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National Endowment for the Arts
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Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 10:45 AM
Subject: RE: FOIA request F19-002

This e-mail responds to your request for records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552. Your request has been assigned file number F19-002. In your e-mail, you requested:

“copy of each report and presentation produced under contract NEAC1351”

Attached are the responsive documents for your FOIA request with no redactions.

The National Endowment for the Arts is governed by the provisions of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, 20 U.S.C. 951 et seq., and the Freedom of Information Act with respect to the release of agency records. In accordance with the NEA's FOIA regulations, 45 C.F.R. 1100.5(b)(1), you may appeal the Agency's determination. Such an appeal must be made to the Chairman not less than 90 days after the date receipt of this e-mail, additional information about the appeal process can be found at FOIA| NEA .

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute, you can contact our FOIA Public Liaison for assistance. If we are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services(OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
ogis@nara.gov

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Respectfully,

FOIA Officer
Office of the General Counsel
National Endowment for the Arts
400 7th Street SW
Washington DC 20506
202-682-5572 (fax)

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Federal Management Partners, Inc. Workflow Analysis Overview



National Endowment for the Arts



Agenda

- Introductions
- About FMP
- Workflow Analysis Purpose
- Workflow Analysis Framework, Methodology, and Approach
- Timeline
- Questions and Next Steps

Our Team

- Attending today:
 - Erin Pitera, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
 - Jessica Goobic, Managing Consultant
 - Kara Price, Consultant
- Additional team members



John Salamone,
Vice President



Henry Romero,
Senior Advisor



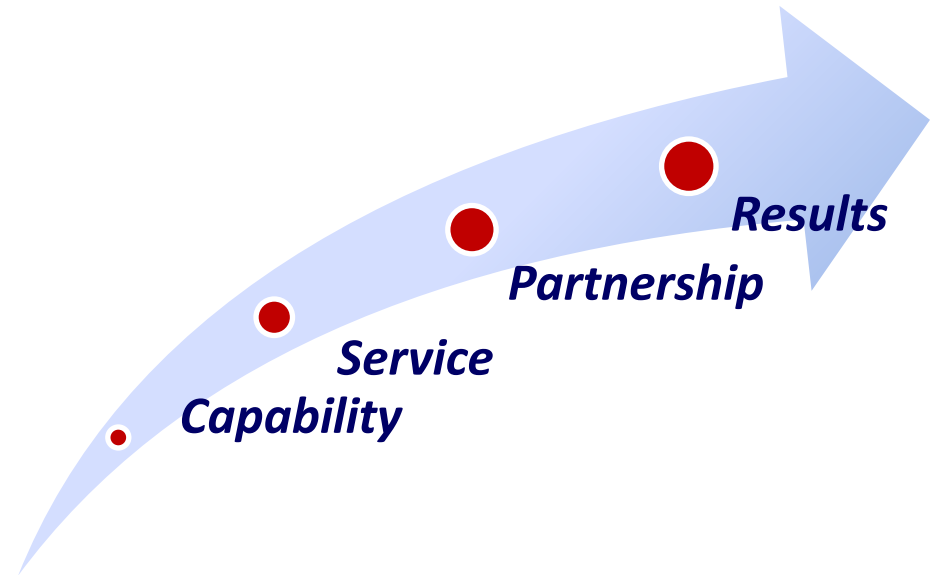
Jeff Dussault,
Process Advisor



Wanda Jones-Yeatman,
Facilitator

About FMP: The Basics

- Strategic human capital focus
- More than 20 years of human capital experience
- >100 employees plus extended national network
- Located in Alexandria, VA



“I have seldom encountered a group of ‘contractors’ who have been so engaged and committed to the needs of their client, and who genuinely appreciate and support their client's vision. Their advice, counsel, and insights have been invaluable...”

About FMP: Our Clients

Private Sector



Executive Departments

Independent Agencies



Transportation Security Administration



Workflow Analysis: Purpose

- Identifying the current state of the NEA workplace at the agency and office levels, including organizational structures, descriptions, job types, and work flow
- Identifying opportunities for improvement – both short and long-term
- Understanding the impact that future automation efforts may have on the current work flow, processes, and additional efficiencies
- The organizational assessment will serve as a living document to inform NEA's decisions on key activities

FMP's Workflow Analysis Methodology

Project Management Support

**Understand the
Current State**

**Analyze
Information**

**Develop
Recommendations**

FMP's Approach: Understand the Current State

- Work collaboratively with the NEA to:
 - Create a project plan and timeline for data collection activities
 - Develop communication plan and materials (e.g., key messages, talking points for leaders, interview and focus group invitations)
 - Identify participants for each data collection activity (e.g. interviews, focus groups, survey populations)
 - Engage union and solicit input to enhance collaboration

- Data Collection:
 - Literature Review
 - Survey
 - Interviews
 - Focus groups

Key Messages:

- Looking at the organization and processes to ensure NEA is being a good steward of public funds
- Seeking employee input is vital to the success of the organization

FMP's Approach: Understand the Current State

Data Collection Methodology:

- Literature Review
 - Collect and review existing workforce data (i.e., HRIS data, position descriptions, etc.) organizational documentation (i.e., organization charts, roles and responsibilities, strategic planning documents), and relevant IT related documents and materials
- Surveys
 - Develop survey to identify key workload drivers within organizational units, changes to workload, redundancies, and non-mission critical activities
- Interviews
 - Identify a representative sample of the NEA workforce for interviews, including leaders, supervisors, specialists, and assistants, develop interview protocols, and establish an interview schedule
- Focus Groups
 - Develop focus group materials, identify focus group populations, and establish a focus group schedule

Participation Opportunities

- **Interviews**

- 8-10, hour-long interviews
- 10, half-hour long interviews (optional)

- Offers ~12% participation rate

- **Survey**

- Distributed to all employees
- Includes open-ended questions

- Offers 100% participation rate

- **Focus Groups**

- 14-16 Focus Groups
- 6-12 employees per group
- Organized within and across units

- Offers ~100% participation rate including the interviews

FMP's Approach: Analyze Information

- Identify key findings and trends from current state analysis
- Aligns with FMP's Organizational Assessment Framework
 - People
 - Processes
 - Culture
 - Structure
- Develop comprehensive briefing for NEA leadership to include initial set of draft findings for verification and validation

Processes	Findings
<p>Efficiency and Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Processes for key activities are not codified (exhibitions, programs, budgeting).<ul style="list-style-type: none">– There is a lack of record-keeping and tracking of events with respect to roles/responsibilities of jobs and tasks, budgeting, attendance, timelines, etc. Consequently, planning for each new event, program, or exhibition requires “starting from scratch”.• Decision-making is described as slow and it's not clear who is in charge of key decisions.• Efforts are underway to formalize some processes (strategic planning, programs). <p>Documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few examples of updated, documented, and/or communicated policies and procedures.	<p><i>“No one knows who owns anything. We don't know who ‘the quarterback’ is.”</i></p>

FMP's Approach: Finalize Recommendations

- Develop prioritized list of short, medium, and long-range recommendations including:
 - Resource requirements
 - Identified process efficiencies
 - Organizational and Information Technology considerations
 - Key performance indicators and associated metrics
- Present NEA leadership with prioritized recommendations and final report

Recommendations

1. Implement a Performance Management System

Areas of Impact

- Processes (documentation, consistency, accountability)
- Culture (mission, vision, shared purpose)
- People (staffing levels, skill sets, professional development)

Benefits

- Drives accountability and ownership for key decisions and processes
- Identifies high and low performing individuals and groups
- Allows managers to make data-driven, objective decisions
- Provides developmental feedback mechanisms
- Reinforces Museum's strategic priorities
- Creates opportunities for dialogue between management and employees

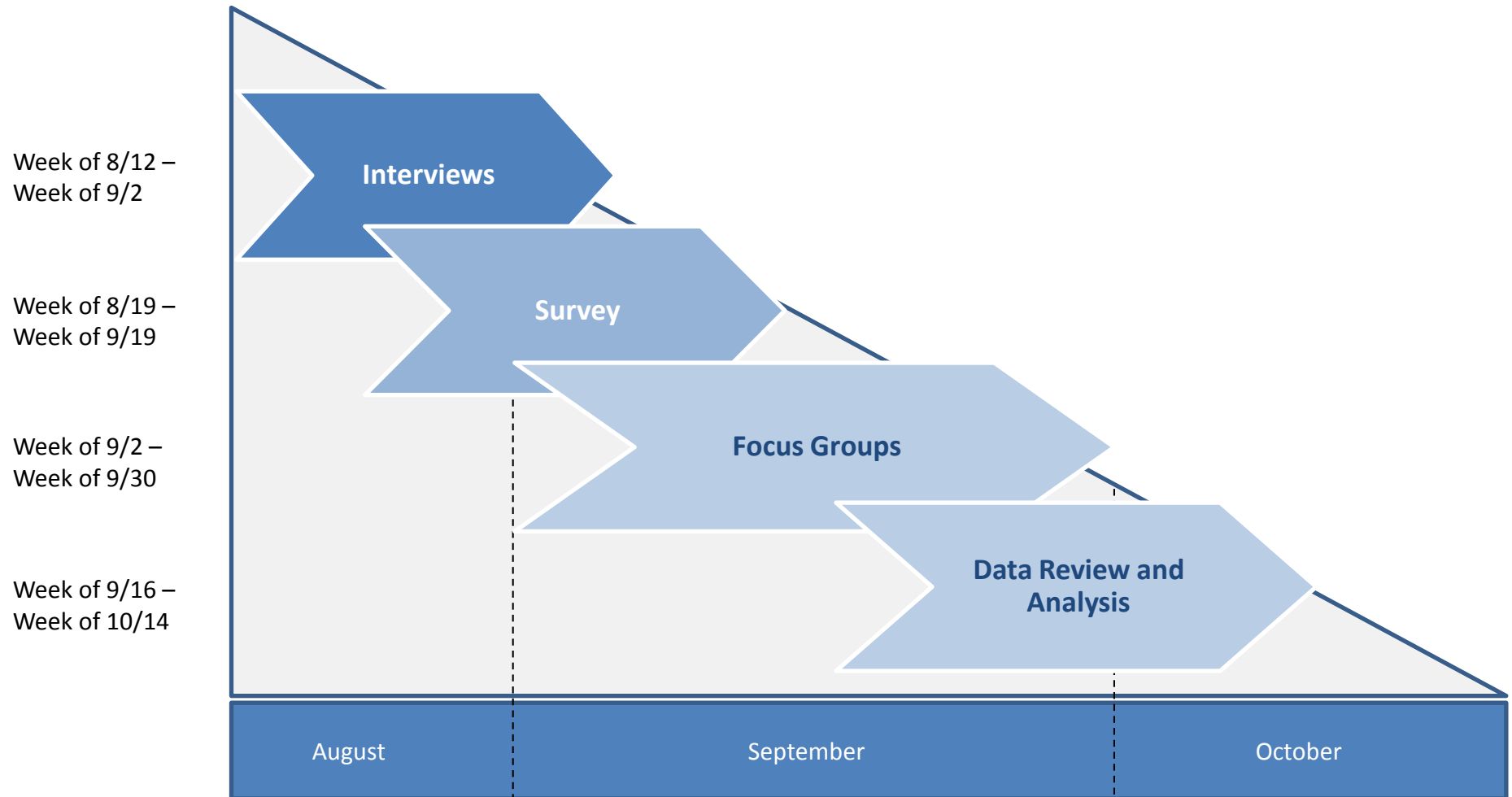
Implementation Guidance

- Address both organizational and individual performance with goals cascading through the organization
- Include phases for goal setting, mid-point reviews, and year end reviews and feedback
- Provide structure for objective goal setting and review sessions
- Provide staff with basic performance management, appraisal, and goal setting training
- Emphasize the importance of fostering dialogue between supervisors and subordinates, providing continual feedback
- Tie goal setting objectives to developmental opportunities

NEA Workflow Analysis Timeline

- Data Collection and Analysis (10 weeks)
 - Design and finalize methodology including document review materials, survey, interview, and focus group participants (1 week)
 - Conduct interviews (3 weeks; concurrently with survey)
 - Deploy survey (2 weeks)
 - Conduct focus groups (4 weeks)
 - Organize and consolidate findings, themes, and initial recommendations into briefing (2 weeks)
- Develop Final Recommendations Report (4 weeks)

Data Collection Timeline



Additional Discussion Topics

- Questions
- Next Steps
- Thank You!



Contact us:

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NEA Workflow Analysis Findings and Recommendations

November 19, 2013



National Endowment for the Arts



Agenda

- 1. Review the purpose for the workflow analysis**
- 2. Review assessment approach and participation**
- 3. Present assessment findings**
- 4. Present recommendations**
- 5. Discuss next steps**

Purpose

- To ensure the NEA effectively leverages its talent and resources to meet its goals and mission as effectively and efficiently as possible, the NEA asked Federal Management Partners (FMP) to analyze the workflow of the agency by:
 - Identifying the current state of the NEA workplace at the agency and office levels, including organizational structures, descriptions, job types, and work flow;
 - Identifying opportunities for improvement – both short and long-term; and
 - Understanding the impact that future automation efforts may have on the current work flow, processes, and additional efficiencies.
- The workflow analysis will serve as a living document to inform NEA's decisions on key activities

Approach

Literature Review/NEA Documents Collection (*August 2013*)

- Organizational Chart
- Staffing Data
- FY13 FEVS Data
- Retirement Eligibility Data
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Position Descriptions

Data Collection (*August – October, 2013*)

- Interviews
- Employee Survey
- Employee Focus Groups

Data Analysis (*August – November, 2013*)

Findings and Recommendations (*November 2013*)

- NEA Workflow Analysis Report
- Findings and Recommendations Briefing with Senior Leaders
- Findings and Recommendations Briefing with Staff



Data Collection Participation

- **Interviews (21 total)**
 - 13, 30- or 60-minute interviews conducted with representatives of all position levels within the organization, including senior leaders, directors, coordinators, supervisors, program specialists, and administrative assistants
 - 8, 30-minute interviews conducted with employee volunteers
- **Employee Survey**
 - Distributed to all 155 NEA employees
 - 137 respondents; **88% response rate** (*Average response rate: 50-60%*)
- **Employee Focus Groups**
 - 16 focus groups, coupled with the interviews, allowed every employee an opportunity to participate
 - 116 participants; **85% of all invitees**

All participants were assured that their feedback was non-attributional. Employees were very open, candid, and supportive of the assessment and the potential for improvement.

NEA Workflow Analysis

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Organizational Strengths

1.

- Employees feel a strong sense of personal pride in the agency's mission and for upholding high standards of customer service

2.

- Staff members are willing to go 'above and beyond'

3.

- Workforce is loyal and committed to the agency

4.

