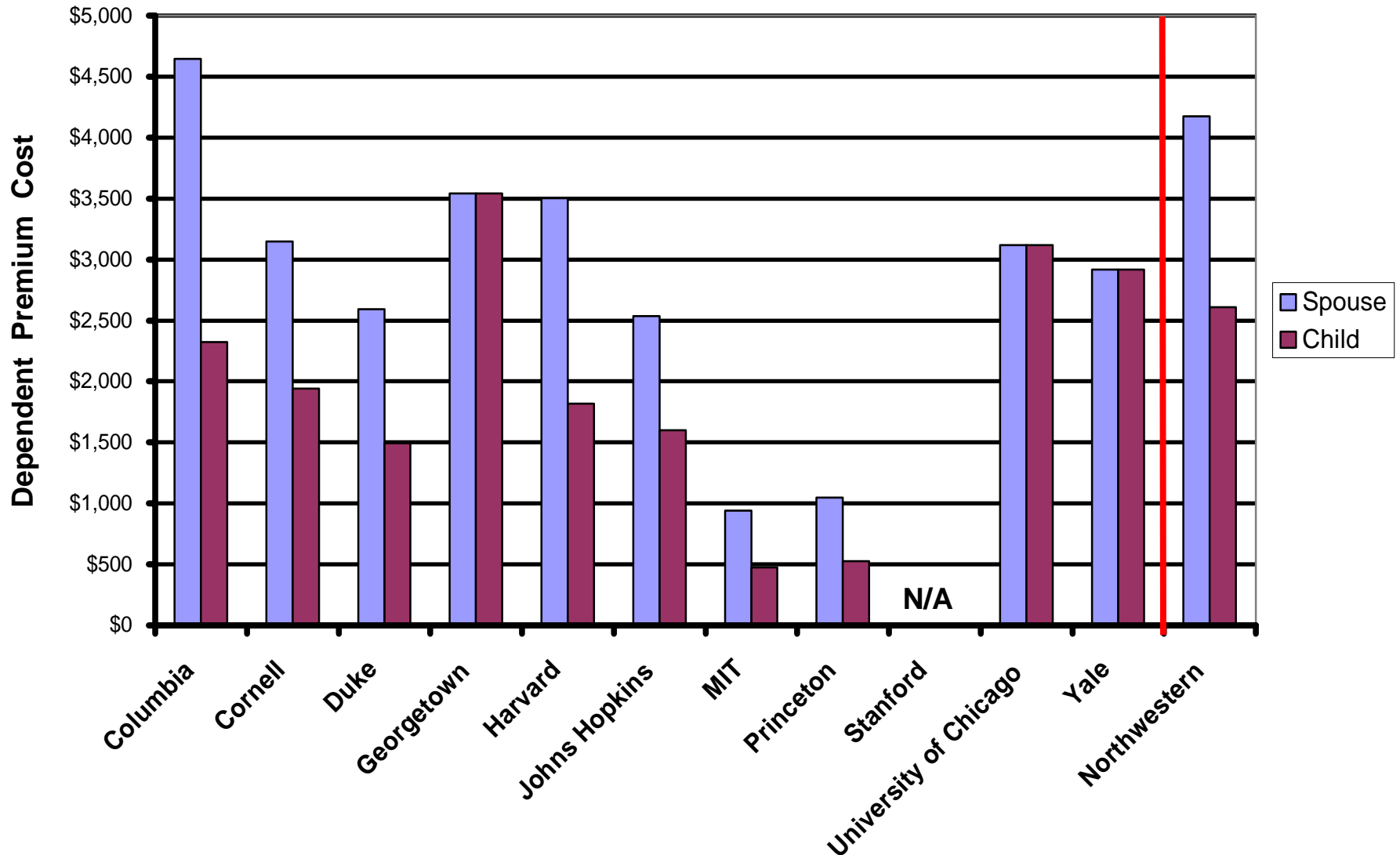
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# Health Insurance

