



Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity 2024 Survey

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Survey Scope



- Alchemer was retained to distribute and collect survey responses.
- Alchemer provided managed services to administer the full survey process including programming, testing, technical configuration, and user technical helpdesk support.
- Each institution provided the vendor with the appropriate contact information for their student and staff populations.
- The student population was designated as all enrolled students after the Spring drop/add period.
- The staff population was defined as all active employees as of January 3, 2024.

Fielding



- Trends in current survey strategies suggest that for some populations, SMS message delivery can increase response rates. SMS messaging delivery of the survey links were instituted for the student populations.
- Staff received only email delivery of the survey links.
- To improve student response rates and provide more flexibility due to the differing university academic calendars, a 4-week survey period was originally scheduled. Due to the spring break rotation and other factors, the student survey was extended 1 week. Fielding occurred from March through April of 2024.
- An incentivized strategy was deployed by the university foundations the week of April 11th of the student survey cycle. A random drawing of five university bookstore \$500 gift cards was offered to enrolled university students. Students had to participate in the survey or register for the drawing with their institution's foundation. Students were notified of the incentive through campus communications and within the remaining survey notifications.
- Incentives were not provided for the staff survey.

Survey Response Rate



| | Students | Faculty and Staff |
|------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| University Invited | 338,177 | 97,777 |
| University Responses | 49,132 | 11,989 |
| University % of Return | 14.53% | 12.26% |

ResponsiveMR (a subsidiary of Radius), was contracted to statistically weight the response data. Aggregate institutional student and staff demographics were provided to the vendor to perform the statistical weighting.

Partisanship



| | Democrats | Not Affiliated | Republicans | Something Else |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| SUS Students | 25 | 43 | 22 | 8 |
| FIRE National Students | 30 | 43 | 13 | 14 |
| SUS: Faculty and Staff | 32 | 37 | 22 | 9 |
| FIRE National Faculty | 32 | 44 | 11 | 3 |

Tolerance of Difference: Ideological Mood on Campus

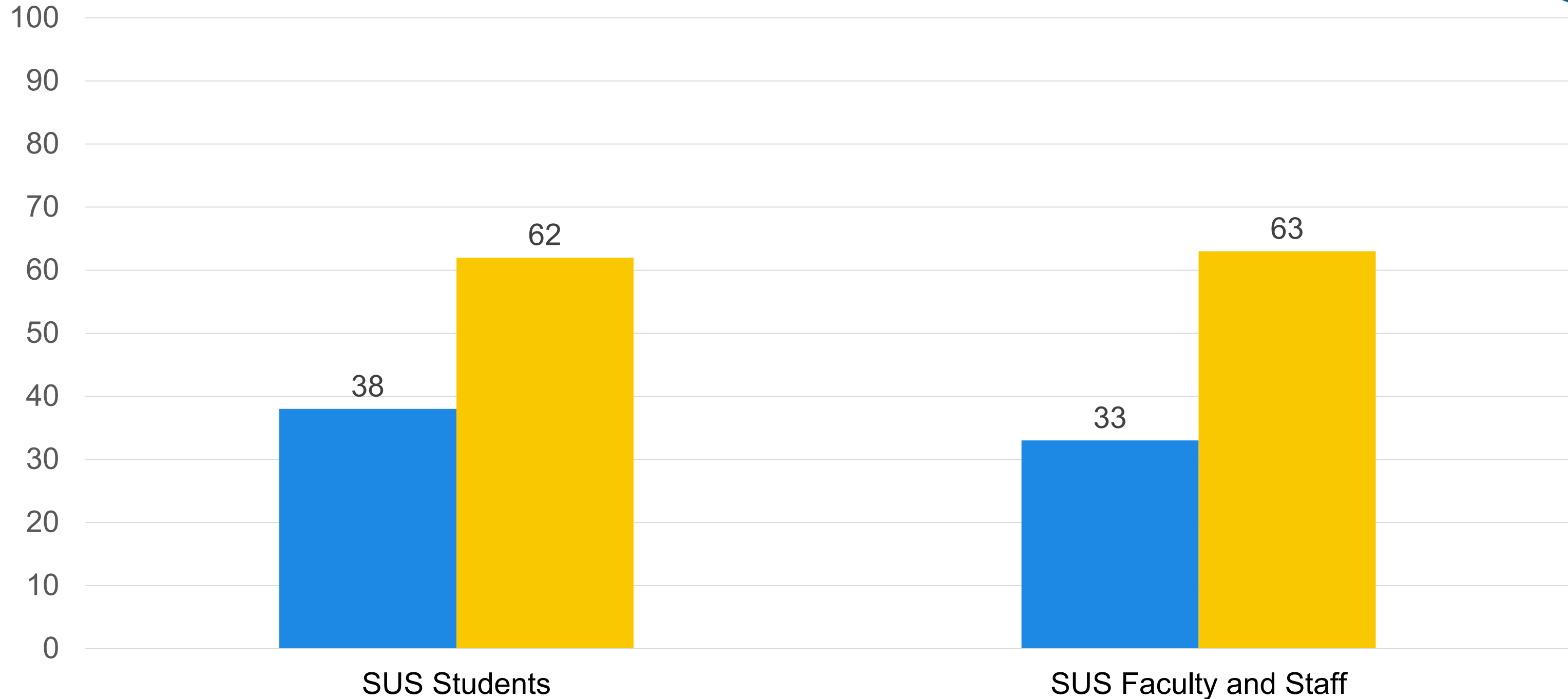


My university is generally

| | More tolerant of liberal ideas and beliefs | More tolerant of conservative ideas and beliefs | Equally tolerant of both liberal and conservative ideas and beliefs |
|--|---|--|--|
| SUS Students | 34 | 14 | 51 |
| Buckley National Student Sample | 37 | 20 | 36 |
| SUS: Faculty and Staff | 32 | 21 | 41 |