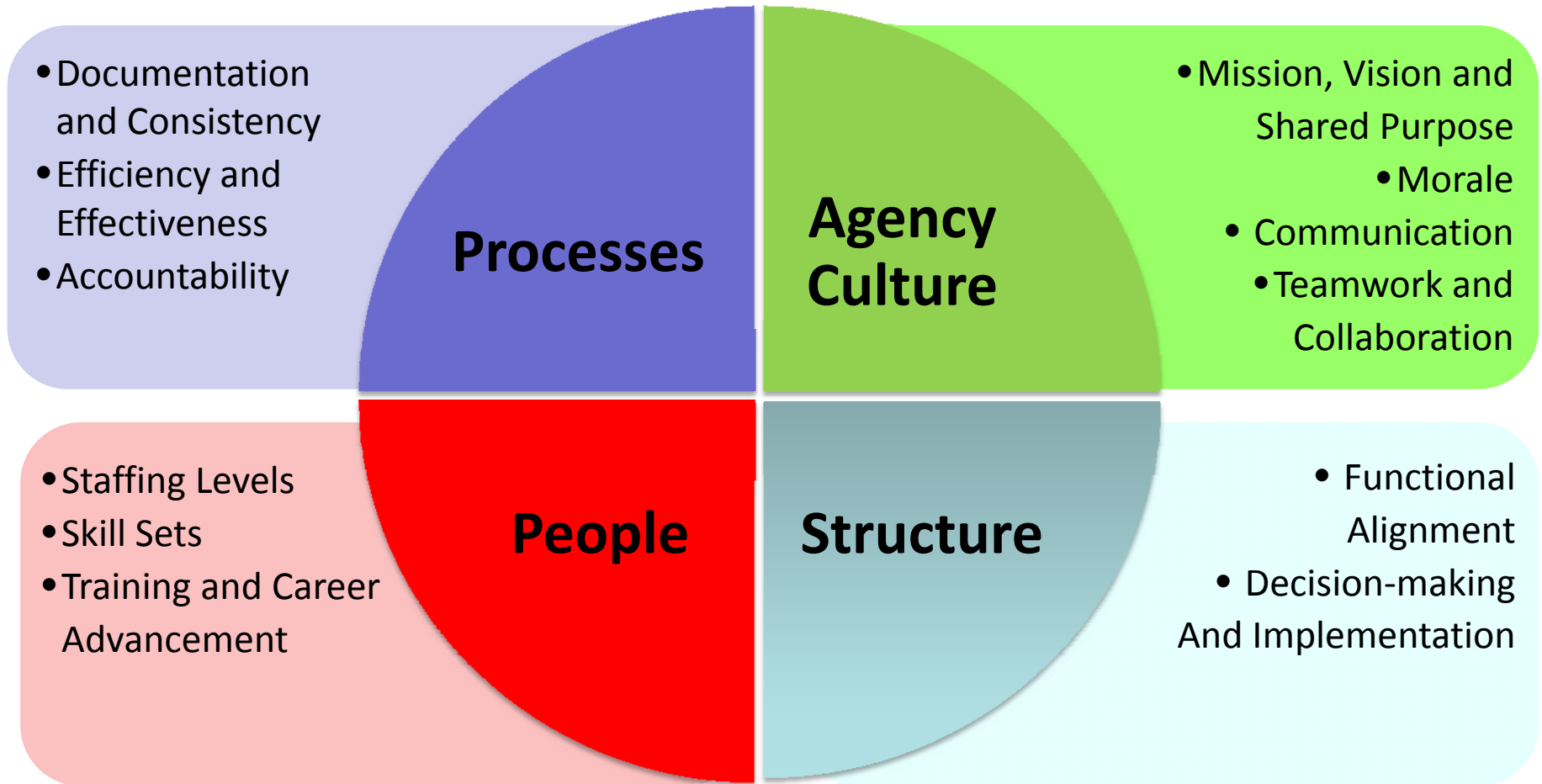
- Staff members have a situational and environmental awareness of budgetary and political issues facing the agency

5.

- Workforce recognizes recent efforts to improve agency-wide communication

Organizational Opportunities for Improvement

The opportunities for improvement are grouped based on the following assessment framework:



Mission, Vision, and Shared Purpose

Most significant strength of the NEA is a committed, passionate, and mission-oriented workforce

- The commitment and passion of the workforce should serve as the foundation for organizing and communicating any specific changes that result from the organizational review

“This is a wonderful place to work and I very much appreciate the opportunity to work in federal service with such wonderful colleagues.”

-Employee Quote

Morale

Morale within the NEA remains stable, in spite of recent events (e.g., the furlough), with key areas for improvement

- Opportunities exist to increase recognition and rewards for high performers and work
- NEA may want to consider initiatives geared to improve employee engagement

“I think recognition from senior staff of individual or group exemplary performance is always a powerful incentive.”

-Employee Quote

Communication

Enhanced communication and information-sharing is warranted throughout the organization

- The NEA has an opportunity to build on recent momentum around employee communication
- Employees seem to not always understand leadership's strategic decision-making process
- Employees recognize that managers communicate organizational goals and priorities well, but senior leaders are perceived as not being as effective at sharing agency-wide information

"Office head meetings are new and provide agency updates on a monthly basis; this is extremely helpful and beneficial. I hope these continue."

-Employee Quote

Teamwork and Collaboration

Employees value teamwork and collaboration, and this could better be encouraged through the NEA culture

- Employees are extremely willing to expend additional energy and time to accomplish tasks and activities to help the NEA achieve success
- There is a strong sense of camaraderie across the agency as employees feel that their colleagues contribute to the high level of job satisfaction
- Efforts to effectively collaborate across the agency appear to be driven more from specific work unit actions and activities than from an agency-wide culture

“I wish there was more opportunity to collaborate with other departments. I think we tend to be compartmentalized here and I always enjoy hearing what other staff are working on. It makes me better at my job.”

-Employee Quote

Staffing Levels

There is a concerned consensus among staff regarding the agency's workload, deadlines, and overall staffing levels

- Concern was most evident within the Office of Programs & Partnerships
- There are opportunities to improve internal customer service
- There seems to be an extensive use of “temporary” help, especially interns and employees on temporary appointments
 - Use of “temporary” help lacks systemic approach, and is not a sustainable, reliable source of assistance during peak workloads

Skill Sets

Opportunities exist for enhancing the utilization and effectiveness of NEA employees

- Support Staff
 - There is a desire for improved training in customer service
- Program Specialists
 - Specialists feel their skills, expertise, and knowledge are not fully utilized
- Supervisors
 - First-line supervisors are generally skilled and well-equipped
 - There appears to be a lack of consistency in the perceived roles and responsibilities of the division coordinators
- Directors
 - There appears to be ambiguity about the role of directors and inconsistencies in their leadership with respect to knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Leadership
 - Employees desire more inclusive leadership that views them as critical stakeholders, consistently communicates priorities and goals, and provides greater transparency about agency decision-making

“I often feel that senior management do not listen to suggestions from the division specialists or division managers about how best to serve our fields.”

-Employee Quote

Training and Career Advancement

Opportunities exist to reevaluate and revamp the NEA's current training and developmental offerings and platform

- Knowledge University is a good concept, but has room for improvement
- Employees desire more transparency regarding the process for allocating training and travel funds
- Employees expressed a desire for a comprehensive new employee orientation

Workforce pointed to limited opportunities for career growth and advancement

- Despite overwhelming enthusiasm for their jobs and the work at the NEA, limited opportunities for career growth and advancement is a common pain point within the organization

Functional Alignment

Opportunities exist for the NEA to:

1. Create a more evenly distributed workforce

- A large percentage of the NEA's workforce falls within the GS-14 and GS-15 pay grades
 - Almost two-thirds of GS-14 and GS-15's are supervisors, and eligible for some form of retirement in FY 2014
- The NEA has a relatively high supervisor to employee ratio (1:4)

2. Clarify specific GS-301 position duties and standardize position descriptions

- Single-use position descriptions are frequently used across the organization and there is an opportunity for the NEA to benefit from standardizing position descriptions
- More than half of the NEA's positions are classified in the GS-301, Miscellaneous Administration and Program, series
 - Data show that some offices are entirely comprised of GS-301 positions, but each position is classified on a different position description

3. Build career ladders for grade seven to eleven positions

- Survey results and interview and focus group data revealed widespread concern about limited opportunities for career advancement

Decision-making and Implementation

Opportunities exist to strengthen agency-wide decision-making with respect to employee involvement and implementation

- The workforce is generally satisfied with the nature and frequency of their involvement in decision-making processes *within their respective work units and at the office-level*; however, there is concern that decisions made at the *agency level* do not permit individual and office-level input and expertise
- Opportunities exist for senior leadership to improve upon the implementation of decisions and policies, while accurately filtering information consistency through the organization

Documentation and Consistency

- **Internally:**
 - NEA has created thorough and detailed process documentation in a number of functional areas to support staff (e.g., grants and contracts, IT, certain program areas)
 - There appears to be no overarching agency-wide framework that guides the development of documentation for the grant-making/management process and other internal processes (e.g., documentation is inconsistent and the quality, format, and location varies among offices)
 - Continued introduction of new technology will increase the need for readily available process support
- **Externally:**
 - The NEA has a clear commitment to quality and customer service, evidenced by positive customer feedback regarding the NEA's website
 - The NEA website and webcasts are highly effective tools to educate constituents and reinforce consistent processes
 - In cases where policies and procedures are defined, survey and focus group results indicate that they may not always be applied consistently

Efficiency and Effectiveness

- New technology (e.g., virtual panels, NEA-GO, SharePoint, Final Reports database) is changing the way that applications and grants are processed and managed
- New technology rollout (i.e., eGMS) will continue for the foreseeable future and must be thoughtfully implemented
- Application processing schedules and deadlines are tied to the National Council on the Arts meeting schedule, and this leads to an uneven workflow distribution
- Most processes are planned and controlled at the unit level, which may not optimize resources or productivity
- Pockets within the agency are still driven by hard copy forms and manual processes (e.g., Grants & Contracts and Finance Divisions), area where automation could streamline work

“We need to find a way to speed up our internal and external processes to ensure we can provide federal leadership that enriches the cultural and artistic life of the US.”

-Employee Quote

Accountability

- The NEA has taken significant steps to clearly define accountability for results and to develop objective measures to evaluate its performance. Examples include:
 - 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan and its focus on evidence-based decision making
 - Pilot program for the post-award evaluation of artistic excellence of award grants
 - Plans to conduct surveys of audience participants to obtain feedback on NEA-supported performances and displays
 - Surveys of all applicants after each grant cycle to obtain feedback
- Staff is committed to the agency and its mission and ready to take responsibility and be held accountable
- Few uniform metrics exist that track across offices to monitor progress against plans, set priorities, and allocate resources

NEA Workflow Analysis

ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations

NEA Workflow Analysis Recommendations

Develop an NEA
Strategic Human
Capital Framework

Improve Agency-wide
Communication and
Employee Engagement

Improve Agency-wide
Processes and
Procedures

The NEA should take quick and decisive action to develop and execute an implementation plan that accomplishes a prioritized set of recommendations

Develop an NEA Strategic Human Capital Framework

Short Term Strategies

- **Human Capital Planning**
 - Establish a comprehensive and Strategic Human Capital Plan that includes a workforce plan
- **Human Capital Development**
 - Revamp and improve the New Employee Orientation Program

Medium Term Strategies

- **Human Capital Planning**
 - Conduct a full review of existing position descriptions, with specific focus on the use of the GS-301 series, and create career ladder positions
 - Review and clarify the role and responsibilities of directors
 - Review and evaluate supervisory positions and responsibilities
- **Human Capital Development**
 - Enhance the organization's understanding of labor relations
 - Develop a formal cross-training program to develop additional skills and exposure to disciplines and tasks outside employees' current ones, and enhance skill sets
 - Enhance managerial training for division coordinators

Long Term Strategy

- **Human Capital Planning**
 - Conduct a comprehensive workload analysis of the program areas within Programs & Partnerships

Improve Agency-wide Communication and Employee Engagement

Short Term Strategy

- Develop and implement a comprehensive internal communications strategy

Medium Term Strategy

- Design and implement an NEA-wide employee engagement program

Improve Agency-wide Processes and Procedures

Short Term Strategies

- Provide more transparency, and seek employee input, regarding the development and implementation of policies and procedures
- Take steps to increase the awareness, availability, and applicant participation in NEA webinars/webcasts on application guidelines

Medium Term Strategies

- Leverage the NEA SharePoint site to organize process-related documentation and work to standardize it across offices
- Review viability of virtual meetings of the National Council on the Arts
- Define performance measures and associated metrics to focus staff on process-related critical success factors

Long Term Strategy

- Conduct a task analysis in conjunction with new technology implementation to look for opportunities to redesign work groups

Organizational Strengths

1.

- Employees feel a strong sense of personal pride in the agency's mission and for upholding high standards of customer service

2.

- Staff members are willing to go 'above and beyond'

3.

- Workforce is loyal and committed to the agency

4.

- Staff members have a situational and environmental awareness of budgetary and political issues facing the agency

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- Workforce recognizes recent efforts to improve agency-wide communication

Questions



NEA Workflow Analysis

Appendices

November 19, 2013



National Endowment for the Arts



NEA Workflow Analysis

APPENDIX A: WORKFORCE PROFILE

Appendix A: Workforce Profile

Distributions:

