

Lessons from the COVID-19 Transition

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AALS Associate Deans Summer Online Panel
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Results can be generalized to all law schools

- Survey was taken at the end of the spring 2020 semester.
- All law schools were transitioning to fully online courses during the same time period.
- 1Ls, 2Ls and 3Ls surveyed
- Return rate of 27%
- N=385

IRB2019-316

Q8: The COVID-19 containment measures, including the transition to online, also created other challenges for students. Please check all that apply/applied to you during the semester after the COVID-19 Transition.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I had to move to a different living space, or moved because I preferred another space.	49.02%	50
My internet connection was not reliable.	40.20%	41
I was negatively affected financially by the COVID-19 measures with business closures, etc.		60.00%

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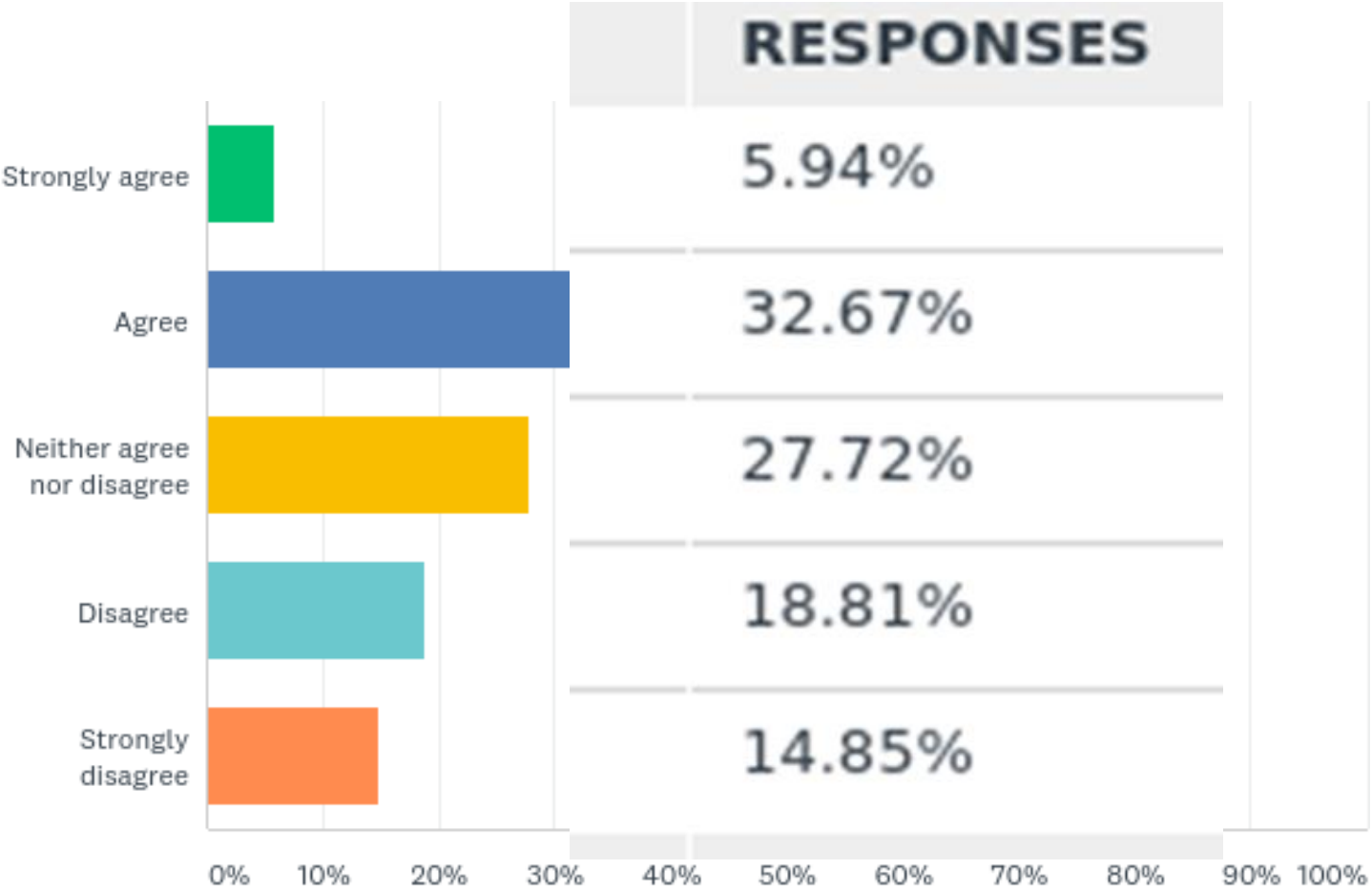
All law students

