

The past, present and future of
UK higher education – and what
it means for professional
administrators and leaders

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Association of Higher Education Professionals

A little about AHEP



'We are working towards a day when every higher education professional is connected, supported, and developed within a diverse and high-performing community.'



Connect

Look beyond your current role and institution and become part of the wider sector

Share learning and encourage best practice



Support

Representative voice for HE professionals

To define and develop your career ambitions



Develop

Provide the opportunities that help you reach your potential and enjoy a successful career in higher education

The AHEP Professional Framework



This morning's discussion



Your thoughts on the current state of higher education and what your colleagues in the UK think

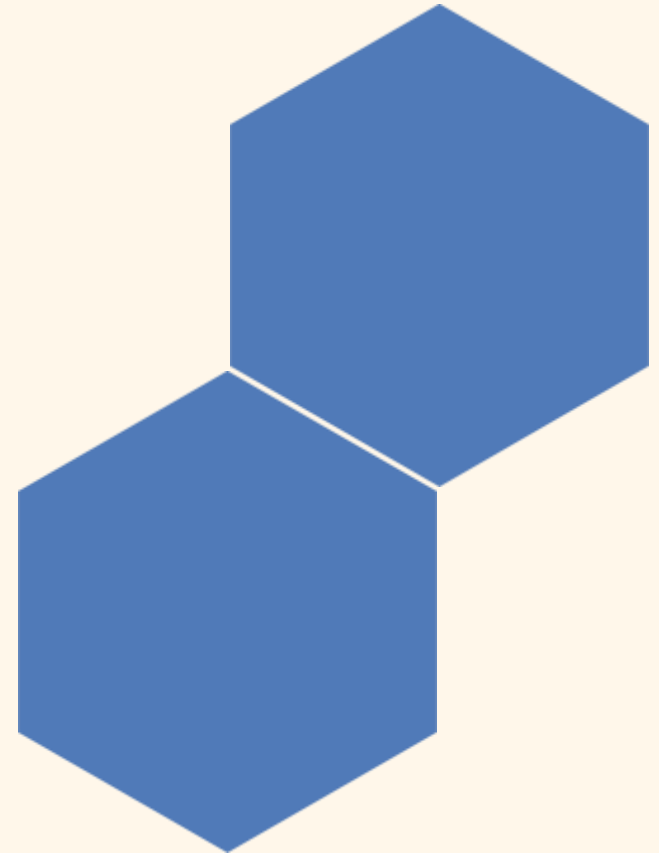
The (recent) past of UK higher education

The present

The (near) future

...and what all this means for higher education professional services

Your thoughts on higher education



We asked your colleagues in the UK the same questions...



A (not very scientific) survey carried out last week

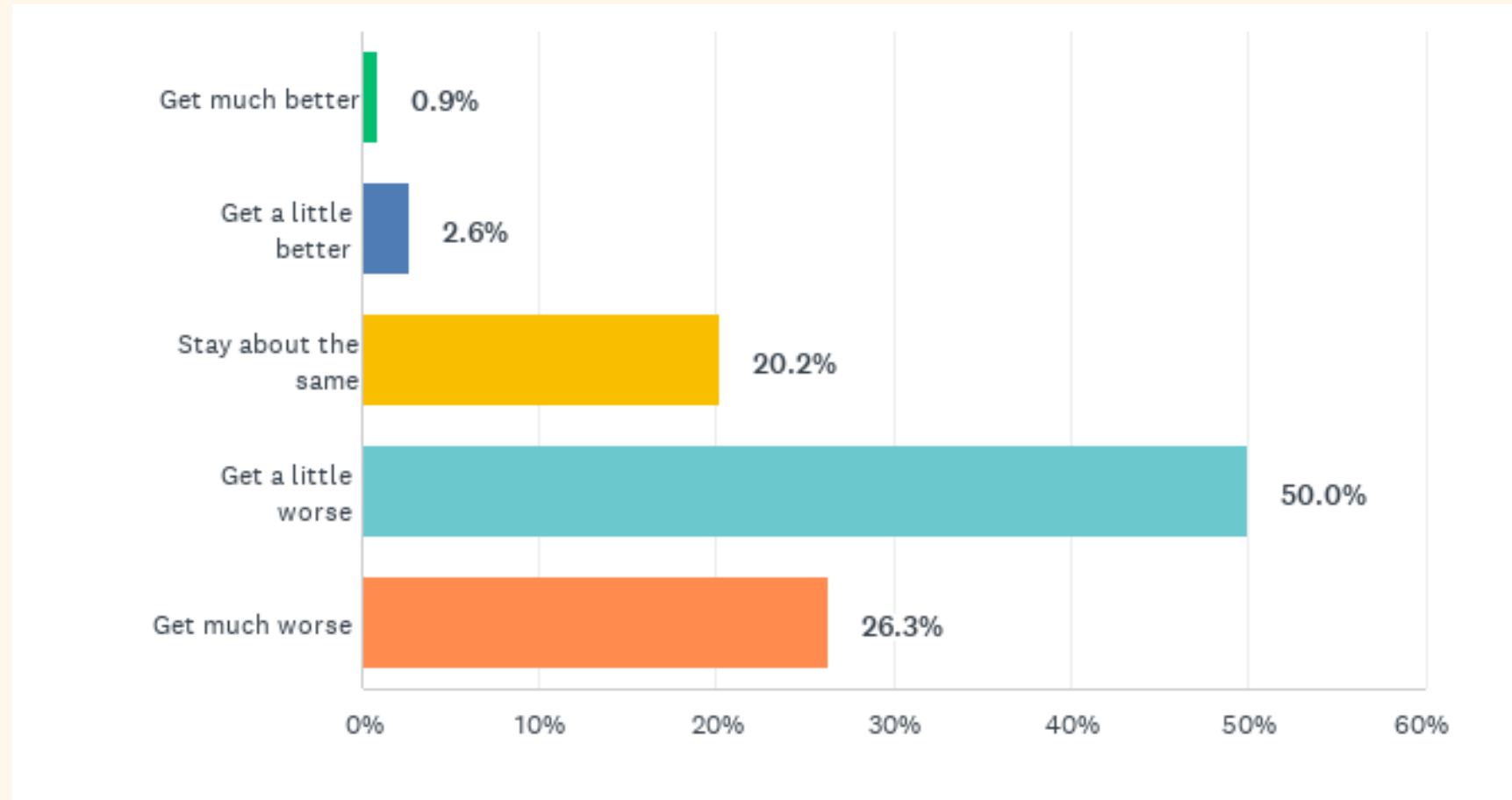
Responses from those who work in UK higher education institutions or those who partner closely with them – found via my extended networks