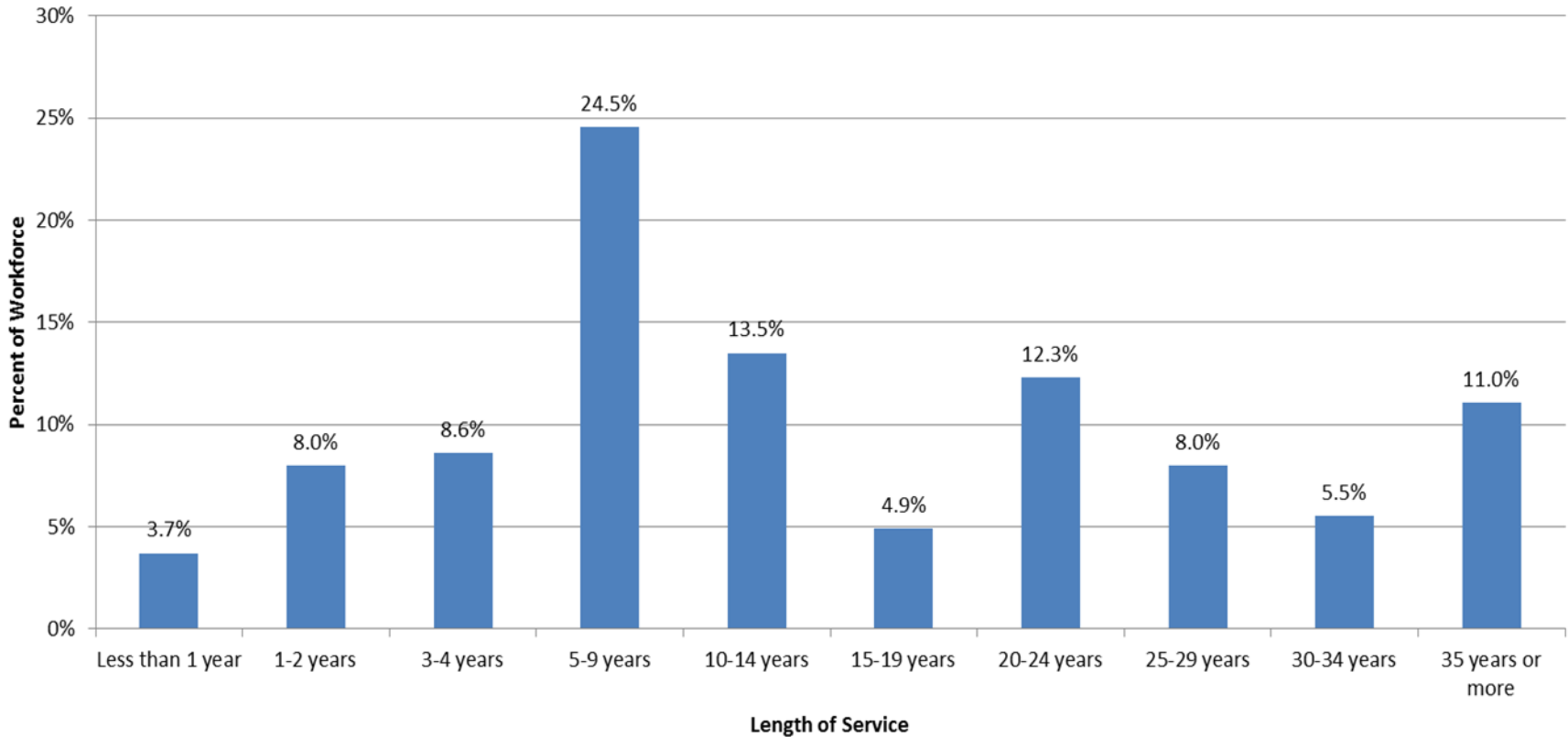
1. Length of Federal Service
2. Office/Work Unit
3. Pay Grade
4. Occupational Series
5. Supervisory Employees by Pay Grade
6. FY14 Retirement Eligibility by Office
7. FY14 Retirement Eligibility by Pay Grade

Agency Comparisons:

1. Pay Grade
2. Occupational Series
3. Length of Federal Service

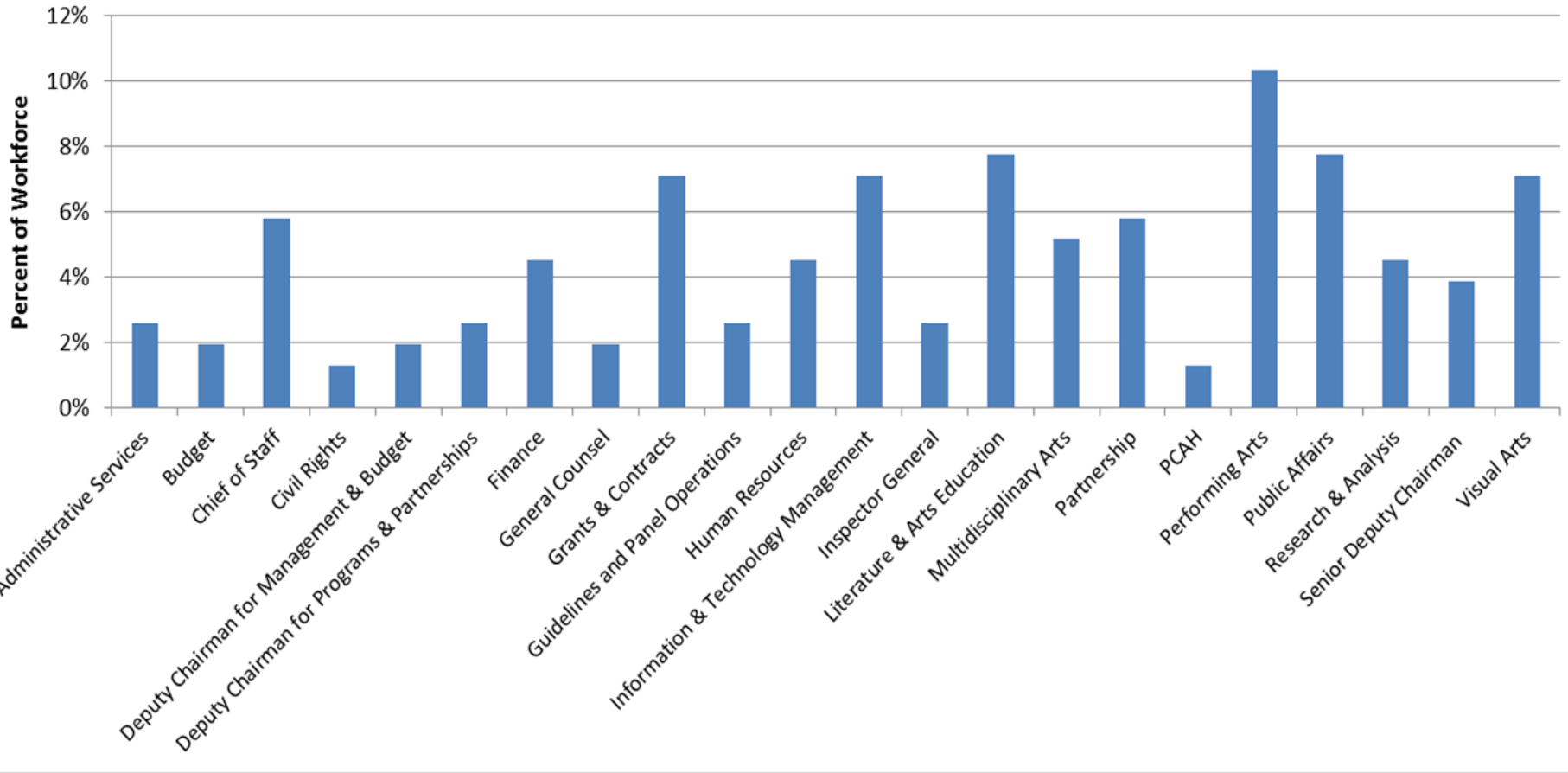
Distributions

Distribution by Length of Federal Service



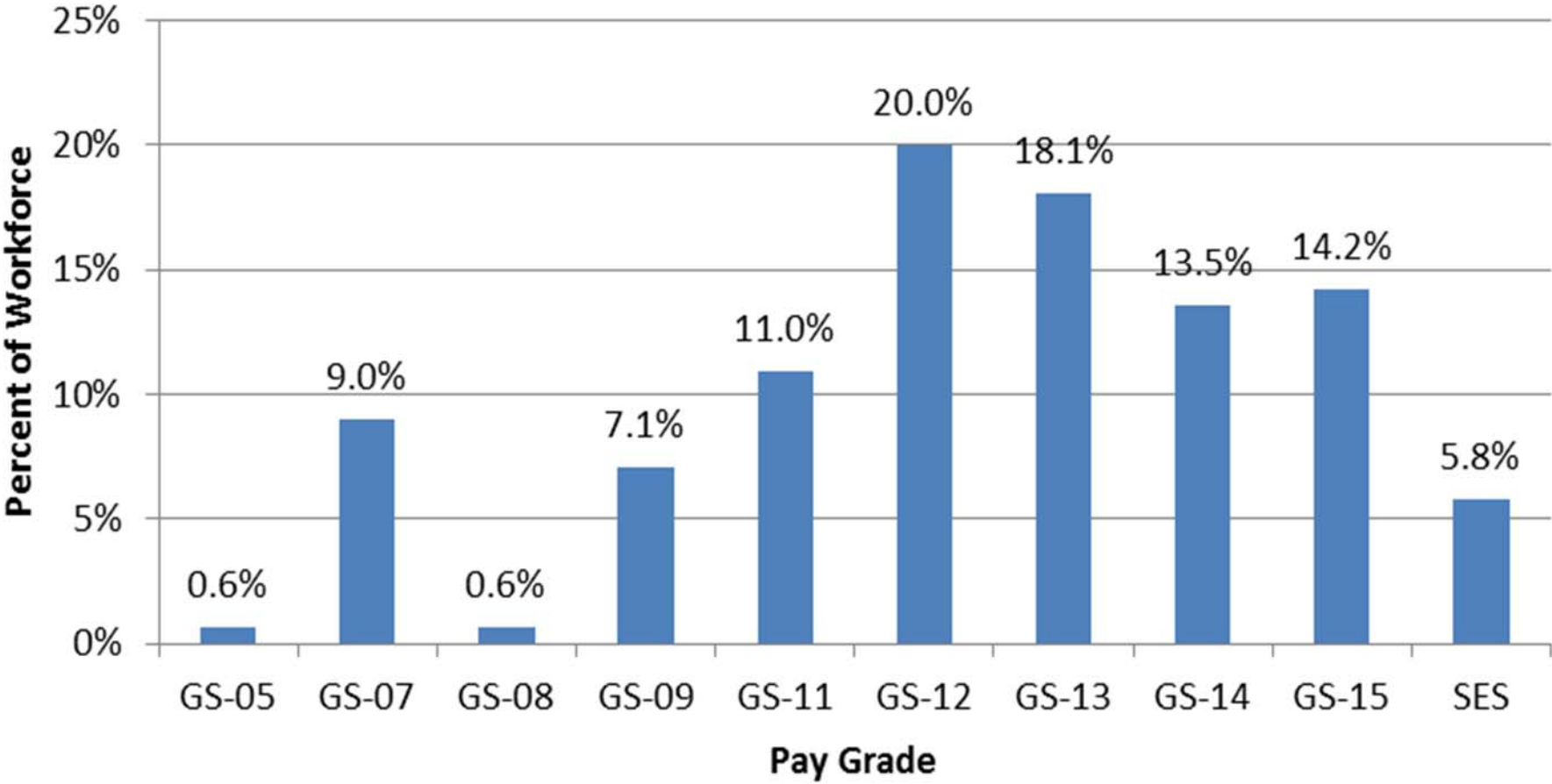
Data provided by the NEA 2013_2014 Retirement Eligibility (April 2013).

Distribution by Office/Work Unit



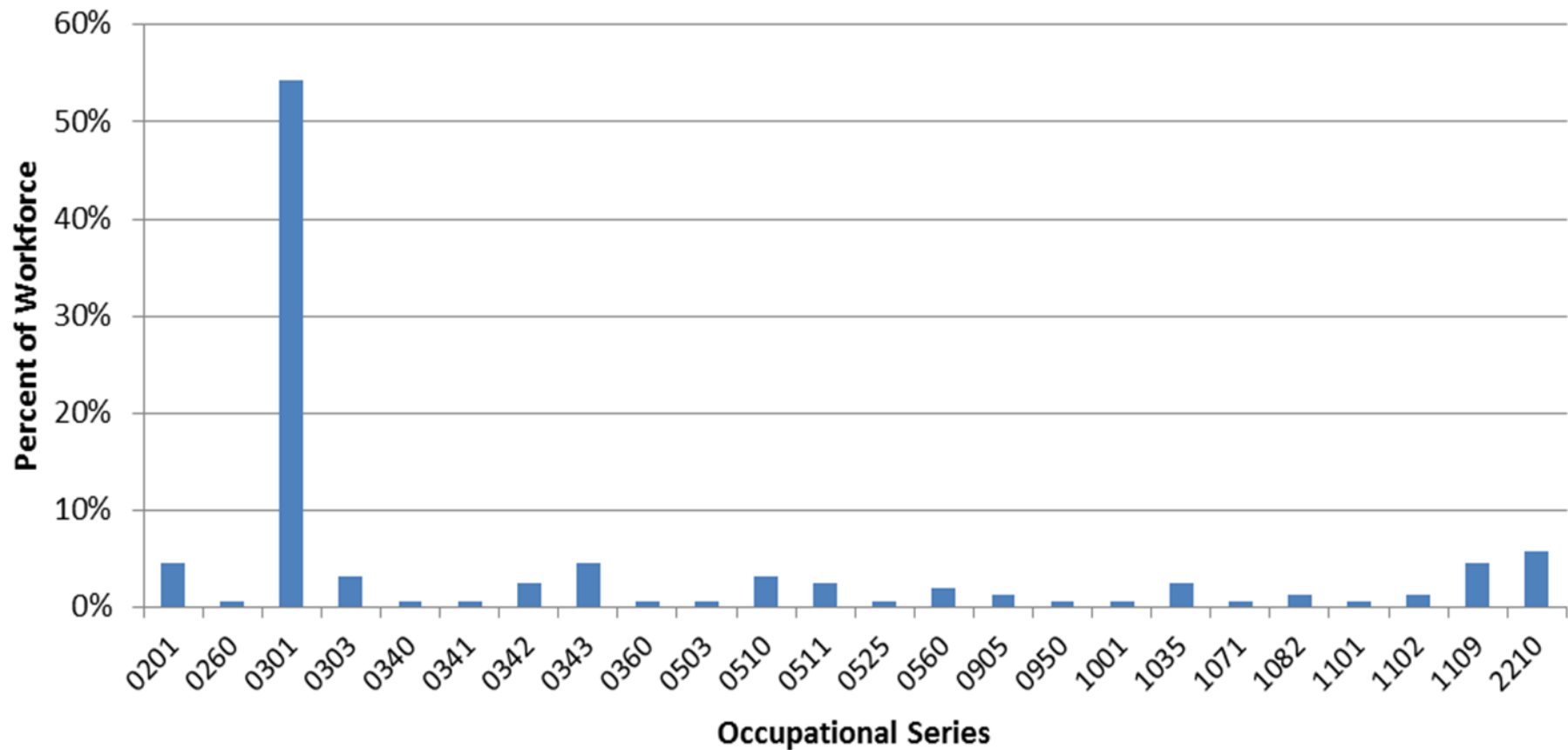
Data provided by the NEA Staffing Roster (October 2013).