Ideas about Speech and Expression: Offensive Speech

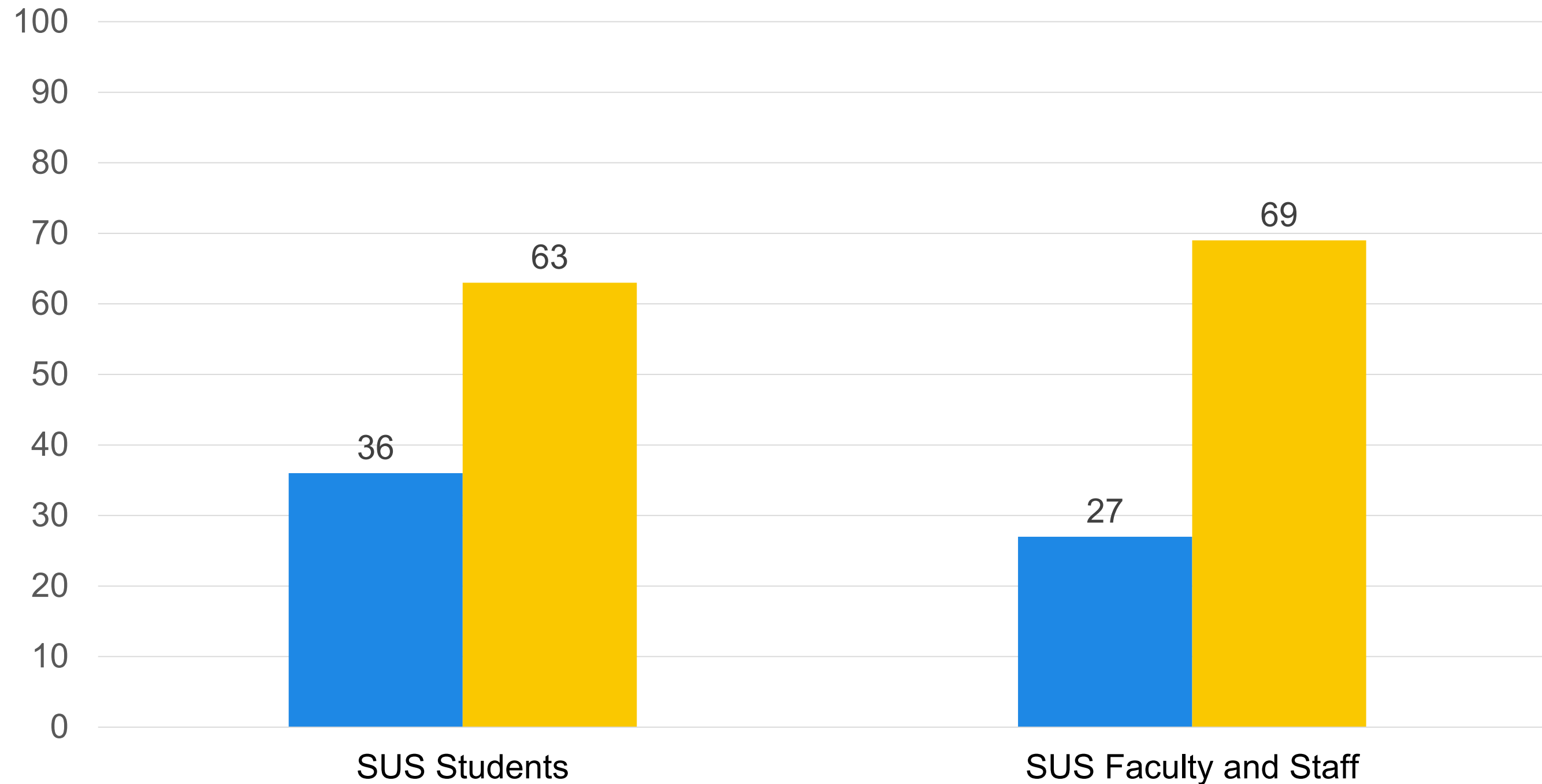
If you had to choose, is it more important for universities?



- To prohibit offensive speech on campus that is biased against certain groups.
- To expose students to all types of viewpoints, even if they are offensive or biased against certain groups.

Ideas about Speech and Expression: Political Correctness

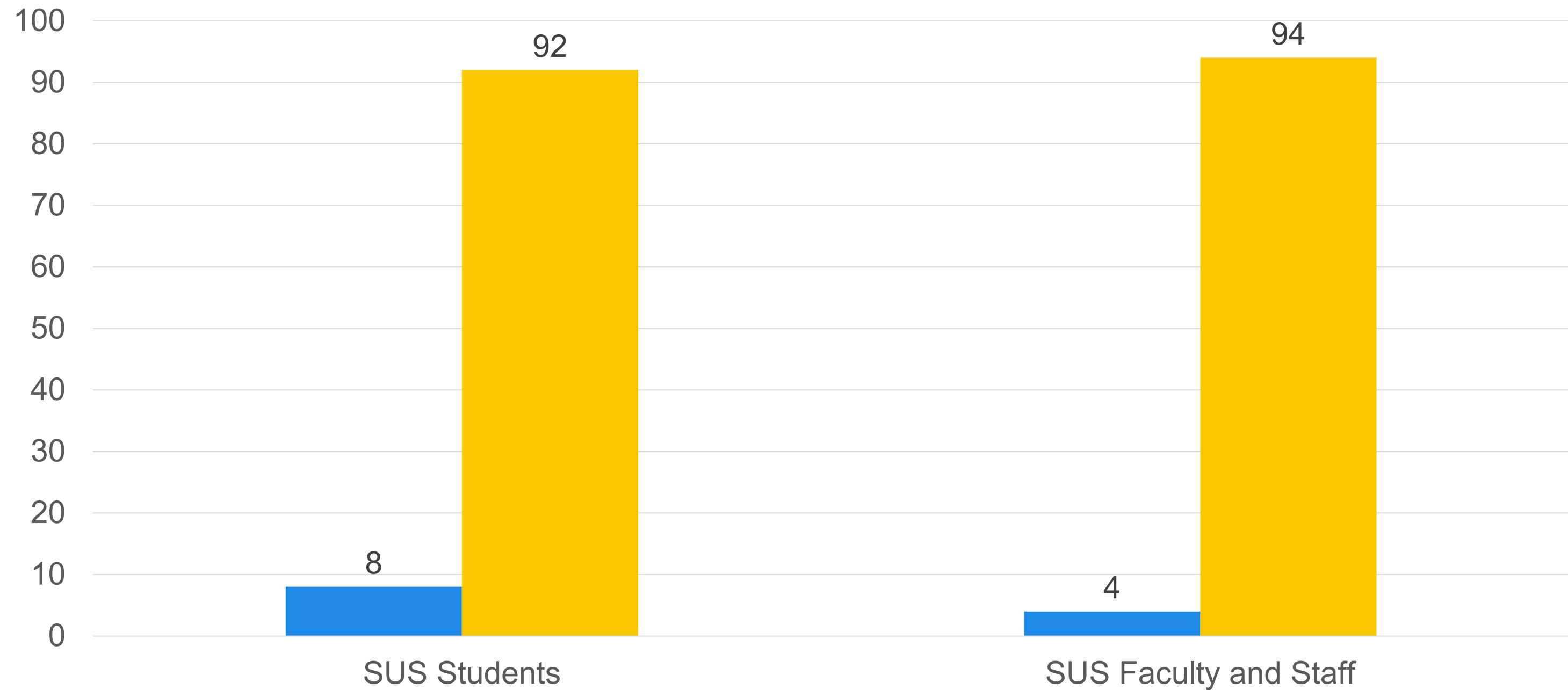
If you had to choose, is it more important for universities?



- Political correctness helps people avoid offending others.
- Political correctness has silent important discussion our society needs to have.

Ideas about Speech and Expression: Speech and Violence

If you had to choose, is it more important for universities?