114 respondents



How do you think the circumstances of higher education institutions will change over the next **6 months**?

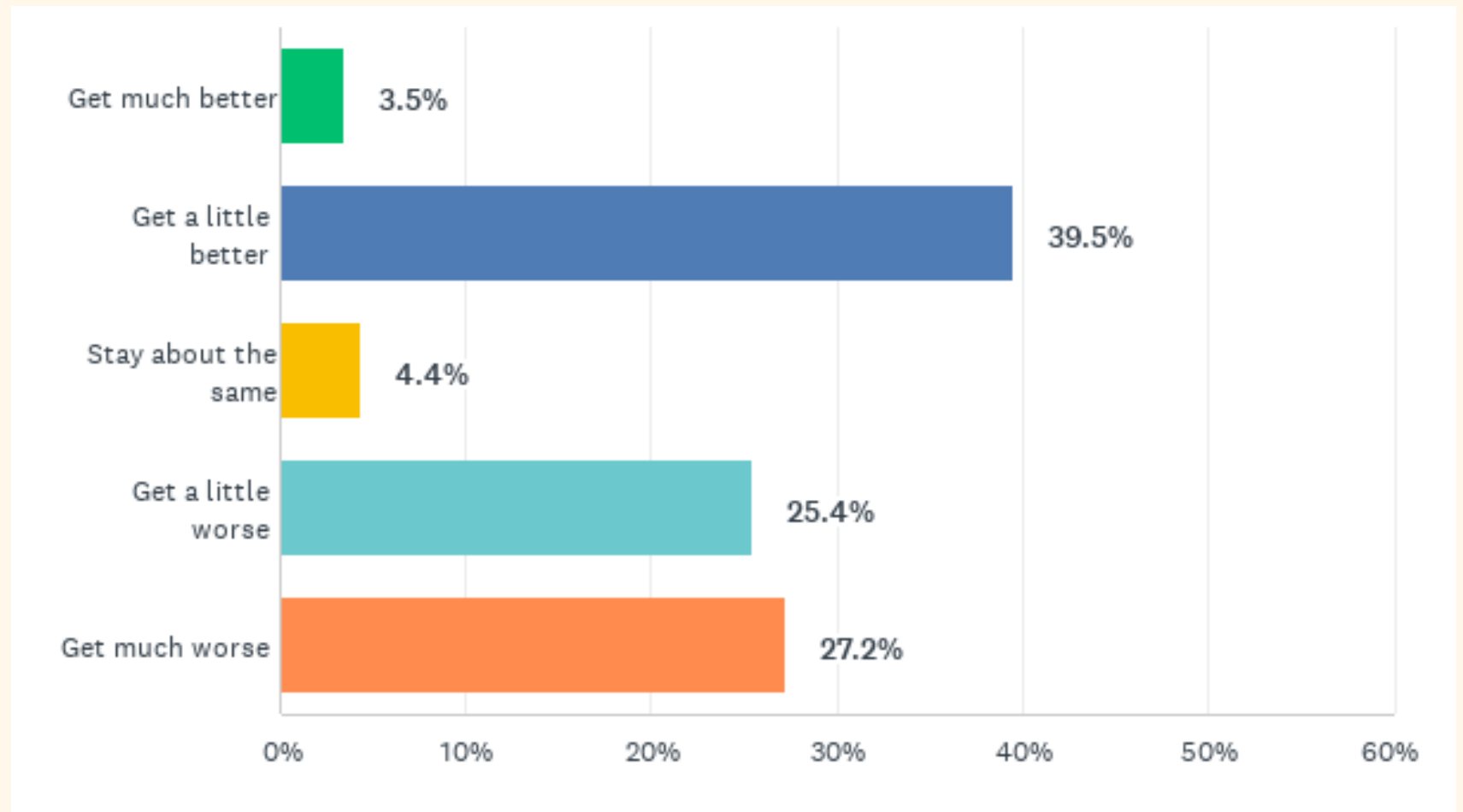
How do you think the circumstances of higher education institutions will change over the next 6 months?