Distribution by Pay Grade



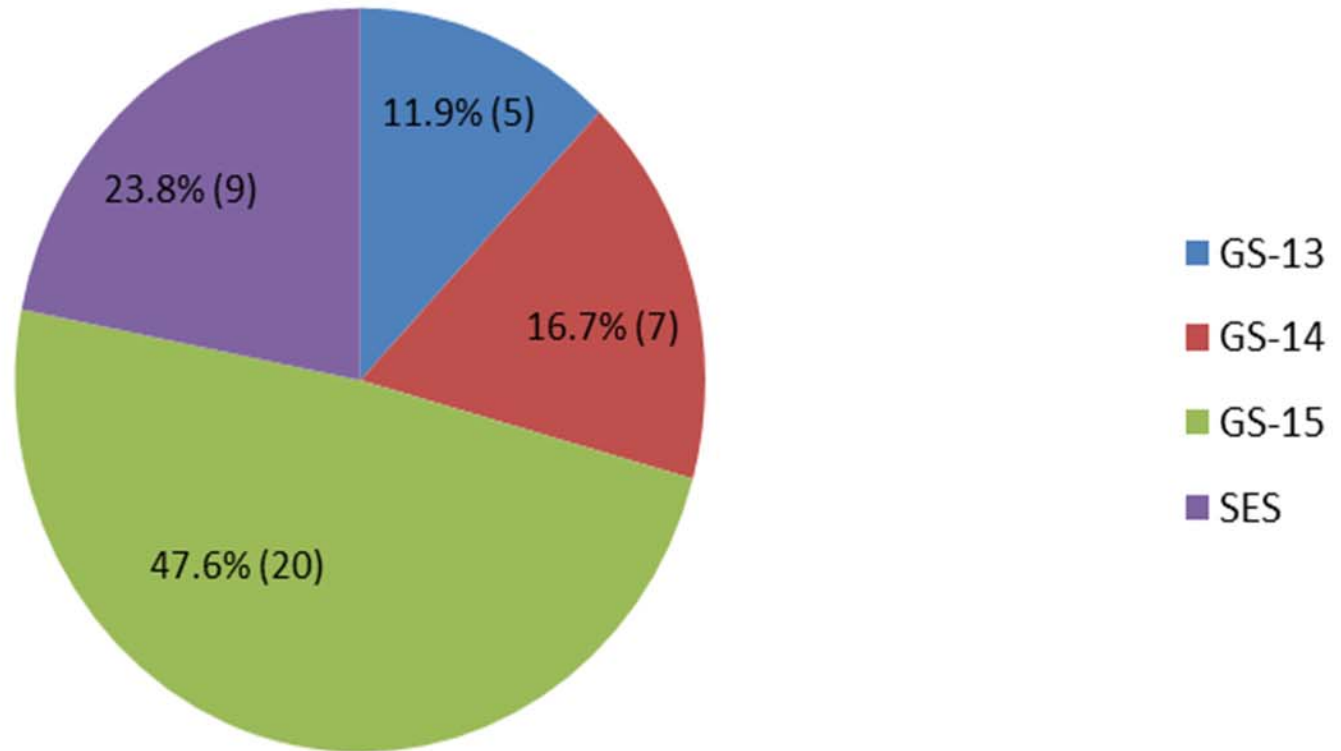
Data provided by the NEA Staffing Roster (October 2013).

Distribution by Occupational Series



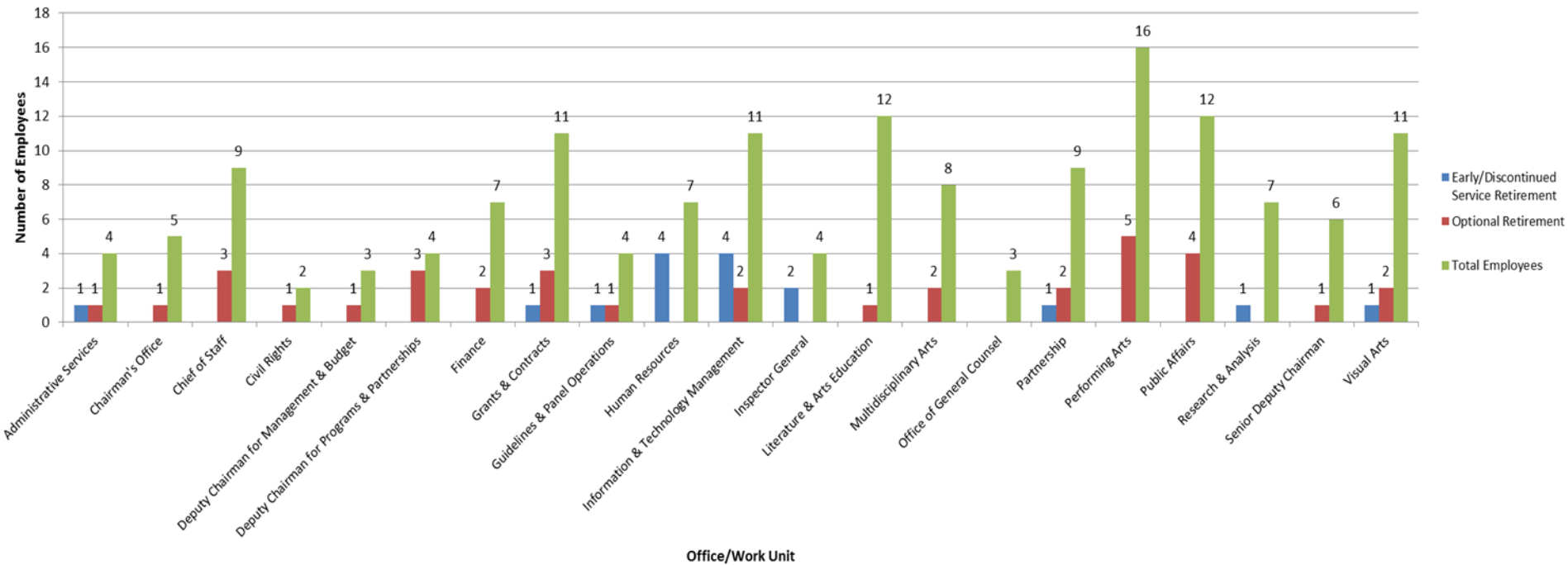
Data provided by the NEA Staffing Roster (October 2013).

Distribution of Supervisory Employees by Pay Grade



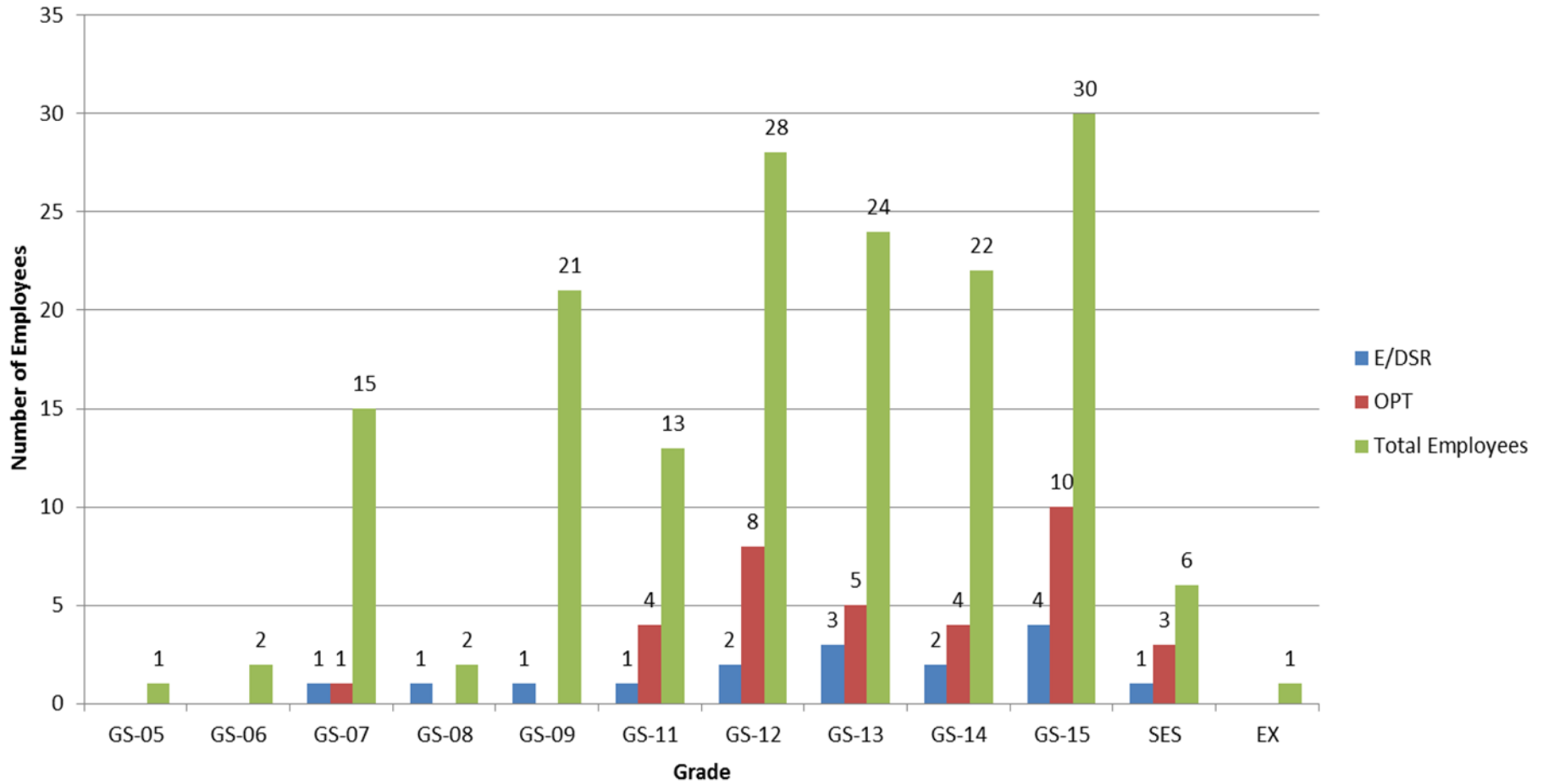
Data provided by the NEA Staffing Roster (October 2013).

FY14 Retirement Eligibility by Office



Data provided by the NEA 2013_2014 Retirement Eligibility (April 2013) and the NEA Staffing Roster (October 2013).

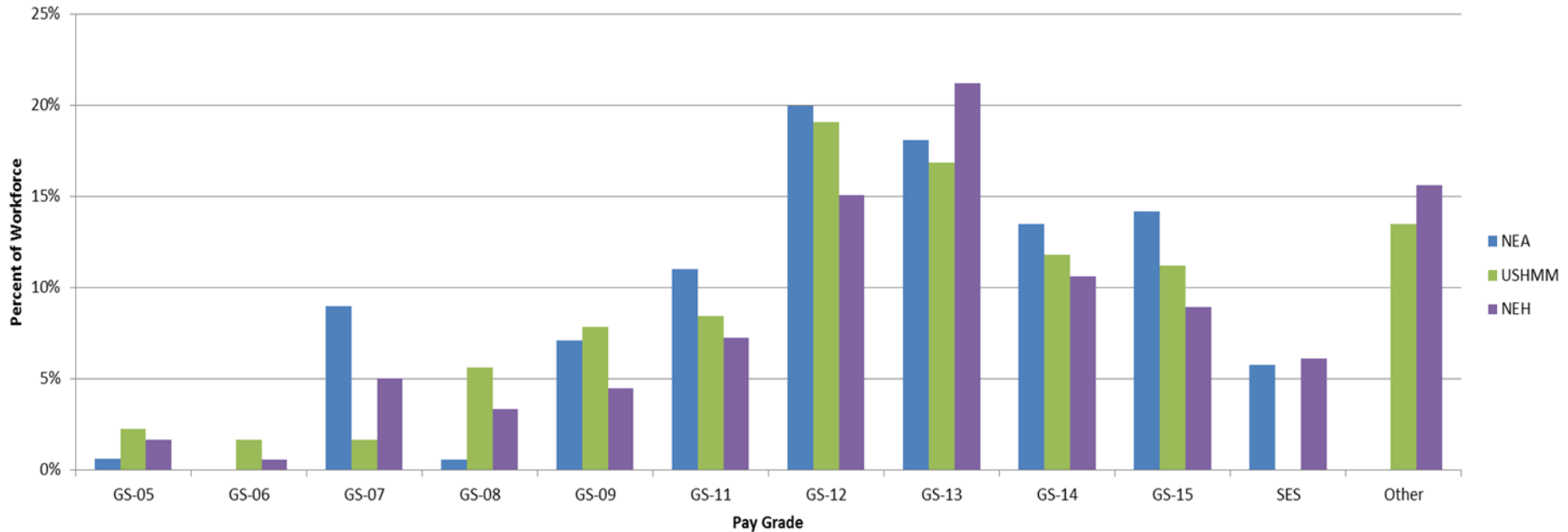
FY14 Retirement Eligibility by Grade



Data provided by the NEA 2013_2014 Retirement Eligibility (April 2013) and the NEA Staffing Roster (October 2013).

Agency Comparisons

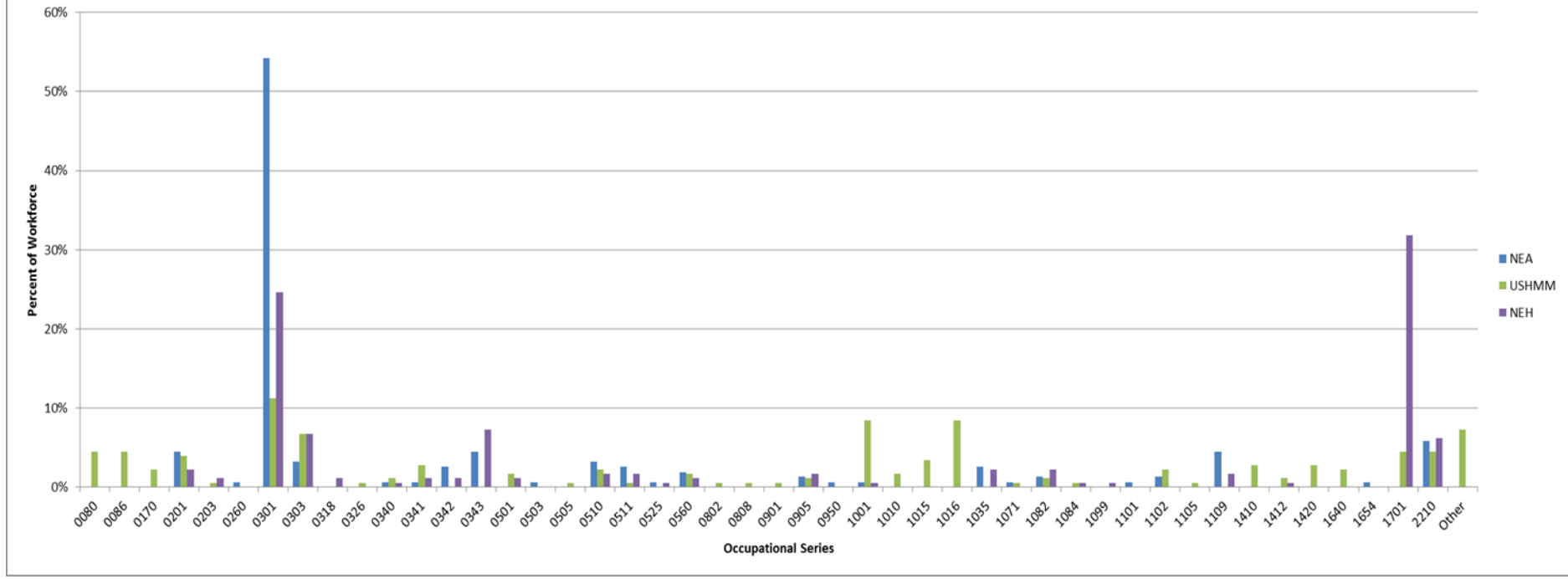
Agency Comparison of Pay Grade Distributions



Data for the NEA provided by the NEA Staffing Roster (October 2013). Data for comparison agencies provided by OPM FedScope (June 2013).