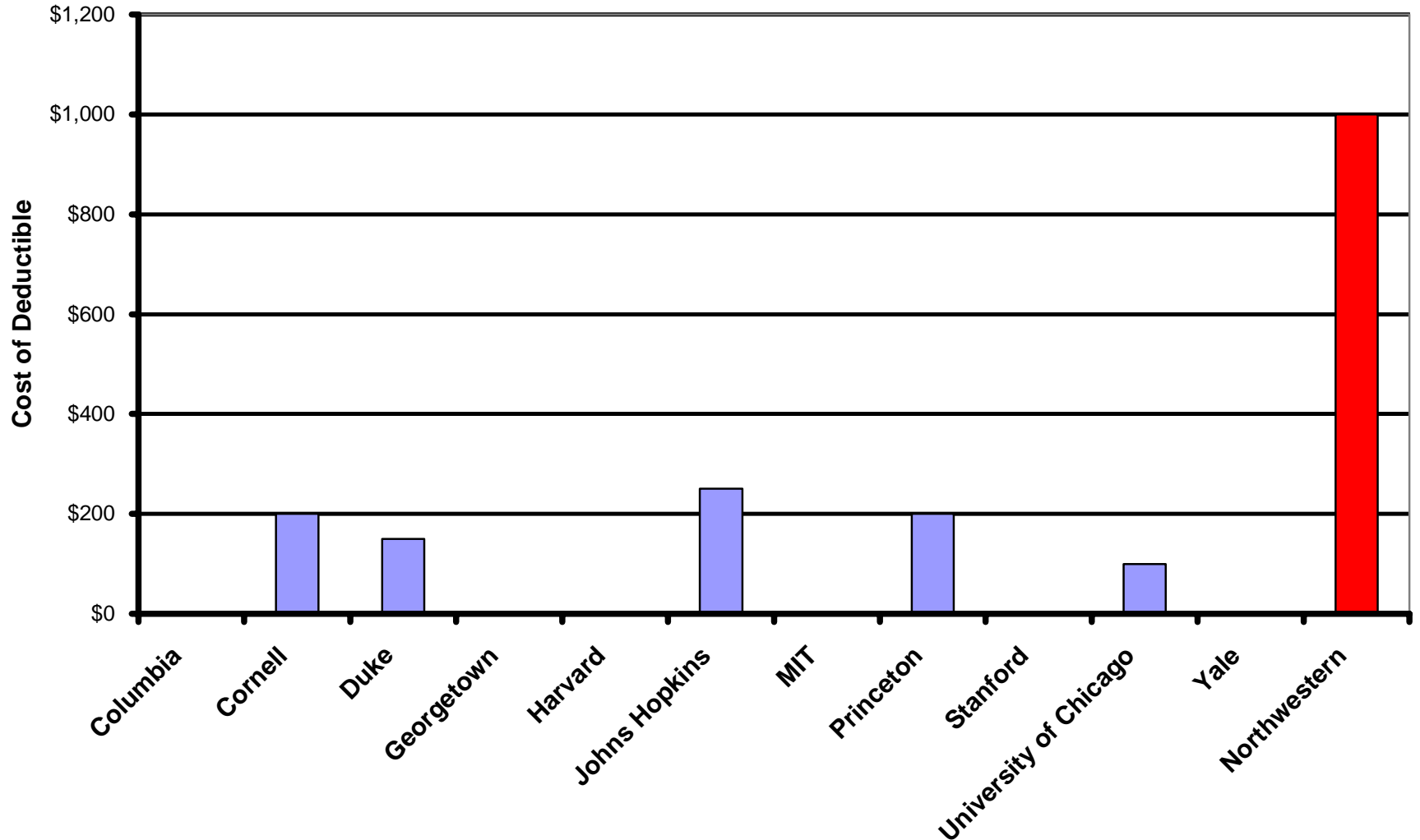
	Premium			Deductible
	Student	Spouse	Child	
<b>Northwestern</b>	\$2,088	\$4,167	\$2,610	\$1,000
<b>Average</b>	\$1,955	\$3,433	\$2,345	\$209
<b>% higher NU is</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>378%</b>



# Health Insurance



# Health Insurance



# Health Insurance

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## ■ Cost Burden: Common Health Scenarios