How do you think the circumstances of higher education institutions will change over the next **5 years**?

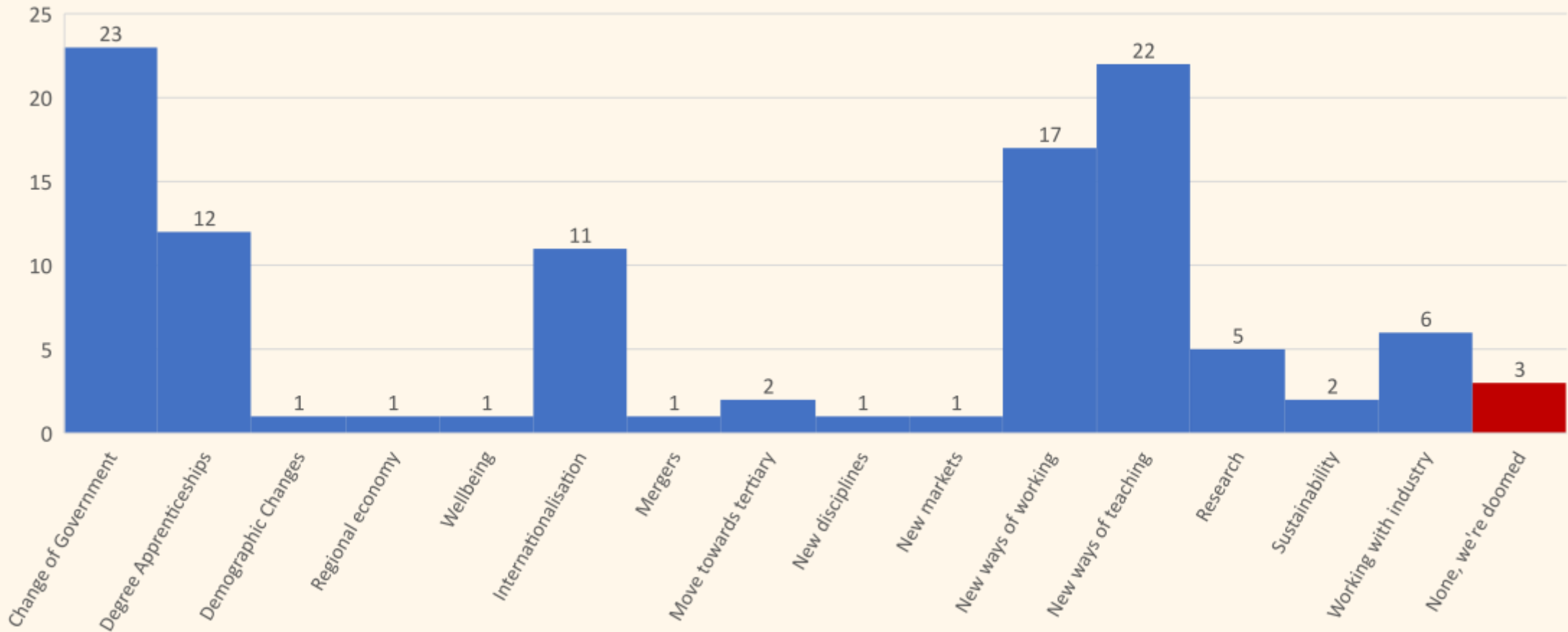
How do you think the circumstances of higher education institutions will change over the next 5 years?





What do you think is the biggest opportunity for the higher education sector at the moment?