* "Other" includes Senior-Level, AD, ED, GM, ZZ, and Federal Wage System Pay Plans employees.
 ** USHMM: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. NEH: National Endowment for the Humanities.

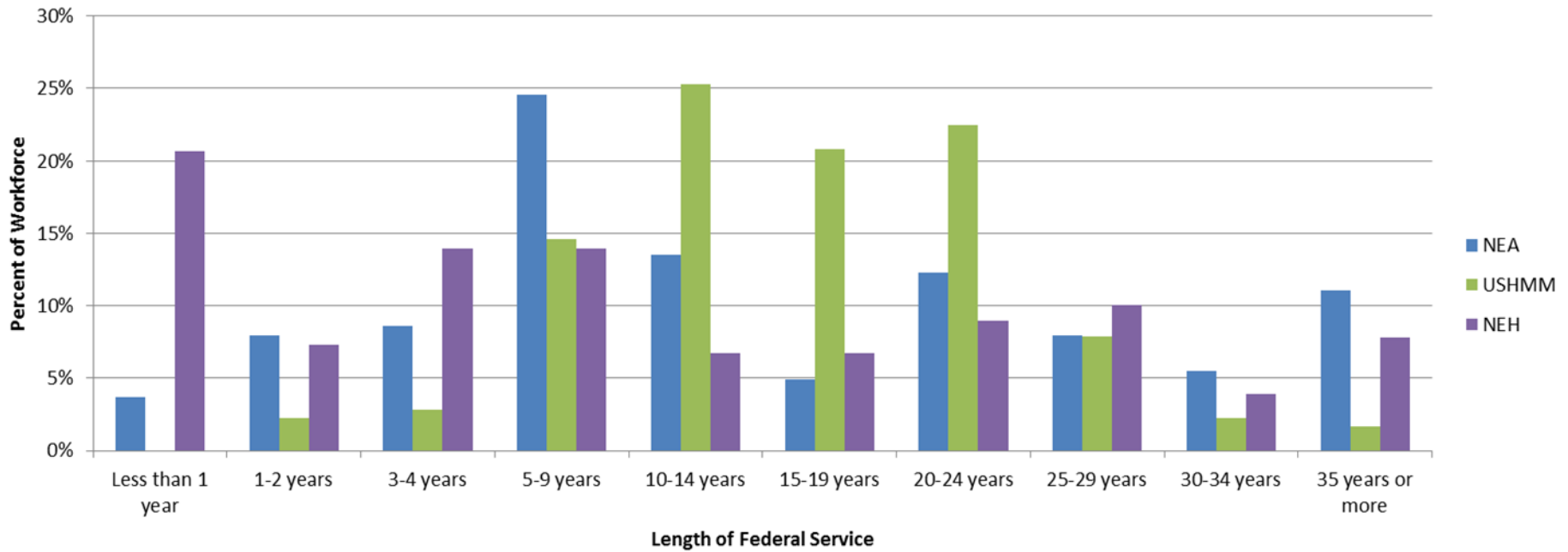
Agency Comparison of Occupational Series Distributions



Data for the NEA provided by the NEA Staffing Roster (October 2013). Data for comparison agencies provided by OPM FedScope (June 2013).

***USHMM: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. NEH: National Endowment for the Humanities.**

Agency Comparison of Length of Federal Service



Data for the NEA provided by the NEA 2013_2014 Retirement Eligibility (April 2013). Data for comparison agencies provided by OPM FedScope (June 2013).

***USHMM: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. NEH: National Endowment for the Humanities.**

NEA Workflow Analysis

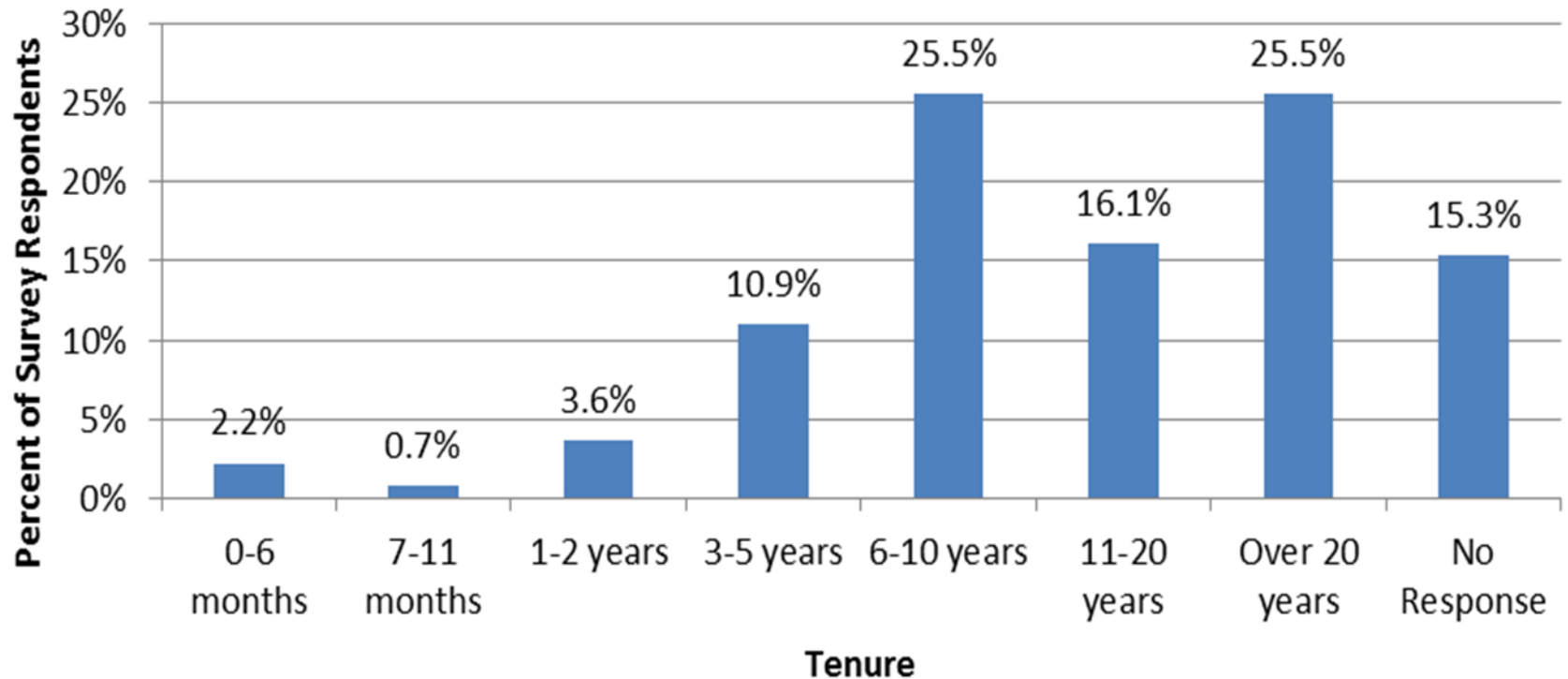
APPENDIX B: SURVEY RESULTS

Appendix B: Survey Results

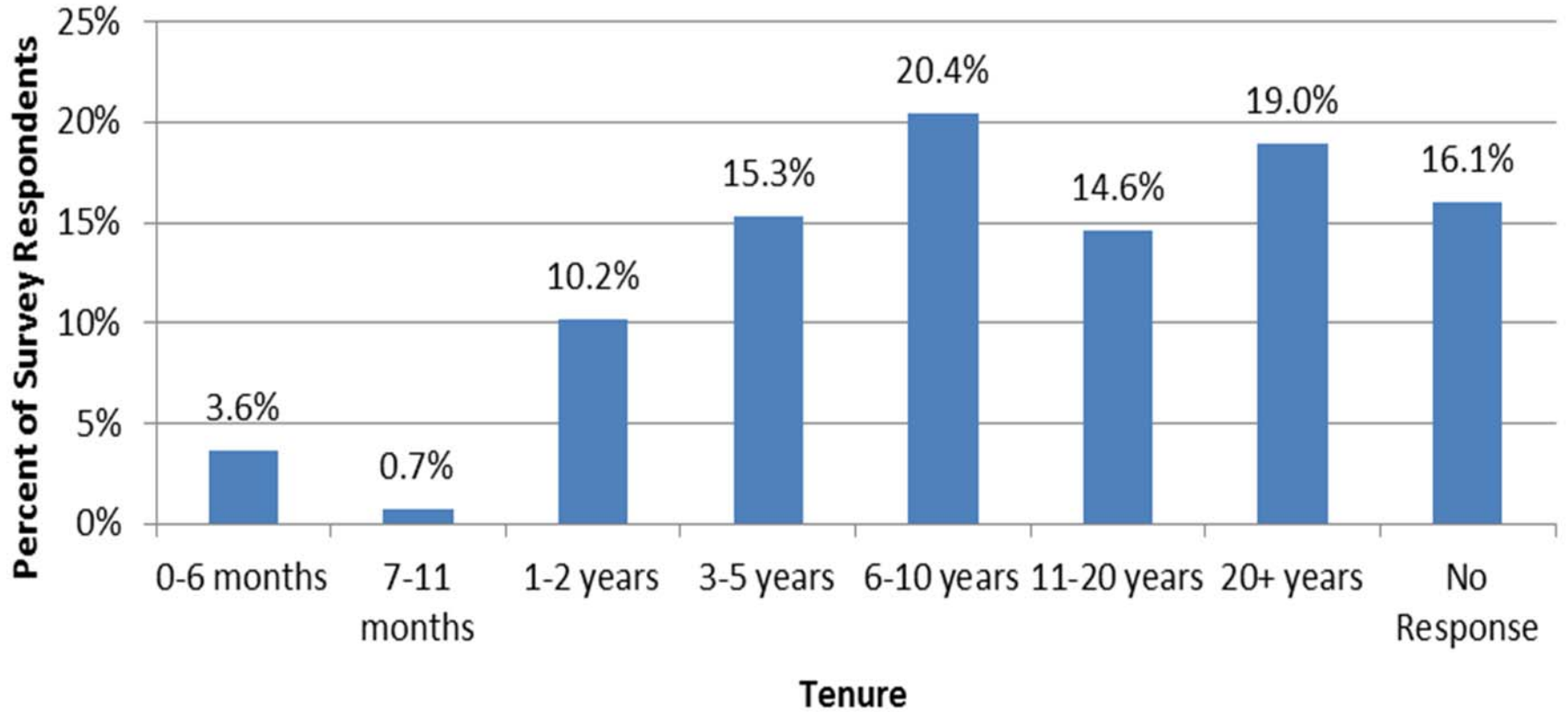
- 1. Survey Respondent Demographics**
- 2. Most Favorable Items**
- 3. Least Favorable Items**
- 4. Employee Morale**
- 5. Supervision**
- 6. Senior Leadership**
- 7. Organizational Culture and Work Environment**
- 8. Job and Work Design**
- 9. Policies and Processes**
- 10. Summary of Open-Ended Items**