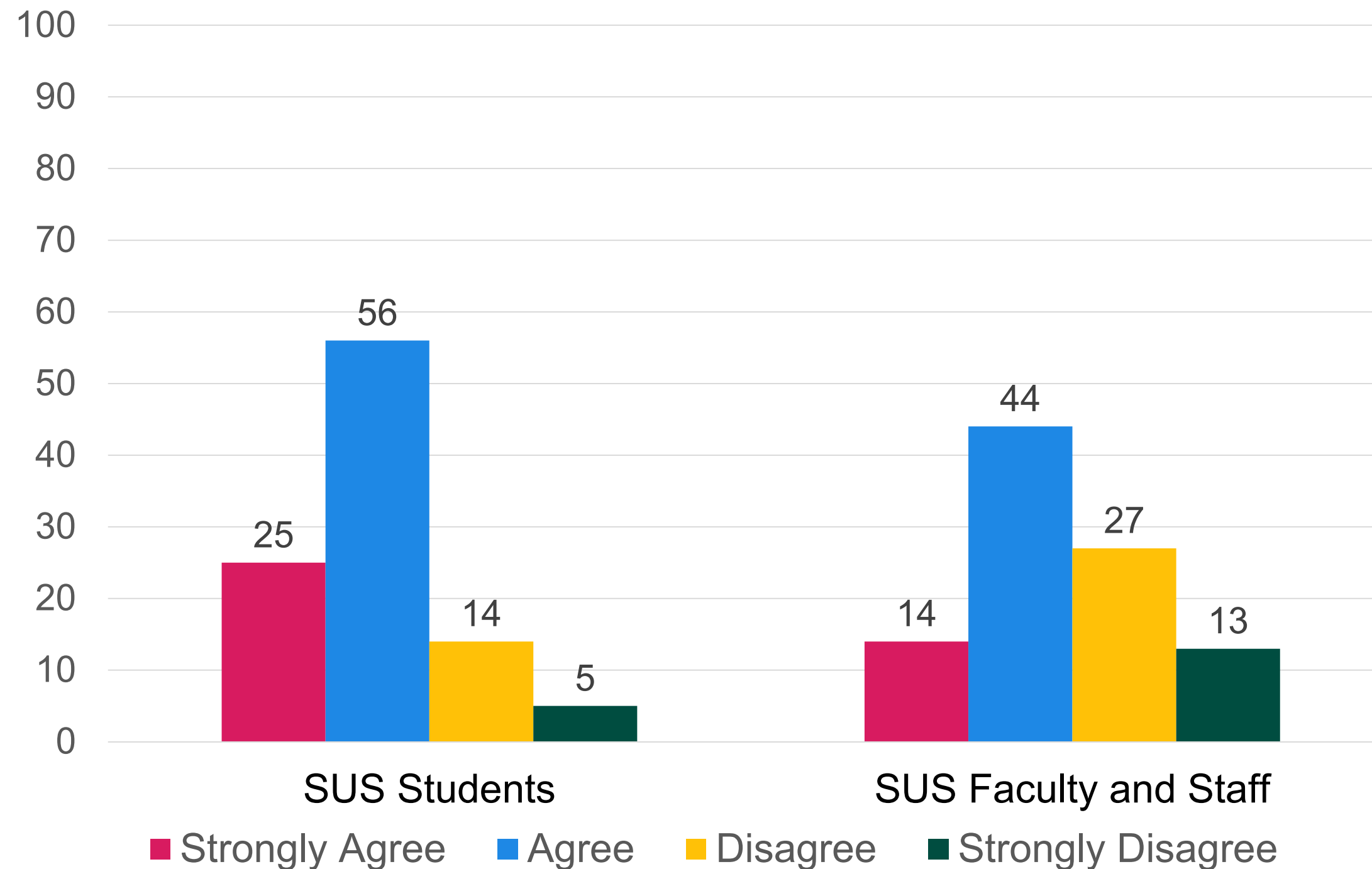


- Speech is violence and should be treated as such by the university.
- It is important for healthy campus life that the distinctions between speech and violence are maintained.

Ideas about Speech and Expression: Free Expression



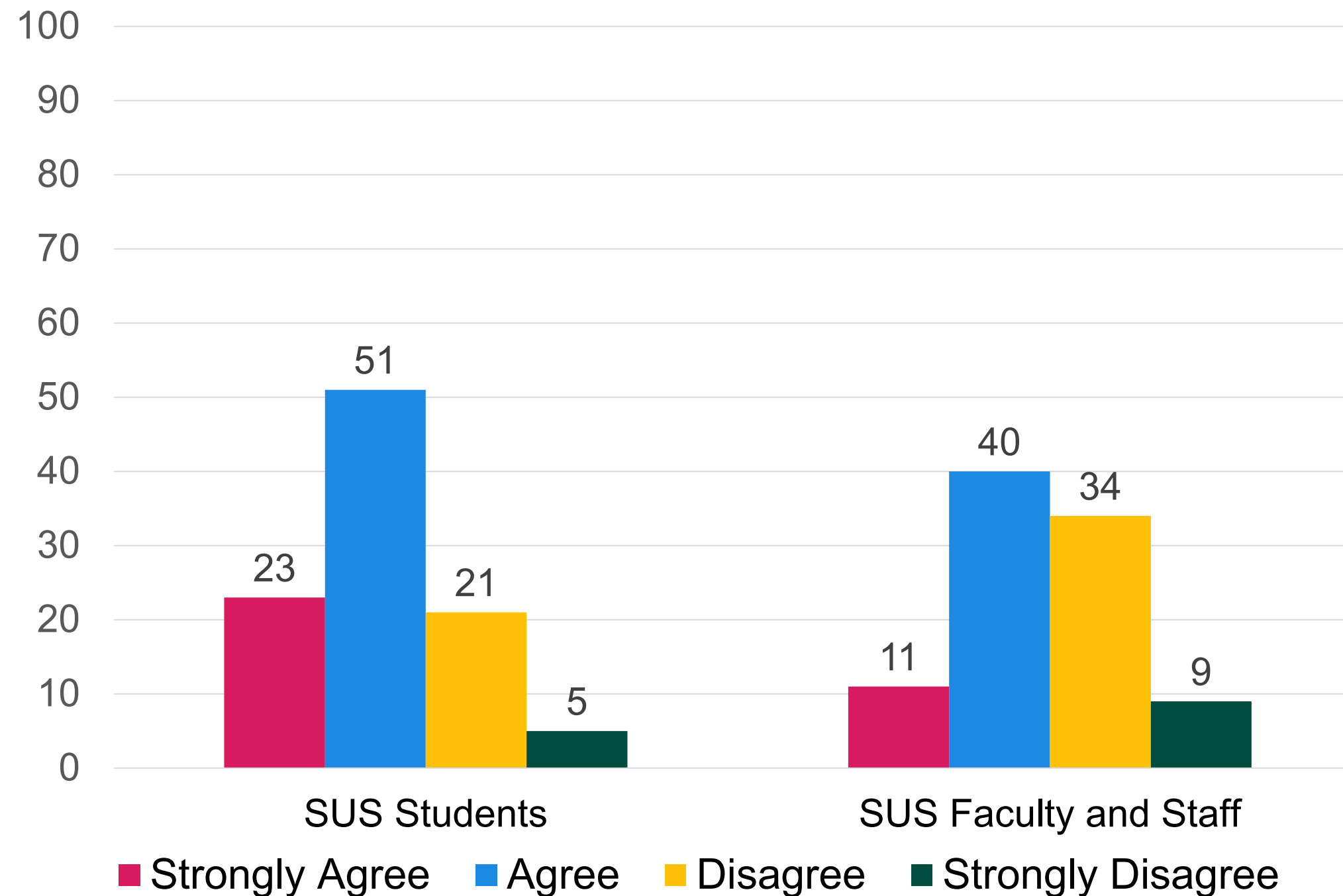
My university campus provides an environment for free expression of ideas, opinions, and beliefs.