Online, synchronous law lectures, in general, were not as useful to me as lectures that are face-to-face in the traditional classroom.	75.49%
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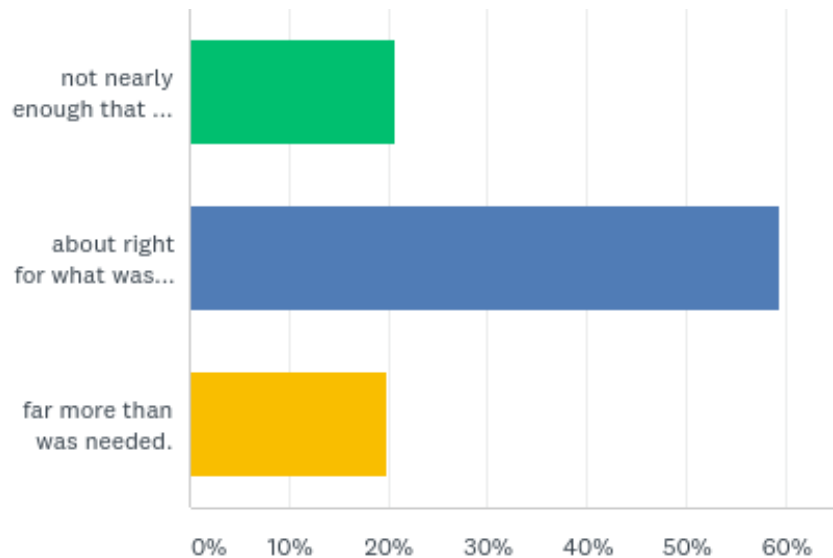
Students who self-selected for asynchronous e-learning, Spr 2020

Online, synchronous law lectures, in general, were not as useful to me as lectures that are face-to-face in the traditional classroom.	45.00%
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Q10: After the COVID-19 transition, I felt that my satisfaction with online classes and e-learning improved from day to day and week to week.