Survey Respondent Demographics

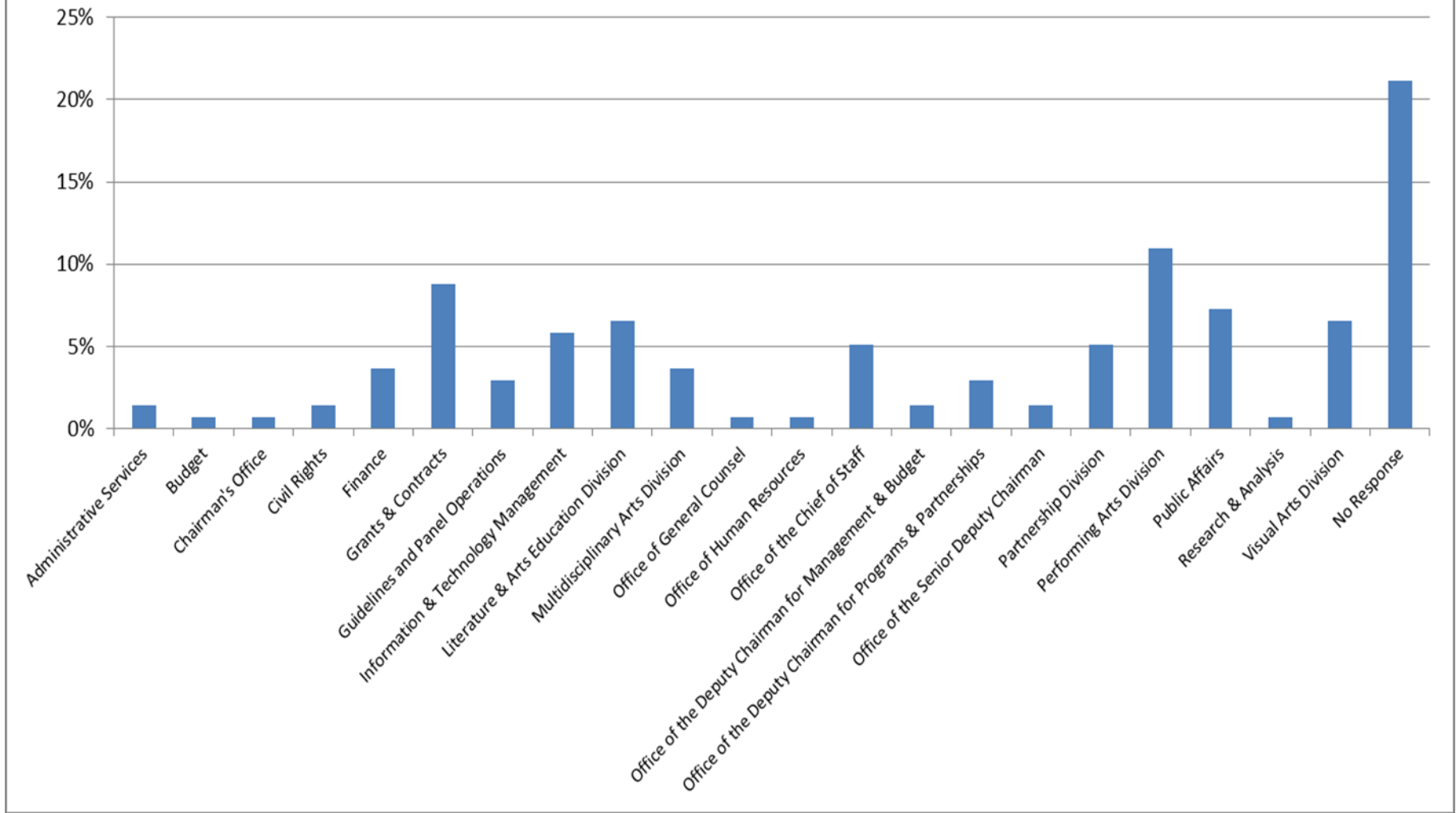
Length of Federal Service



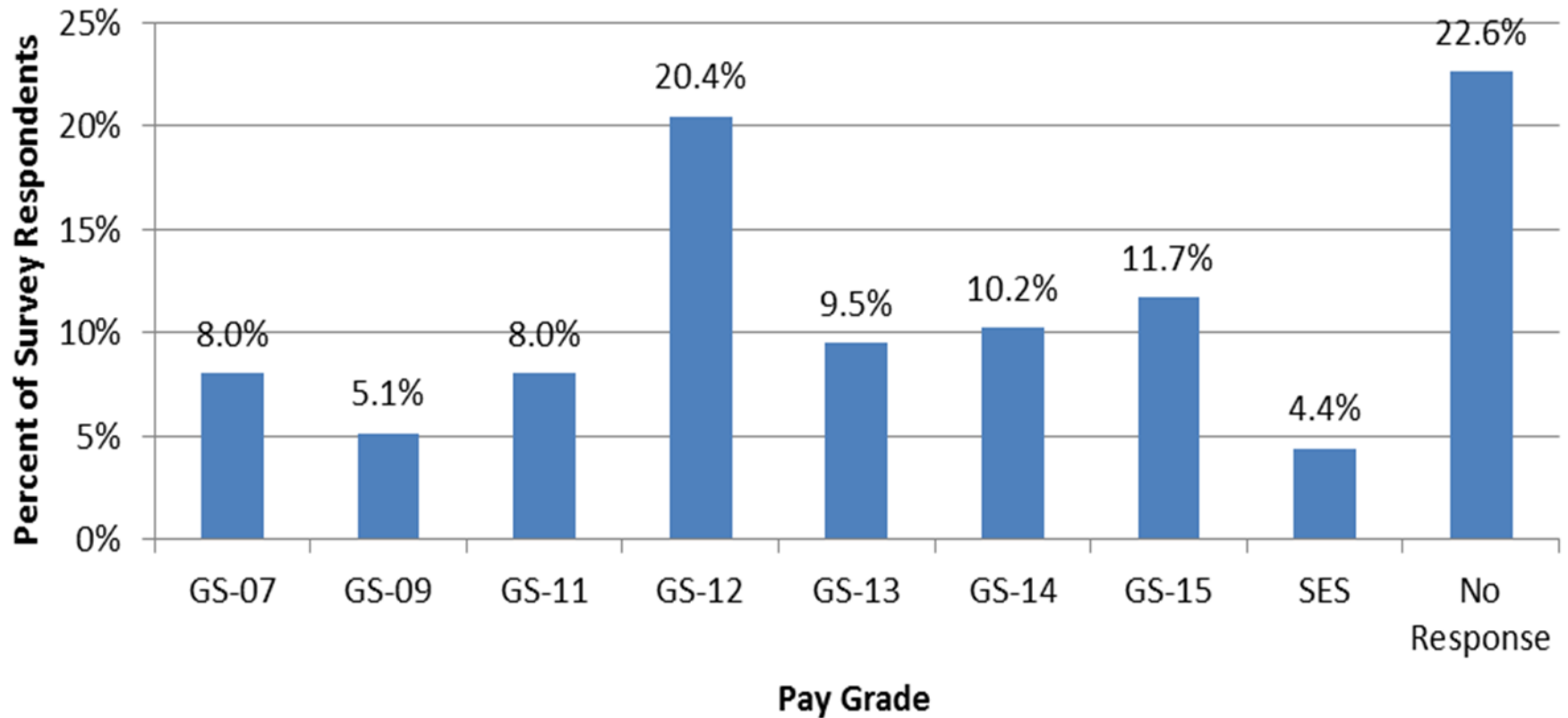
NEA Tenure



Distribution of Survey Respondents by Office/Work Unit

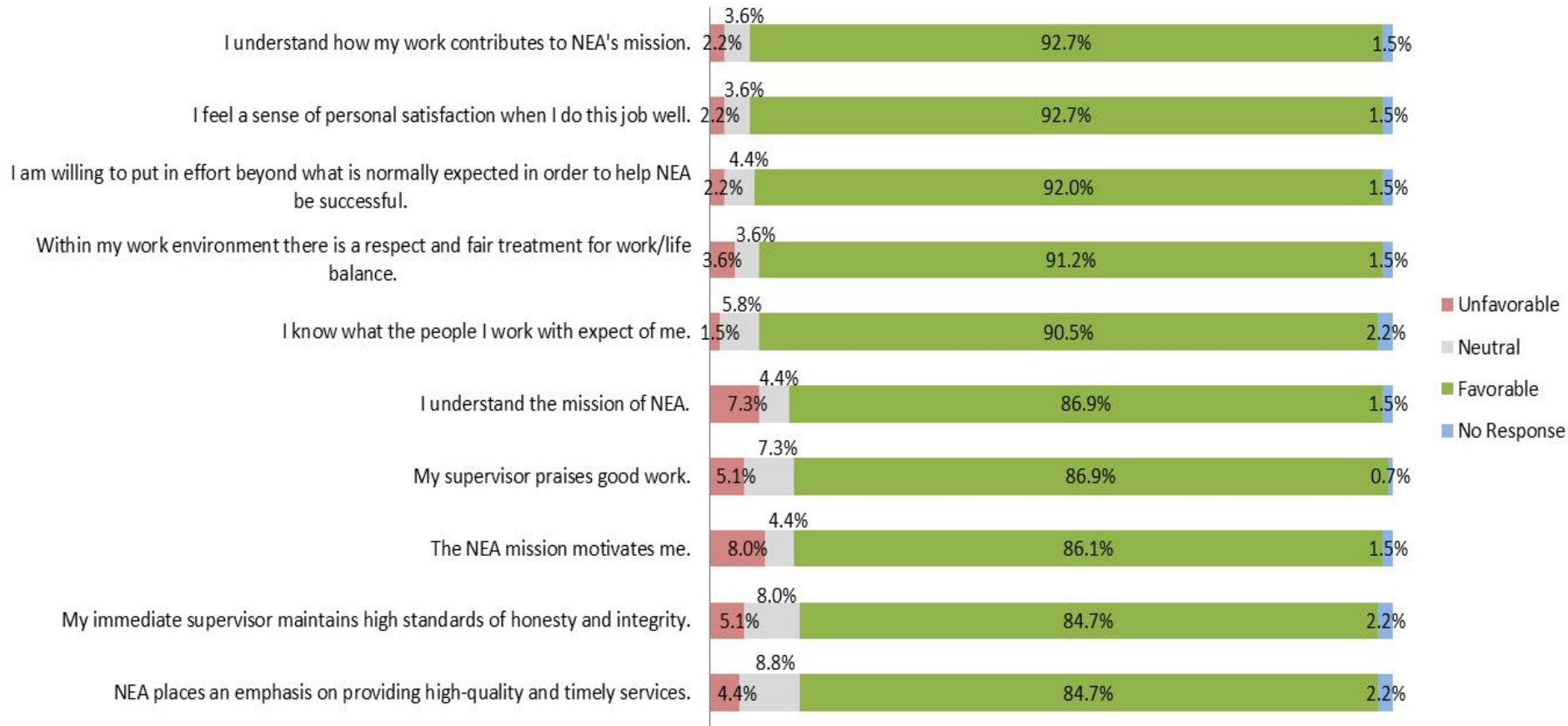


Distribution of Survey Respondents by Pay Grade



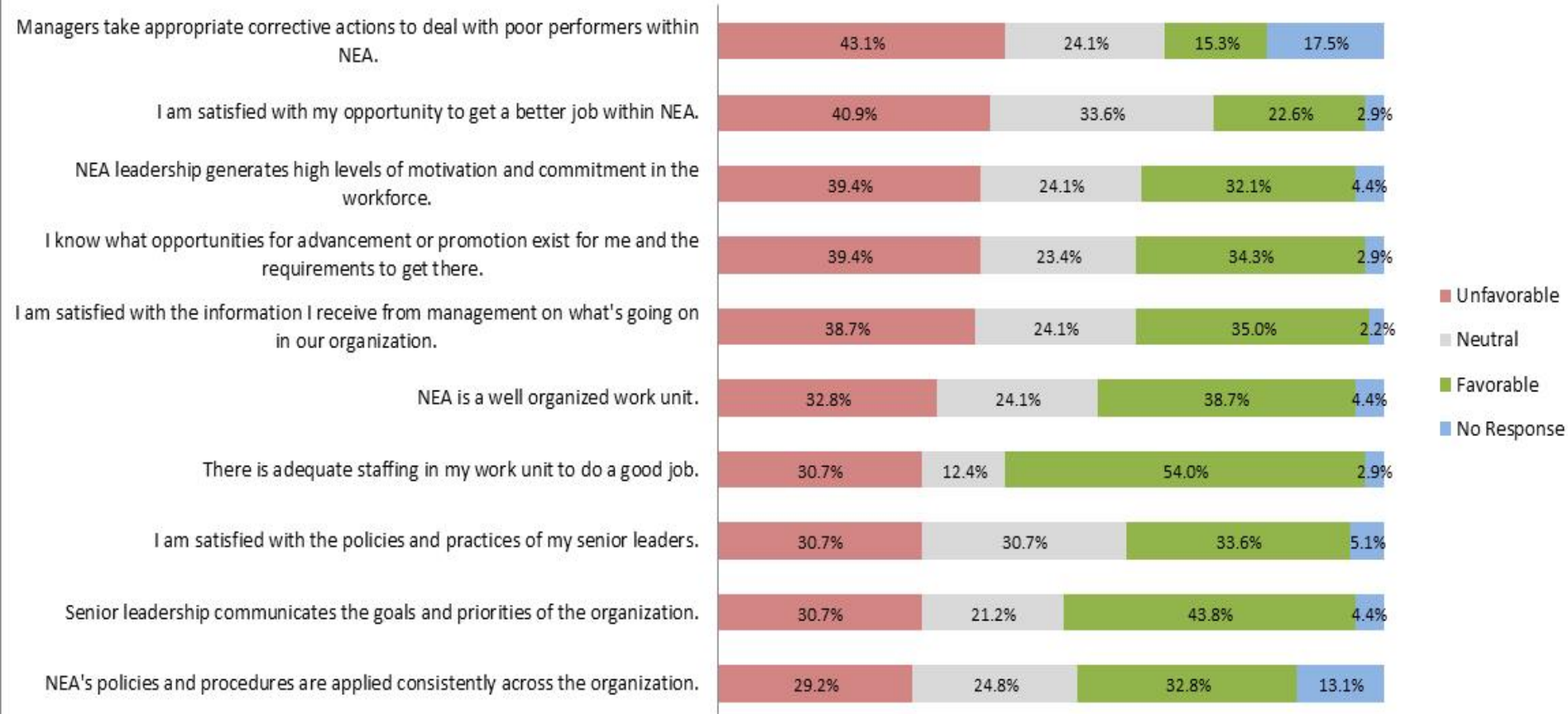
Most Favorable Items

Top 10 Most Favorable Items

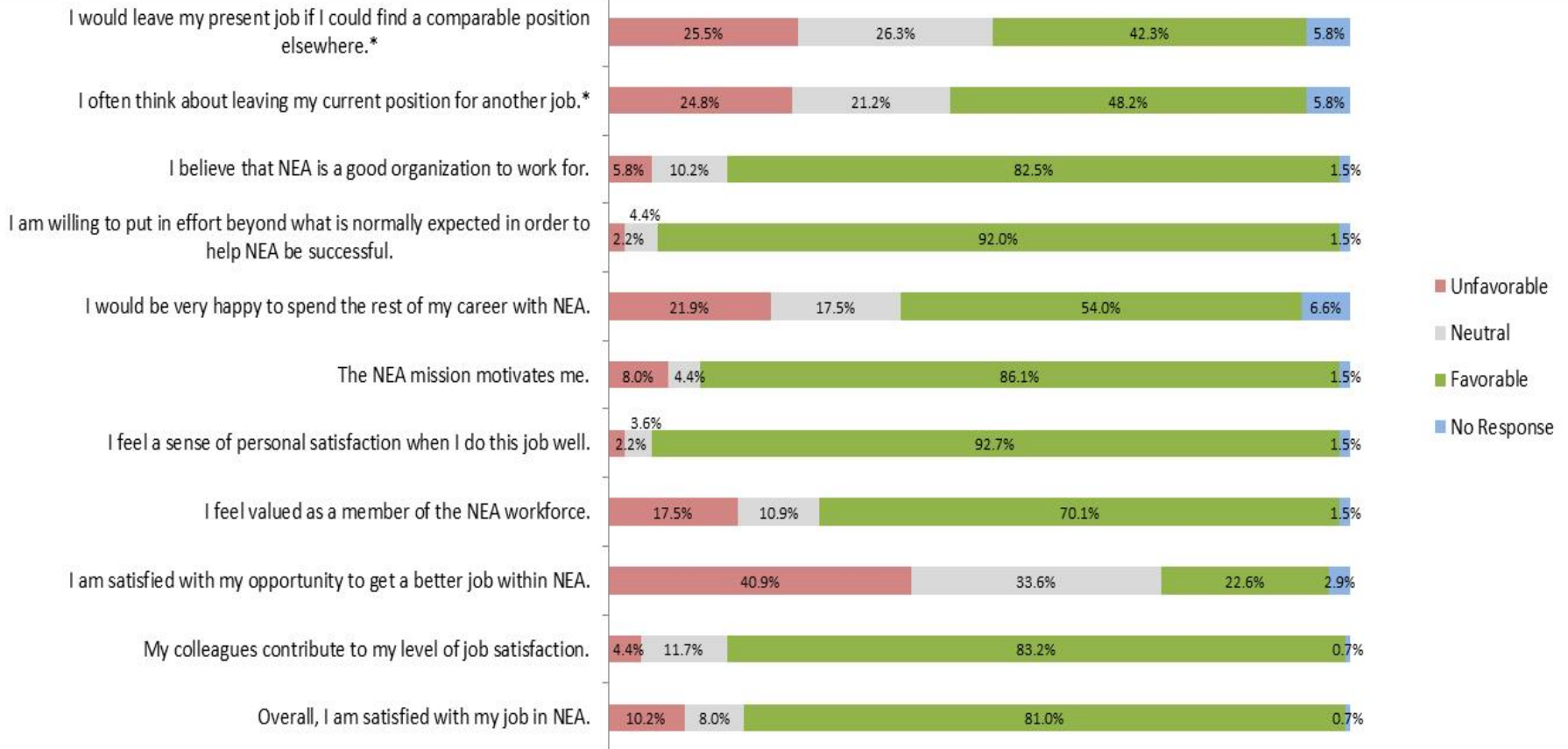


Least Favorable Items

Top 10 Least Favorable Items



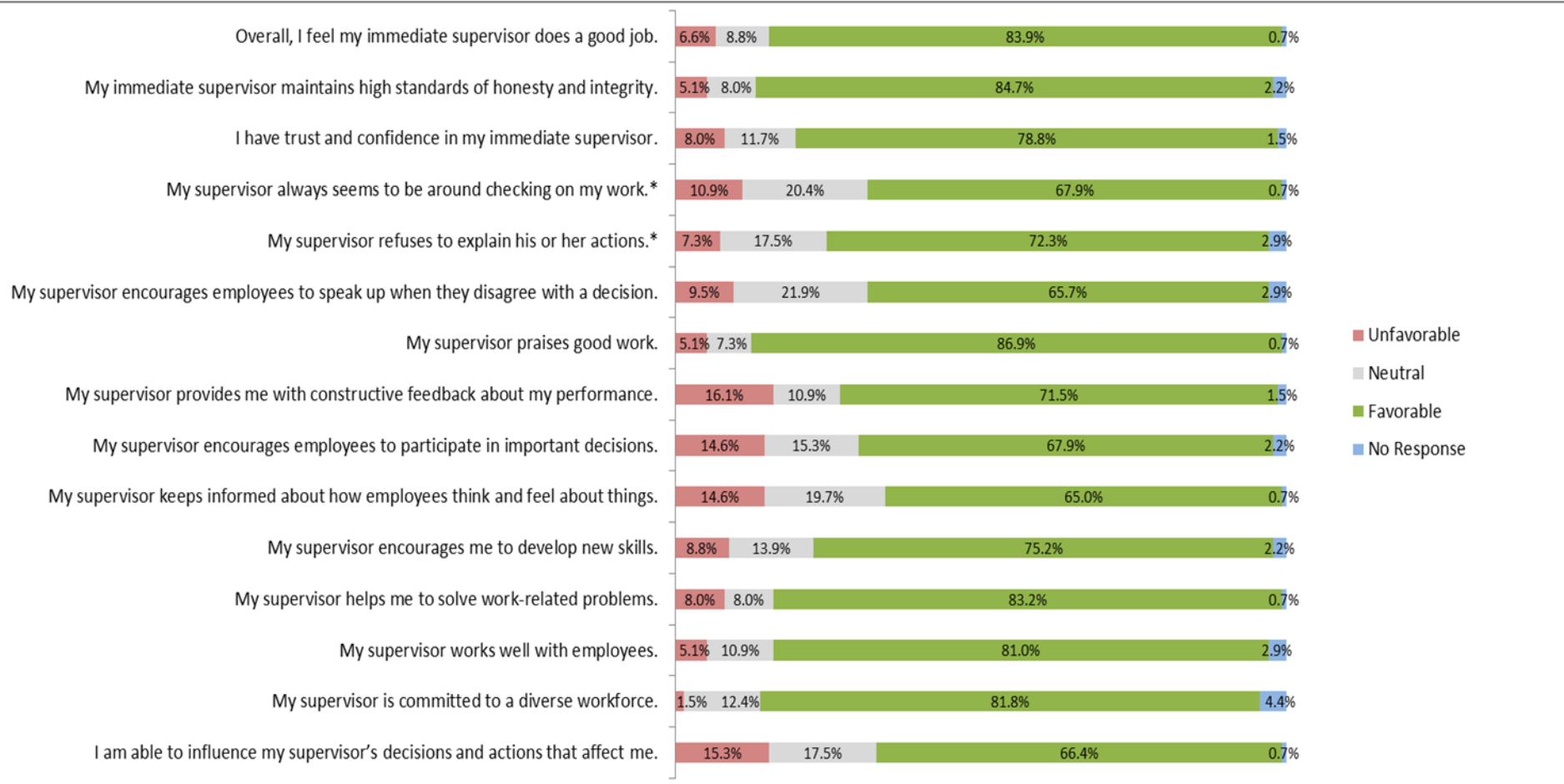
Employee Morale