Campus Speech Environment: Seeing Free and Welcomed Expression



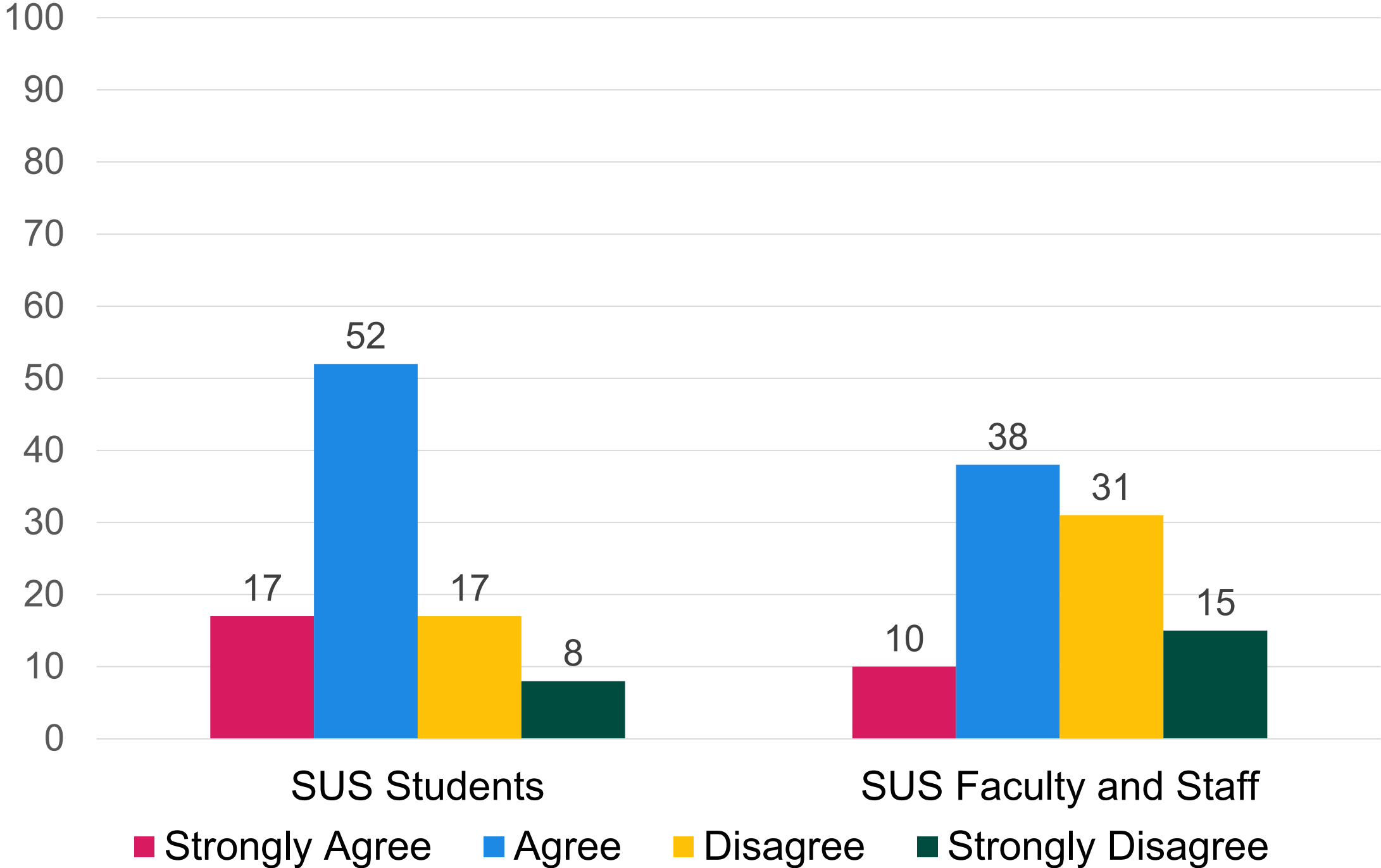
I see examples of free and welcomed expression (such as speeches, debates with other students or instructors, class assignments, etc.) in my classes/on campus regularly.