- Final bill of \$1000 = **331%** higher for NU
- Final bill of \$300 = **69%** higher for NU
- ER visit of \$600 = **157%** higher for NU
- Final bill is \$10,000 = **4%** higher for NU

## ■ Implications

- 18% of polled students said they failed to seek care because of the plan's high \$1000 deductible

# Health Insurance

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- Recommendations to TGS
  - Implement new health insurance plan with:
    - Lower deductible (~\$200)
    - 80% to 90% level of Co-insurance
    - Out-of-pocket maximum of \$1000-\$2000
    - Lower cost of dependent premiums
  - Adopt a plan that is more in line with those offered to students at our peer institutions

# Health Services

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- Preventive care is **not** currently available
  - Cannot schedule an annual physical
  - Graduate students are older
    - 48% of graduate students are 25-30 years of age
    - 11% are over 30 years old
  
- Cost disparity between Evanston and Chicago health services
  
- Recommendations
  - Offer preventive care at health services
  - Provide a list of service costs at both campuses

# Humanities & Social Sciences

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ABD Advocacy

Foreign Language Requirement

Interdisciplinary Clusters



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# ABD Advocacy

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- The GLC is starting a new advocacy group to address the specific needs of ABD (“All but dissertation”) students in the humanities and social sciences
- Issues to be discussed include:
  - Institutional programming
  - Resources
  - Support of the student/advisor relationship

# Foreign Language Requirement

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- TGS has made institutional changes to provide better graduate student access to foreign language resources
- Graduate students are now allowed to enroll in undergraduate language courses (where previously they were not allowed), and summer study abroad grants (\$1500 each) have been made available

# Interdisciplinary Clusters

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- The 2007-08 school year begins Dean Wachtel's interdisciplinary cluster initiative in the humanities
- Incoming first year students are encouraged to join students from other departments with whom they share “**natural intellectual affinities**” for the purposes of symposia, courses, conferences, and workshops

# Interdisciplinary Clusters

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## ■ Currently available clusters include:

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*African Studies*

*Critical Studies in  
Theatre &  
Performance*

*Latin American &  
Caribbean Studies*

*Asian Studies*

*European / Jewish  
Studies*

*Medieval Studies*

*Classic Traditions*

*Gender Studies*

*Rhetoric & Public  
Culture*

*Comparative &  
Historical Social  
Science*

*Historical Social  
Science*

*Russian / East*

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# Student Satisfaction

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Student-advisor Relationship

Diversity

Cultural Holiday

TGS Initiatives



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# Student Satisfaction

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- The student-advisor relationship greatly influences student satisfaction.

<i>Do you have a healthy working relationship with your advisor?</i>	
Yes	~72%
No (all reasons: <a href="#">poor communication</a> , <a href="#">lack of contact</a> , etc.)	~28%
No (severe reasons: <a href="#">abuse of power</a> , <a href="#">harassment</a> , etc.)	~5%

- Student-advisor relationships are generally good
- Student initiatives to help reduce serious advisor relationship complaints
  - Graduate student rights
  - Ombudsperson