■ Unfavorable
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Favorable
 ■ No Response

*“Unfavorable” represents agreement or strong agreement with the statement; “favorable” represents disagreement or strong disagreement with the statement.

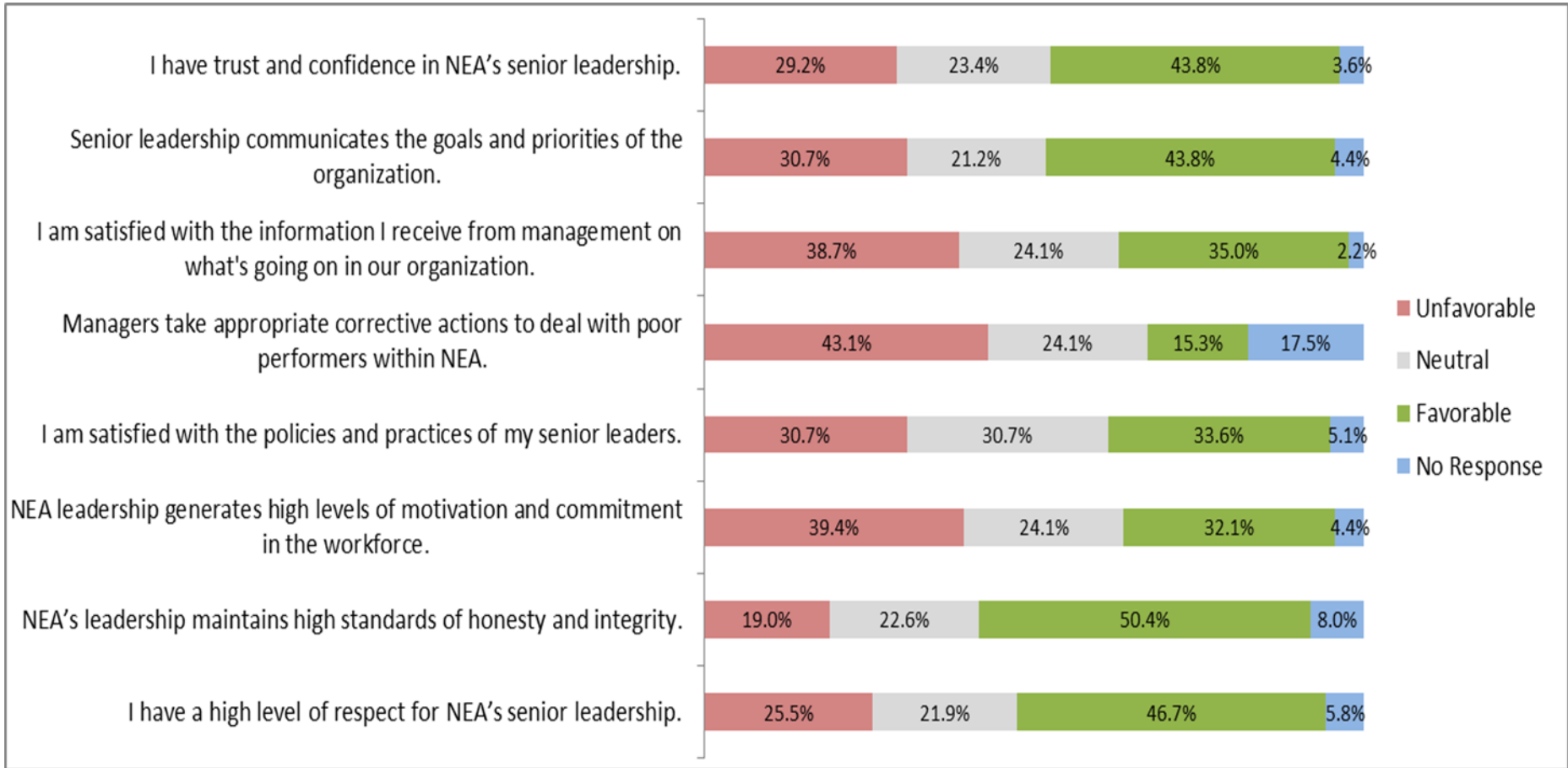
Supervision



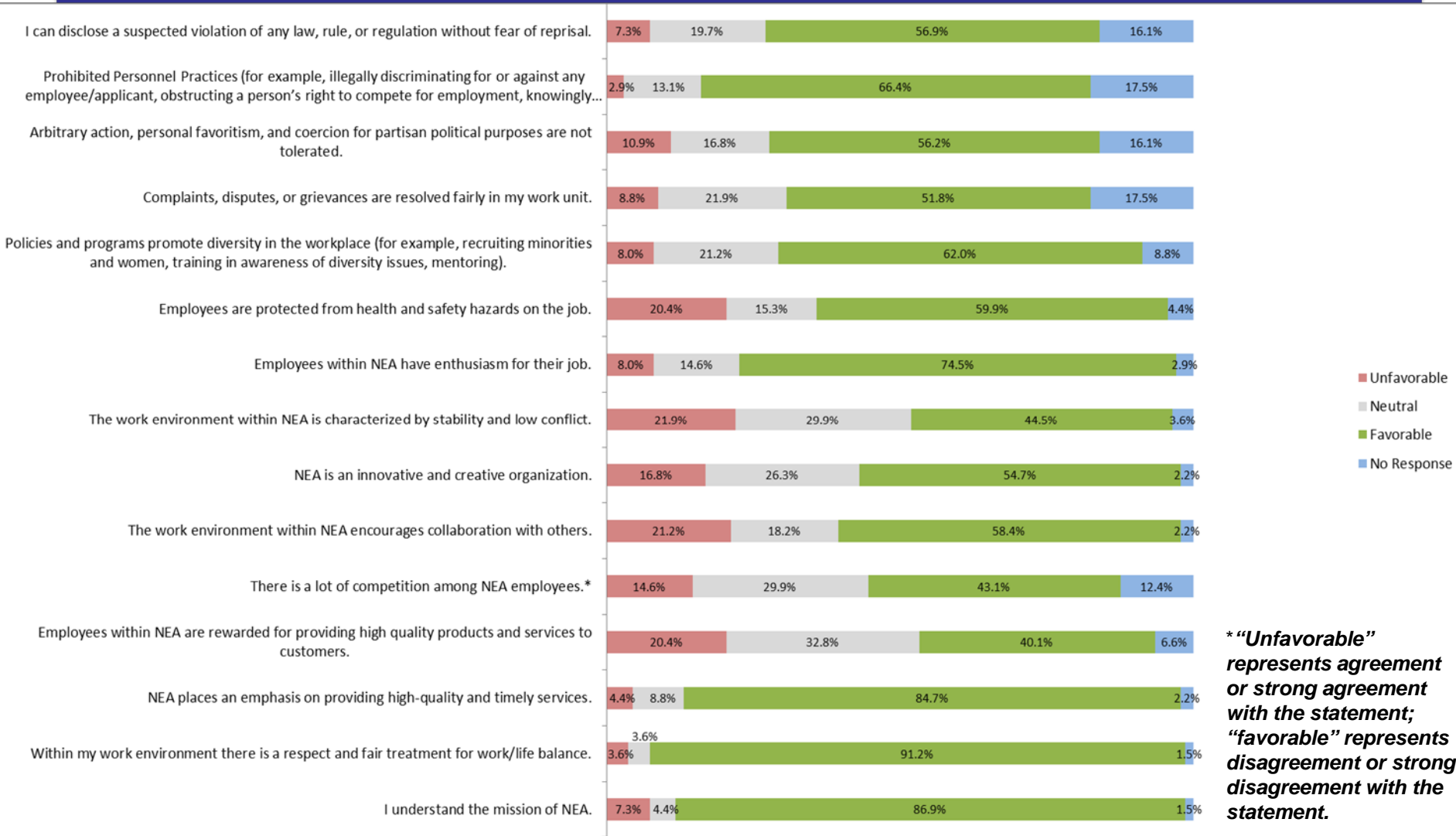
■ Unfavorable
■ Neutral
■ Favorable
■ No Response

***“Unfavorable” represents agreement or strong agreement with the statement; “favorable” represents disagreement or strong disagreement with the statement.**