Campus Speech Environment: Promoting Diverse Political Viewpoints



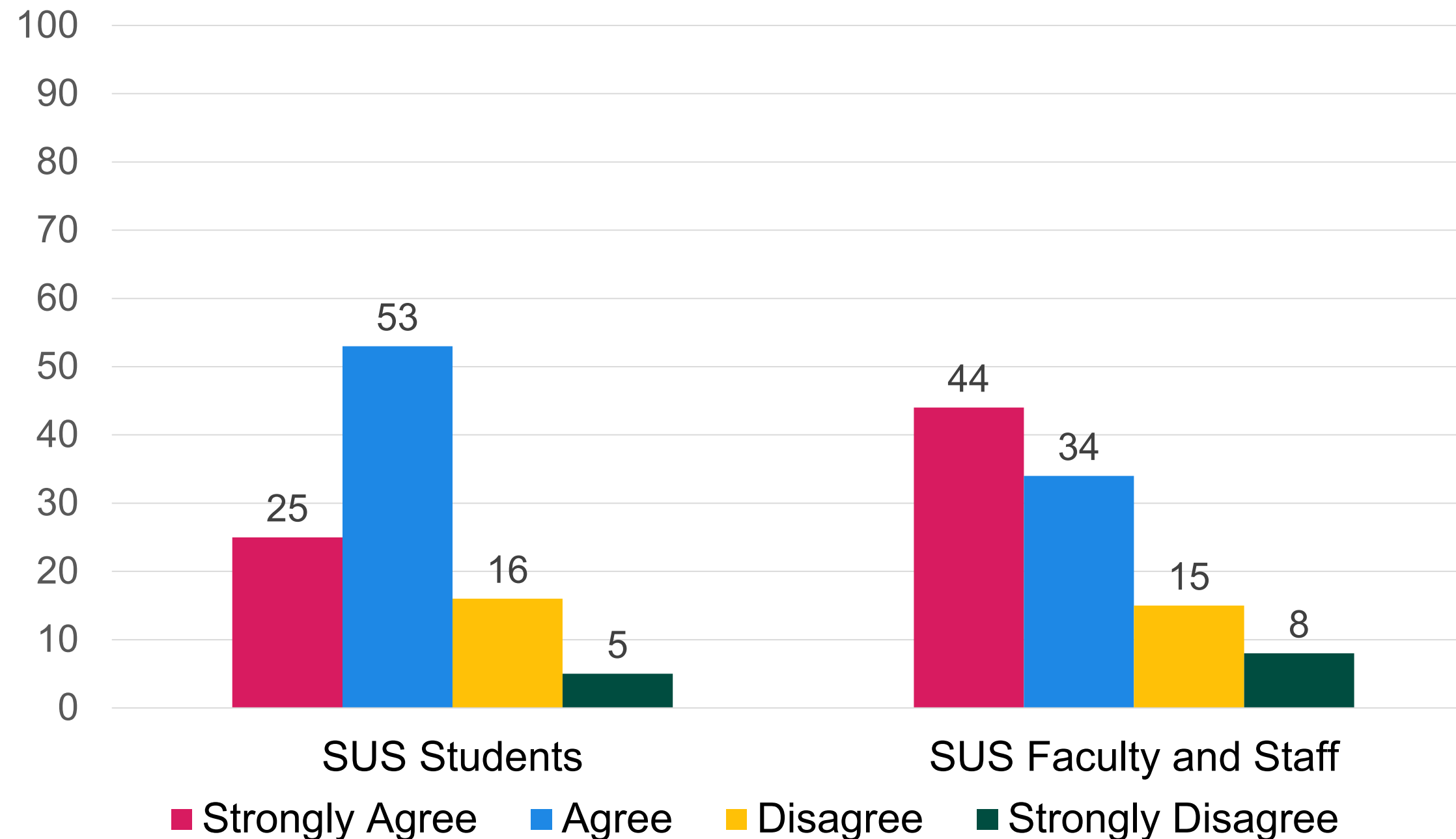
My university is doing a good job when it comes to promoting or encouraging diverse political viewpoints.



Campus Speech Environment: Encouraging Wide Variety of Viewpoints and Perspectives*



Students at my university are encouraged to consider a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives.



* Note: Large Numbers of Faculty and Staff Declined to Answer This Question; 31 percent of the SUS sample responded.

Campus Speech Environment: Comfort Speaking Up On Non-Controversial and Controversial Topics

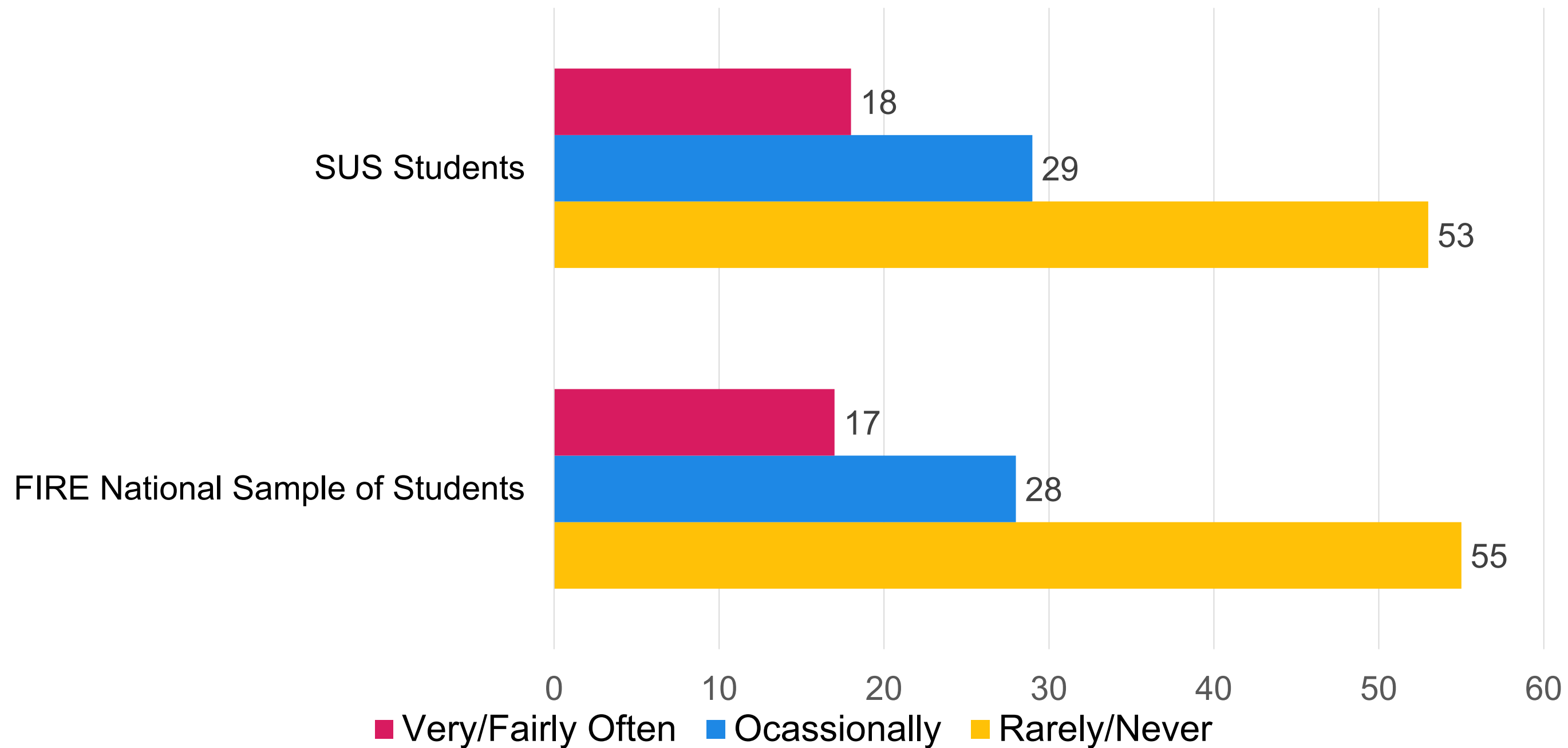


| | I feel comfortable speaking up and giving my views on non-controversial topics | | I feel comfortable speaking up and giving my views on controversial topics | |
|--------------|--|-------|--|-------|
| | Strongly Agree | Agree | Strongly Agree | Agree |
| SUS Students | 35 | 49 | 18 | 41 |