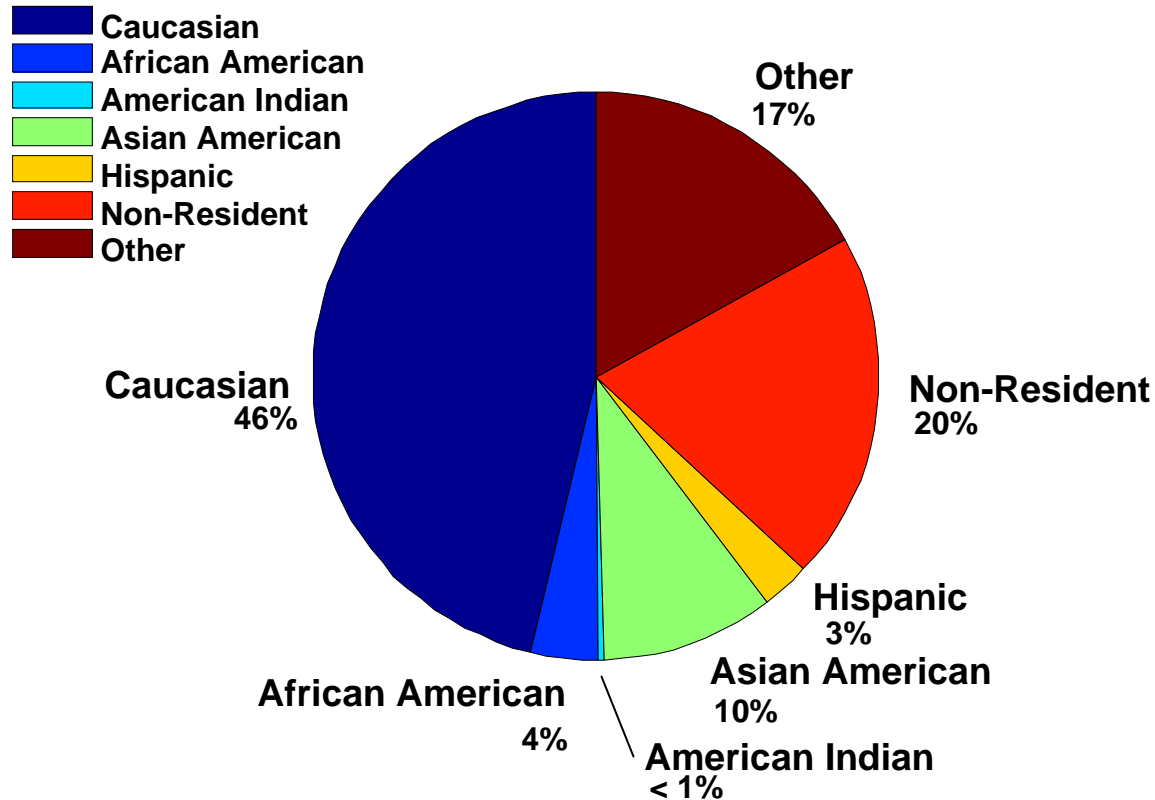
# Diversity

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- Importance of diversity:
  - Important factor to provide high quality education
  - Strengths the university community
  - Creates friendlier work space
  
- Current state of population\*
  - **7.0%** of full- and part-time students in graduate and/or professional school are underrepresented minorities
  - This year 51 new graduate students of color enrolled to Northwestern (nine less, compared to last year)
  - **5.1%** of tenure-line and full-time faculty members are underrepresented minorities

\* As of Fall 2006, taken from Northwestern University Data Book, 2006-2007: 39<sup>th</sup> Edition