Senior Leadership

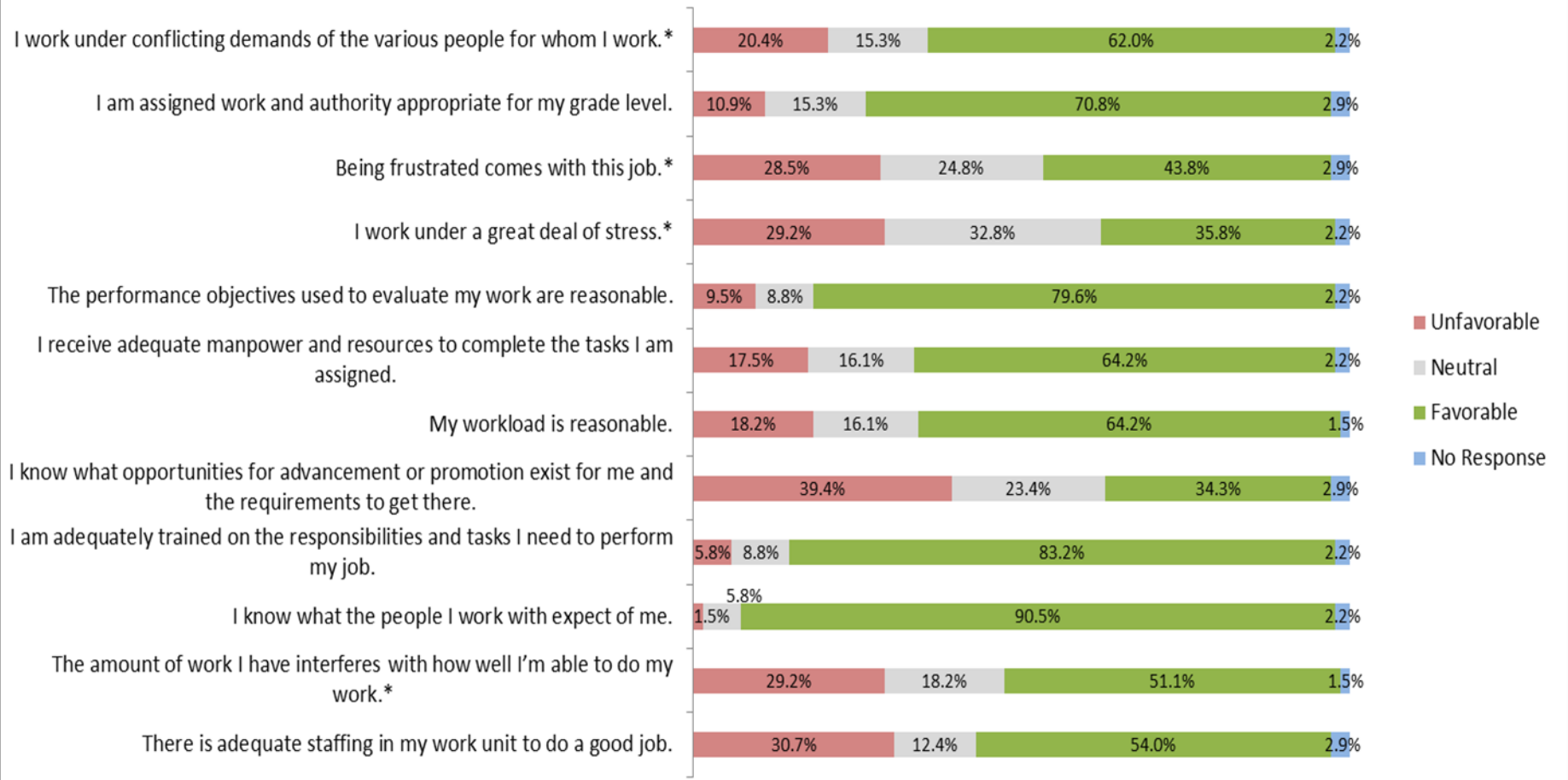


Organizational Culture and Work Environment



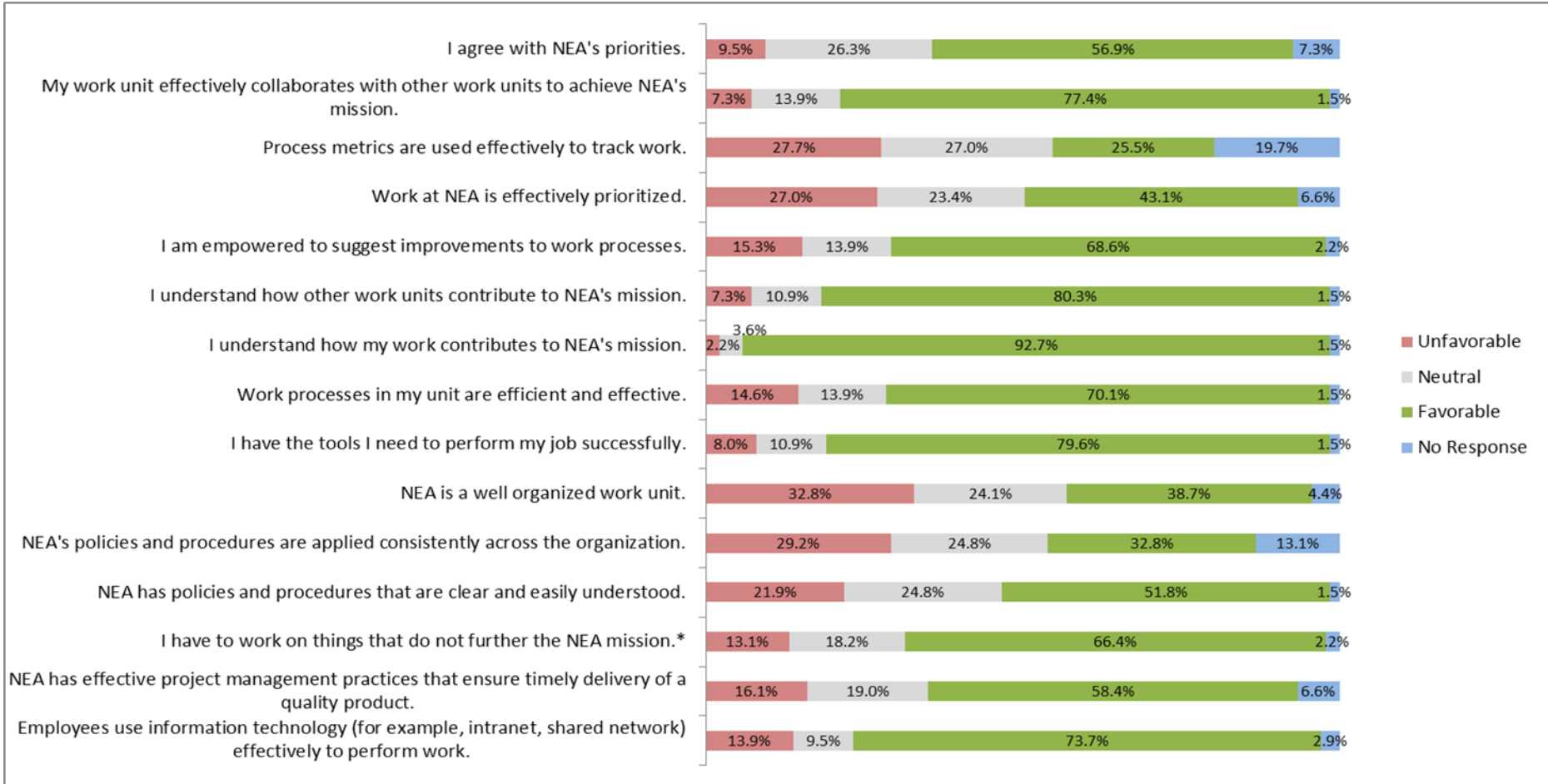
* **“Unfavorable”** represents agreement or strong agreement with the statement; **“favorable”** represents disagreement or strong disagreement with the statement.

Job and Work Design



*“Unfavorable” represents agreement or strong agreement with the statement; “favorable” represents disagreement or strong disagreement with the statement.

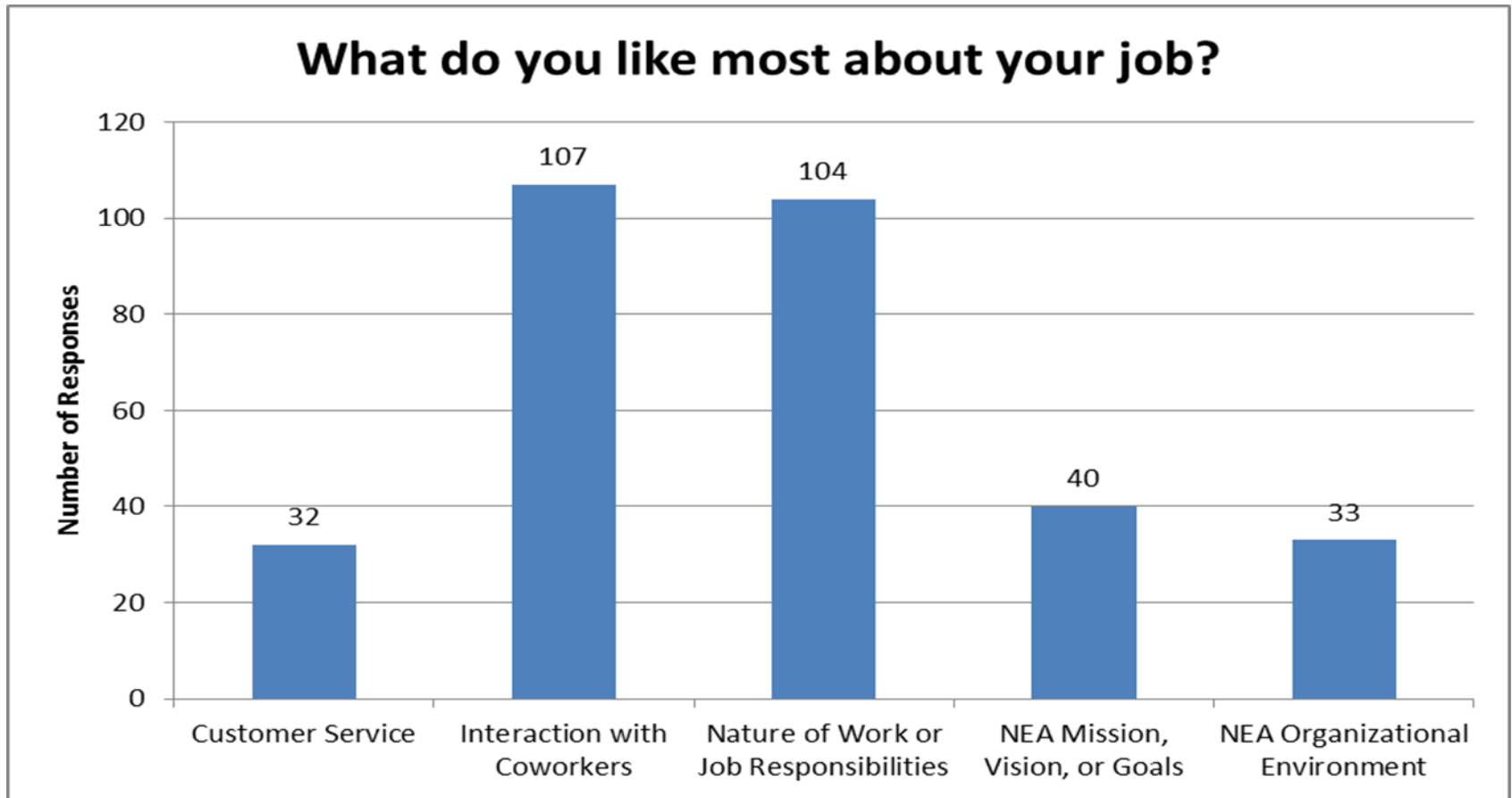
Policies and Processes



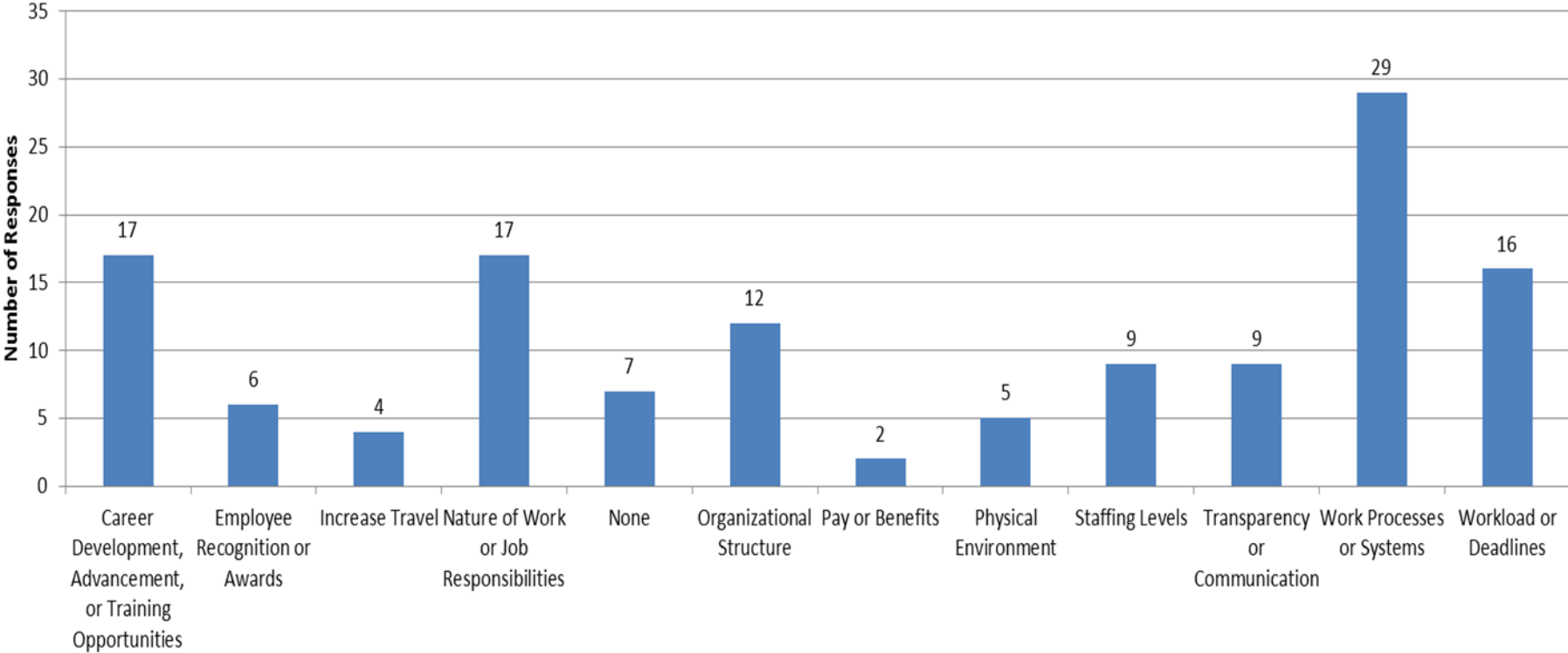
■ Unfavorable
■ Neutral
■ Favorable
■ No Response

*“Unfavorable” represents agreement or strong agreement with the statement; “favorable” represents disagreement or strong disagreement with the statement.

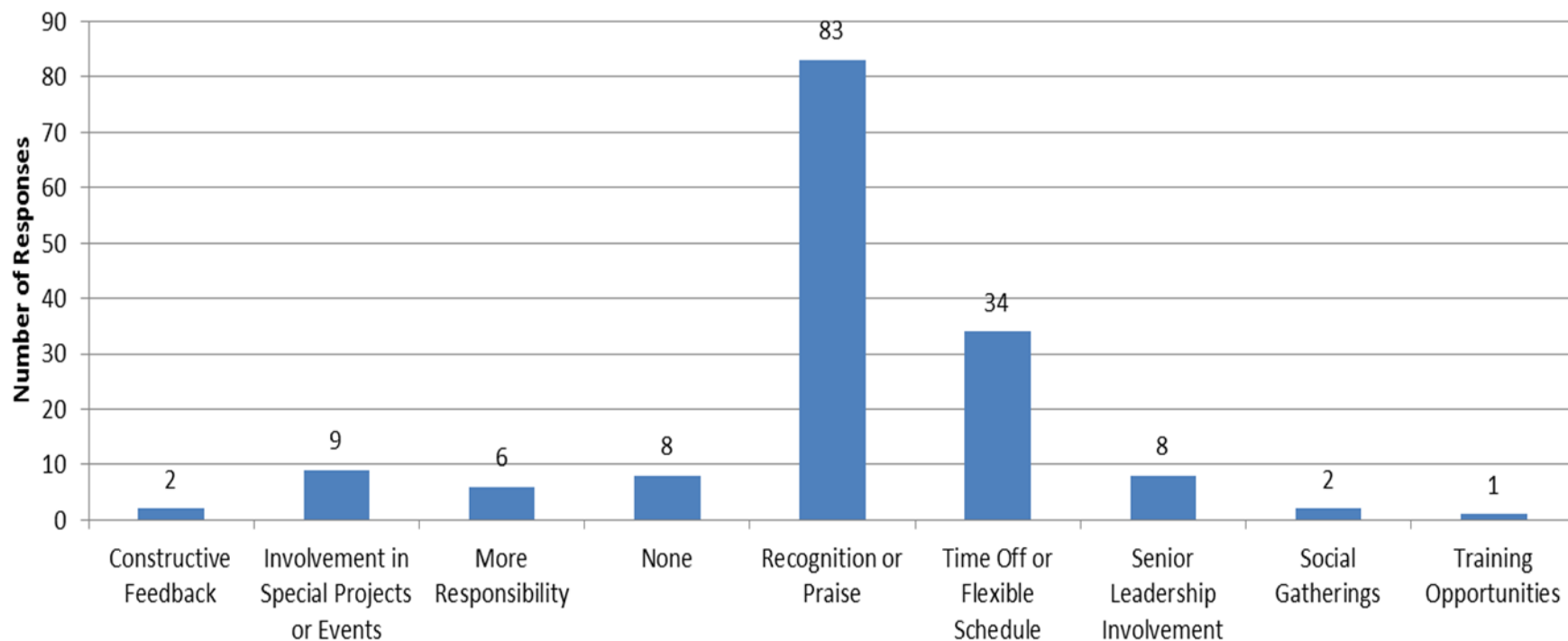
Summary of Open-Ended Questions



If you could change one thing about your job, what would it be?



Excluding financial rewards (e.g., performance awards), what types of awards and recognition are meaningful for you?



What opportunities do you see for improving your work experience at NEA?