Student Self-Censorship



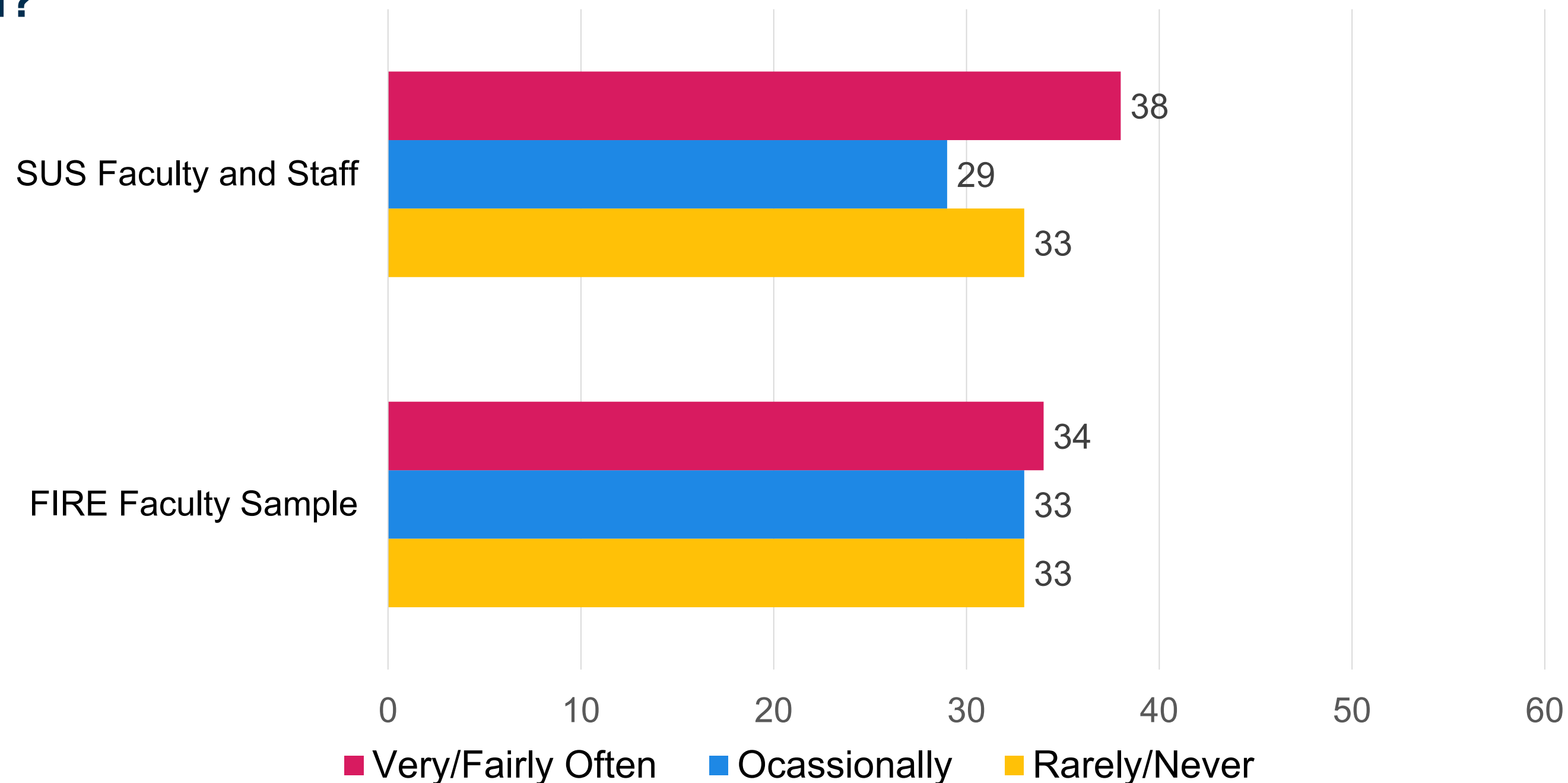
On your campus, how often have you felt that you could not express your opinion on a subject because of how students, a professor, or the administration would respond?



Faculty and Staff Self-Censorship: More Pronounced



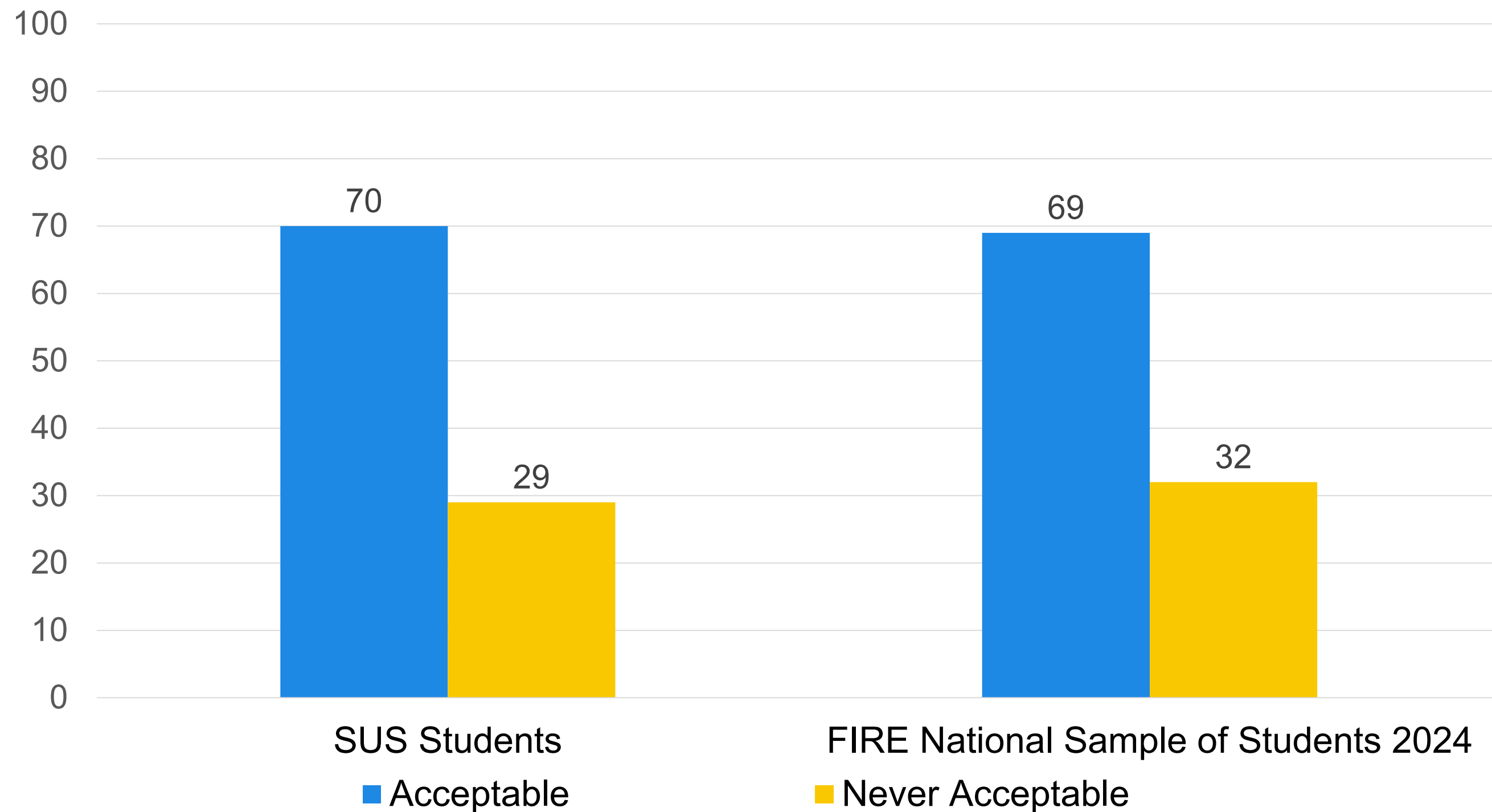
On your campus, how often have you felt that you could not express your opinion on a subject because of how students, a professor, or the administration would respond?