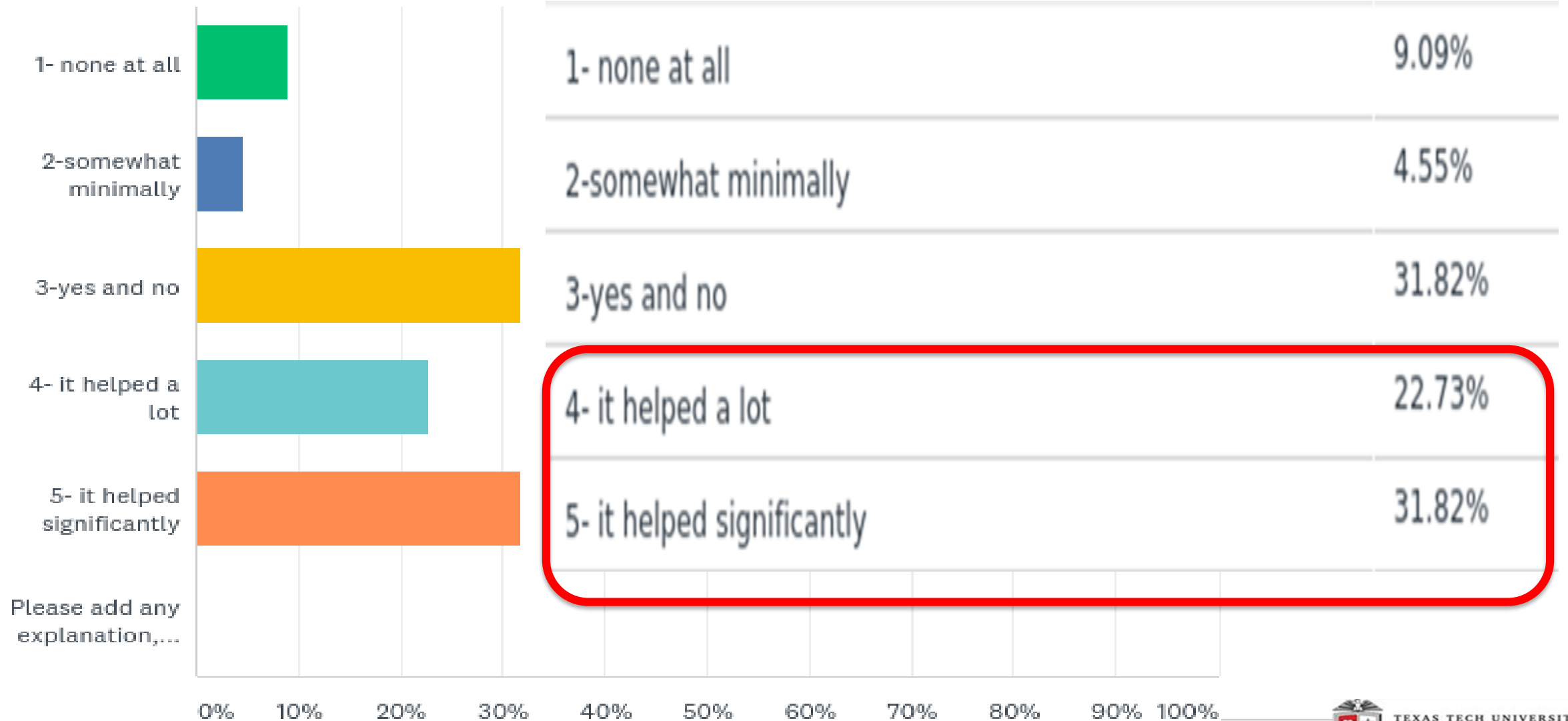
Q12: Do you think the actions carried out by universities (and required by governments) to counter COVID-19 were:



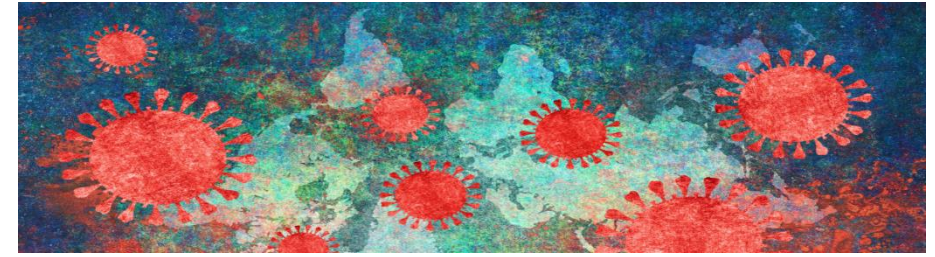
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
not nearly enough that was needed.	20.79%
about right for what was needed.	59.41%
far more than was needed.	19.80%

Law Students enrolled in an asynchronous online course, Spring 2020

Q14: Did your experience in this online course help you adjust in the COVID-19 Transition to online learning?



Recommendations



- Half the students had to move and experienced internet issues, and 60% have been impacted financially during the COVID-19 transition; so the move this fall to hybrid face-to-face may not have considered the financial and human costs of the physical re-location for only a hybrid experience.
- About 20-30% of students have difficulty with online e-learning and have had trouble adjusting.
- More students say they get as much from online learning as face to face courses, than expected (55% self-selecting/25% all law students)
- To mitigate these effects, a one-hour credit (tuition free/low tuition) course to practice online e-learning should be mandatory for fall or pre-fall. It could be called “Transition Skills” or “How to Get Satisfaction from your Fall Semester”, etc.

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