# Full and Part-time Graduate Enrollment by Ethnicity

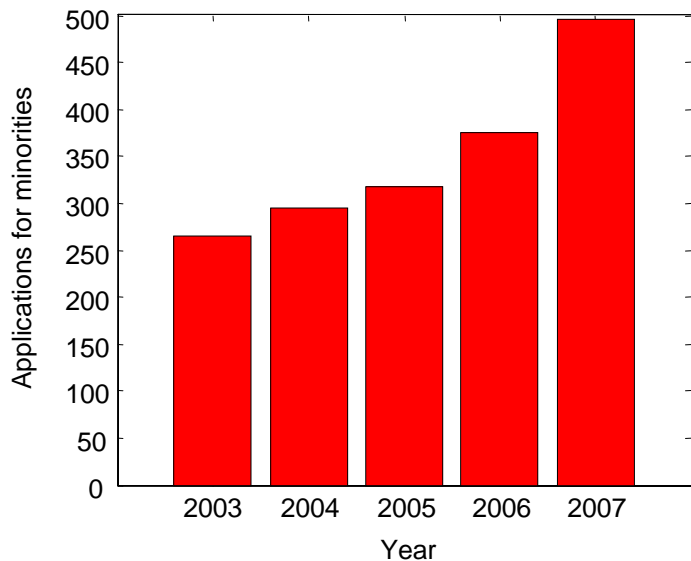


**Total Grad. + Professional Students = 9,307  
(full and part-time)**

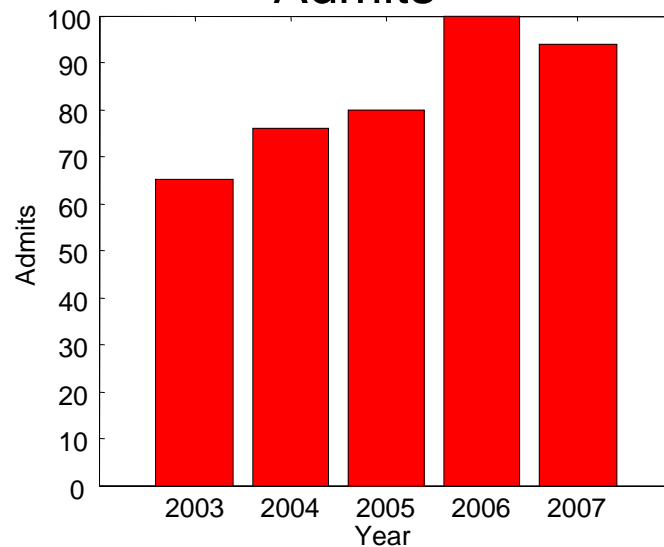
\* As of Fall 2006, taken from Northwestern University Data Book, 2006-2007: 39<sup>th</sup> Edition