Cancel Culture Student Views: Protesting Campus Speakers



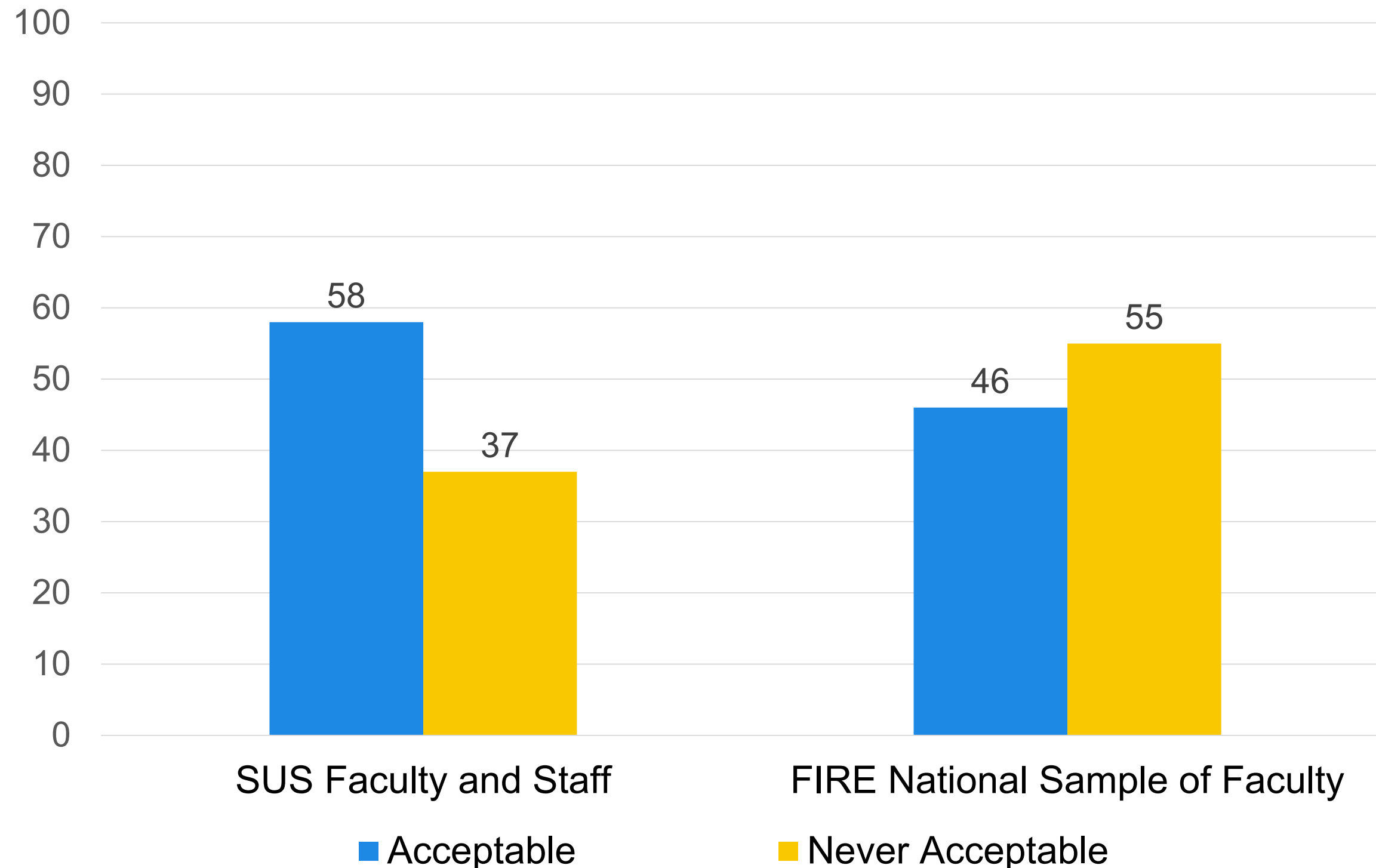
Acceptability for students to protest a campus speaker.