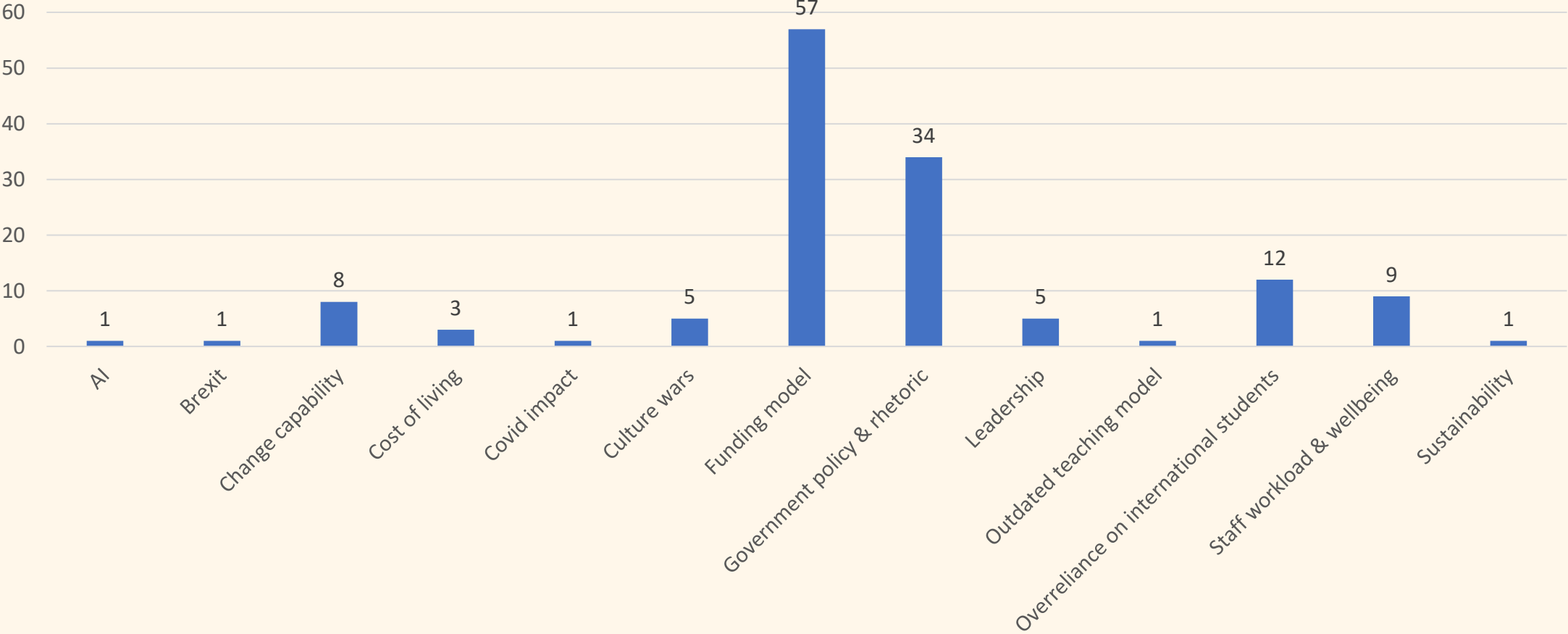
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What do you think is the biggest challenge facing the higher education sector at the moment?

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A very brief history of UK HE



1960s	Major expansion in number of universities; Open University founded
1992	<i>Further and Higher Education Act</i> : polytechnics become universities
1998	Tuition fees introduced
2012	Tuition fees increased to a maximum of £9000 following the Browne review
2017	Most recent tuition fee increase to £9250

£9000 fees and marketisation



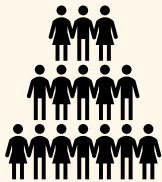
Investment, expansion & borrowing



Students become customers



Marketing and the 'student experience'
grow in importance



Major growth in professional staff numbers
& scope

The covid years



The present



90% of the heads of UK universities say the threats and uncertainties are greater than ever.

Navigating Uncertainty, PA Consulting:
<https://www.paconsulting.com/industries/government-and-public-sector/education/navigating-uncertainty/>

The present



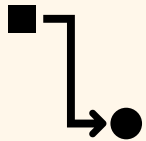
What does this mean for us?



Pragmatism



Professionalism



Adaptability



Care



The future



80% of the heads of UK universities recognise that embracing fundamental reforms is critical to the future success of the sector.

Navigating Uncertainty, PA Consulting (ibid)

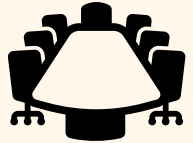
The future



How do we prepare?



Accountability



Collaboration & effective meetings



Service design



Continual professional development



Thank you



@sambbayley



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sambayley/>