# PhD Applications, Admits and Enrollees for Minority Students

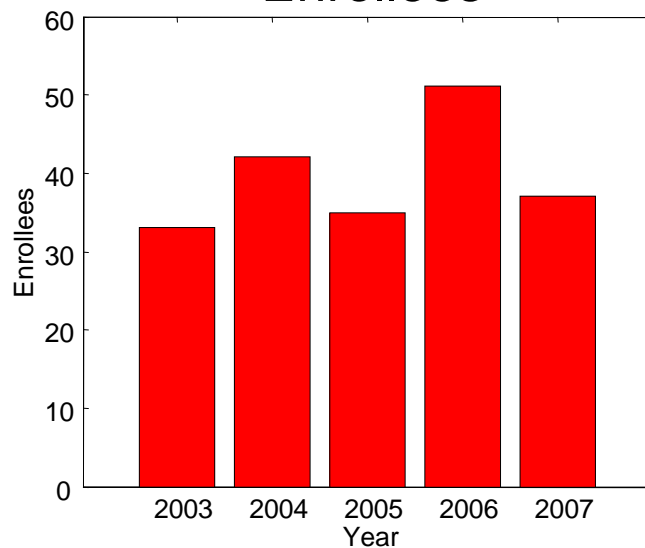
## Applications



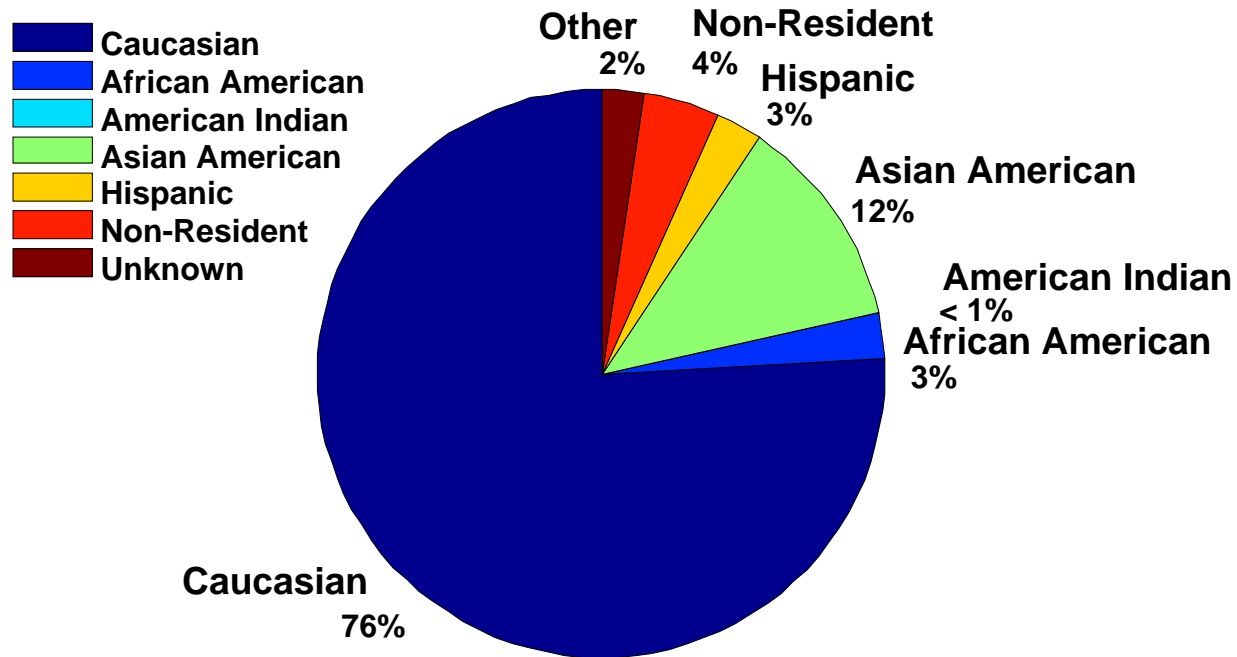
## Admits



## Enrollees



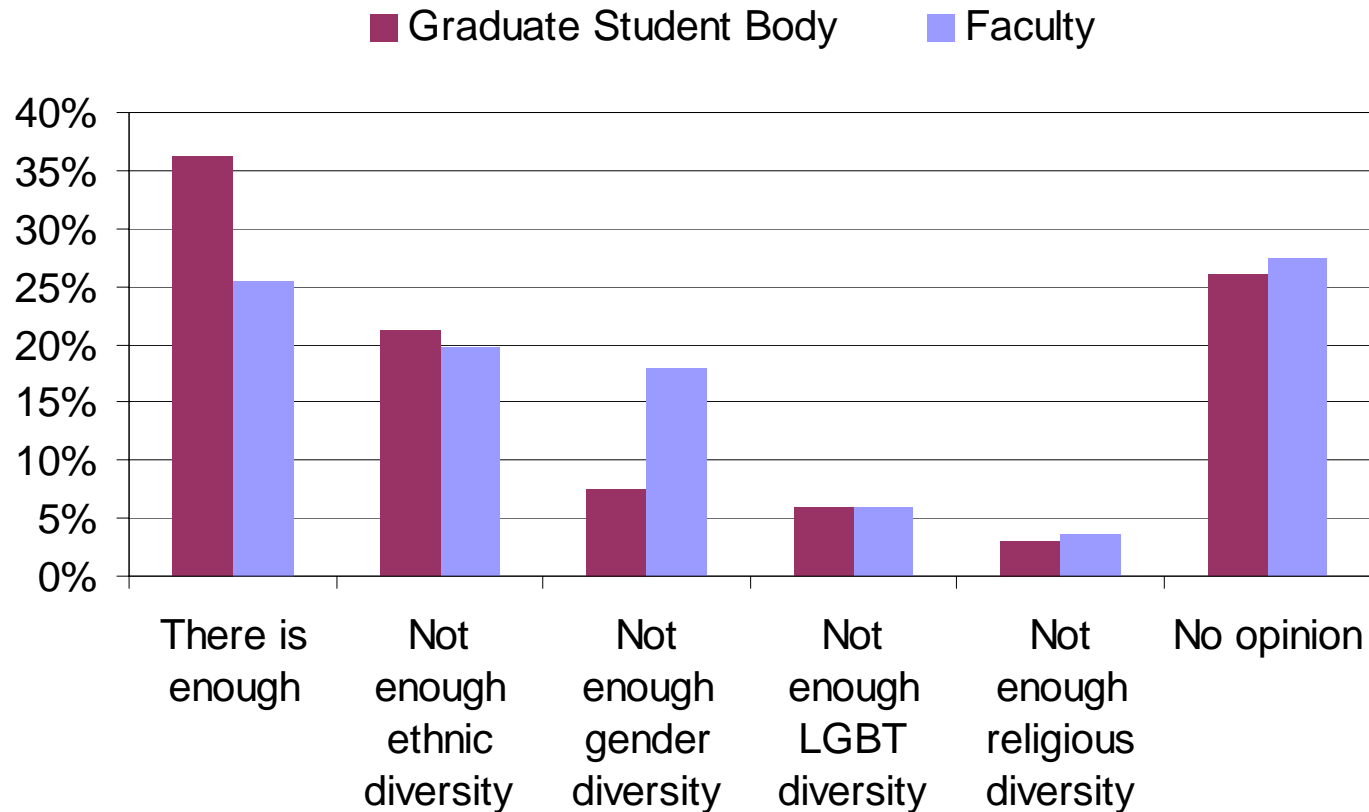
# All Tenure-line and Full-time Faculty by Ethnicity