Cancel Culture Faculty and Staff Views: Protesting Campus Speakers



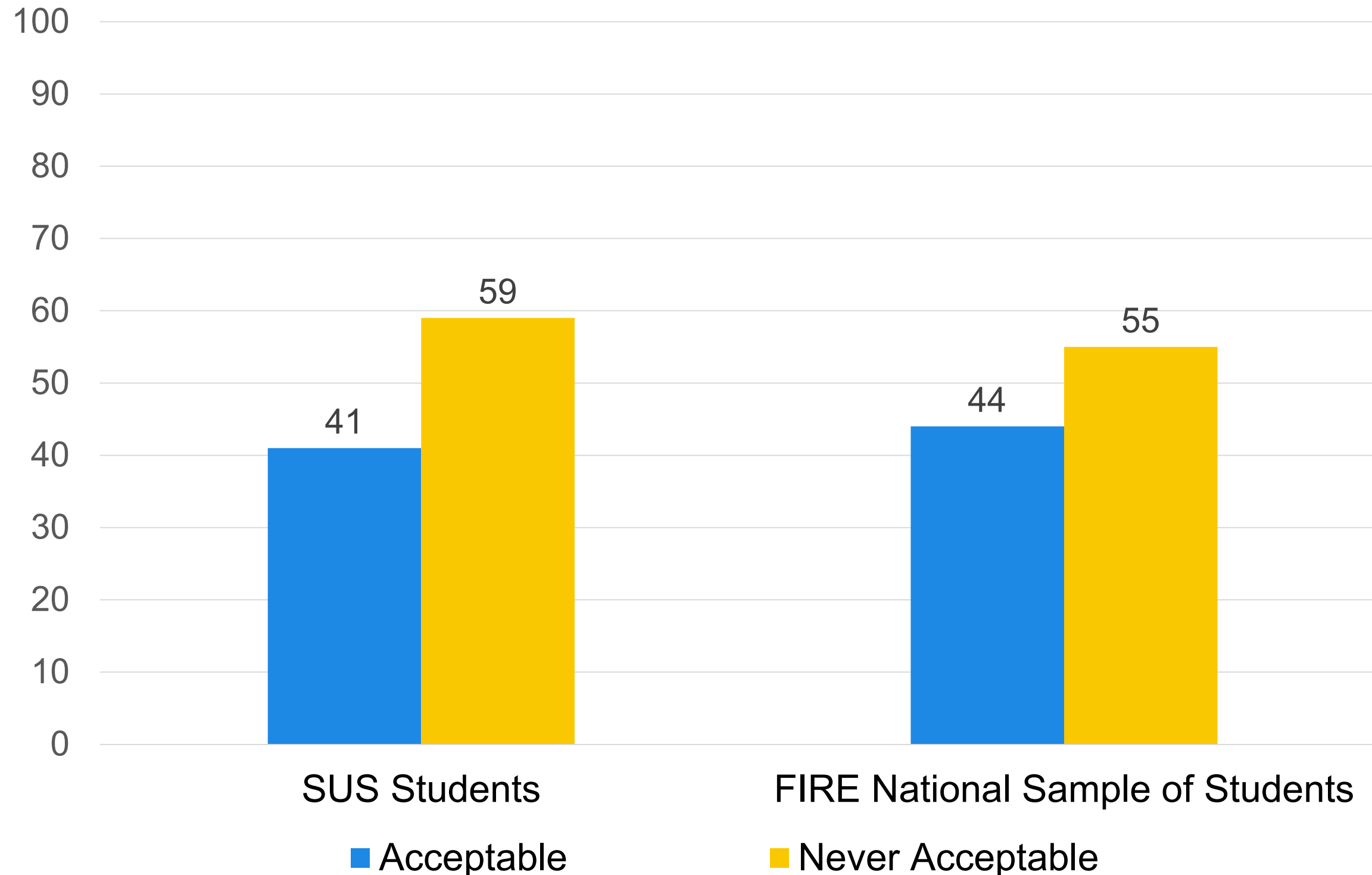
Acceptability for students to protest a campus speaker.



Cancel Culture Student Views: Blocking Students From Attending Campus Speeches



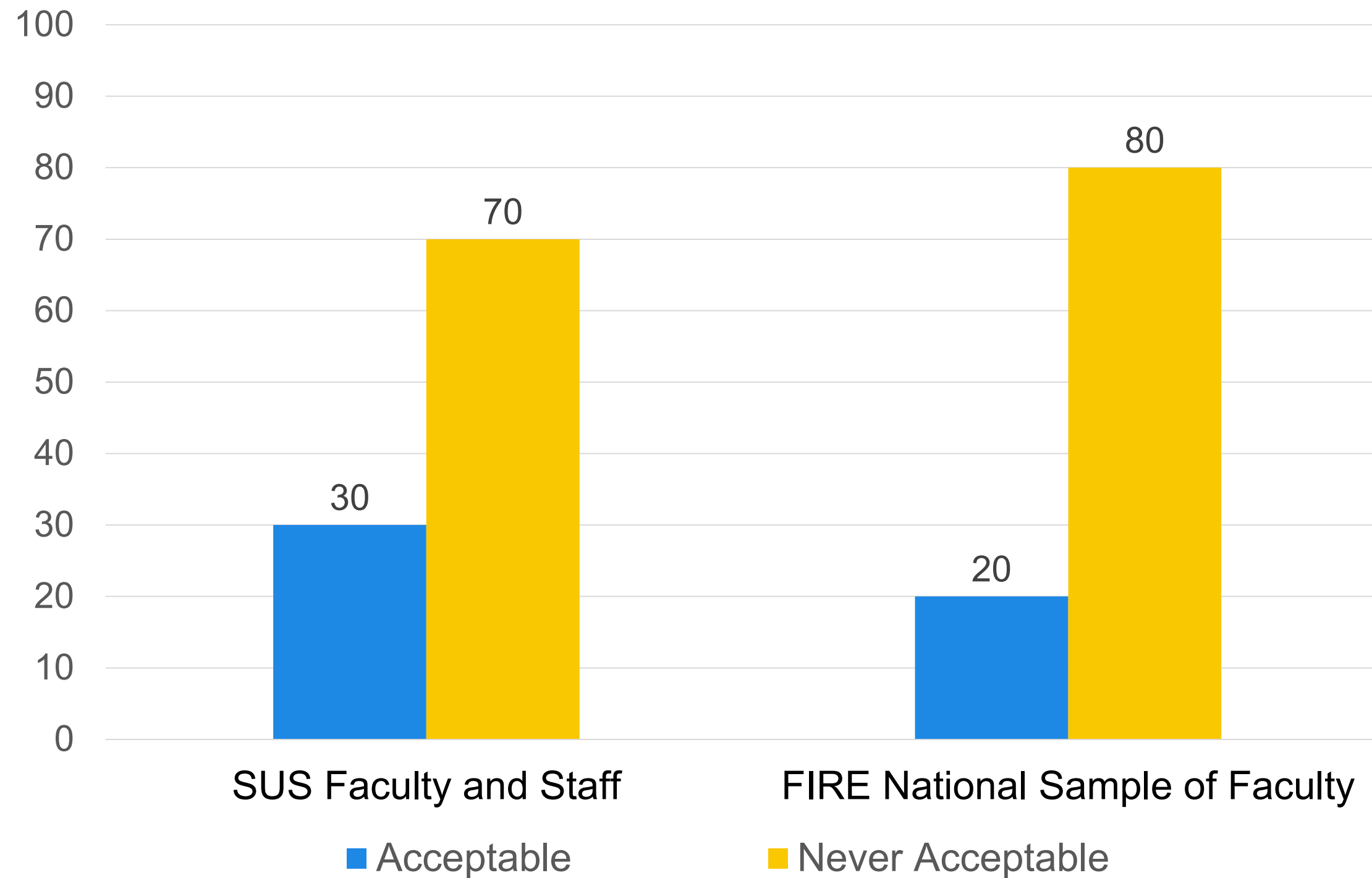
Acceptability if students block other students from attending a campus speech.



Cancel Culture Faculty and Staff Views: Blocking Students From Attending Campus Speeches



Acceptability if students block other students from attending a campus speech.



Cancel Culture: Witnessed Uncivil Treatment Due to Beliefs



| | Witnessed a student with conservative beliefs receive uncivil treatment for expressing those beliefs on campus? | | Witnessed a student with liberal or progressive beliefs receive uncivil treatment for expressing them on campus? | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|--|--------------|
| | Frequently/Very Frequently | Rarely/Never | Frequently/Very Frequently | Rarely/Never |
| SUS Students | 16 | 62 | 13 | 68 |
| SUS Faculty and Staff | 11 | 67 | 10 | 70 |



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