**Total Faculty = 2,935**

\* As of Fall 2006, taken from Northwestern University Data Book, 2006-2007: 39<sup>th</sup> Edition

# Student Opinion on Diversity



- 36% of students believe there is enough diversity among graduate students
- 25% believe there is enough diversity among faculty

# Efforts to Increase Diversity

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- Tracking the numbers of minority students
- Funding recruitment trips made by graduate students
- Holding quarterly receptions for minority students, assigning buddies for incoming students of color

# Efforts to Increase Diversity

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- **Multicultural Affairs Office**
- **DMESLS**: Distinguished Minority Engineering Scholars Lecture
  - Extended to Life Sciences and Social and Behavioral Sciences
- **SECMA**: Science and Engineering Committee for Multicultural Affairs
- **CHES**: Communications, Humanities, Economics, Social and Behavioral Sciences.
- **AGEP**: Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate
- **SROP**: Summer Research Opportunity Program
- **MentorNet**
- **LGBT Support Network**

# Faculty Diversity

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- Diverse faculty is critical for an outstanding educational institute and key element for the student development
- Efforts: The Faculty Diversity Committee
- Recommendations:
  - Examining policies and process of faculty hiring
  - Thorough and sensitive balance between academic expectations and family life

# Cultural Holiday

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## Survey question 1:

Do you think that the culture you belong to has gained enough respect in Northwestern?”

### Results:

my culture has gained enough respect	46%
my culture is respected, but not as much as I expected	12%
my culture is poorly respected	4%
my culture is not respected	2%
no option	36%

- 2% of all respondents are explicitly unsatisfied with the cultural respect they receive in NU.
- 2/3 (46%+12%) are satisfied with current situation.

# Cultural Holiday

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## Survey question 2:

Do you celebrate your culture's holidays?

### Results:

set aside some time to celebrate all of my culture's holidays	23%
celebrate only the most significant of my culture's holidays	63%
never celebrate my culture's holidays	14%

This year the GLC formally presented to the University Chaplain and Provost of NU with a finalized list of cultural holidays.

We anticipate that those proposed cultural holidays will be included in the university calendar and the related policy will be enacted in very near future.

# TGS Day/Night Out

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- Social events coordinated by The Graduate School
  - Day out at the zoo for families
  - Night out at local bars/restaurants
  - Bowling
- Up to 300 students can attend each event
- Coordination with GSA/GLC
  - First annual 5k run
- Improving quality of life a great selling point for recruiting/retaining students at Northwestern

# TGS Community Building Grants

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- Grants of up to \$3000 for a year
- Enhance social and academic interactions between departments
  - Salsa Night Out
  - Chicago Cultural Club
  - Graduate Women Across Northwestern
  - Curling Club
  - Mad Science
- 8 grants first year, 20 this year
- Positive feedback from students who have participated

Dean Wachtel!



# Summary

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## ■ **Accomplishments:**

- Foreign language requirements
- Cultural holidays

## ■ **Ongoing work:**

- Health insurance – coverage, services
- Family and child care
- Graduate student rights & ombudsperson

# Acknowledgements

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Student Affairs Committee

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