NIMBioS

Evaluation Summary Report
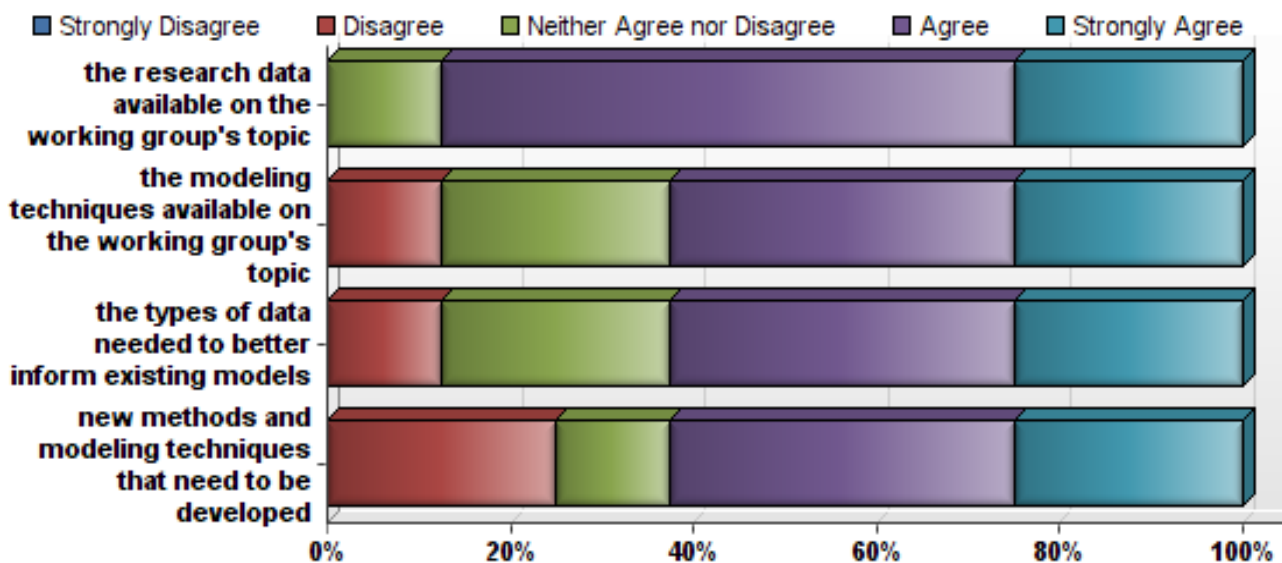
Working Group: *Evolution of Institutions*
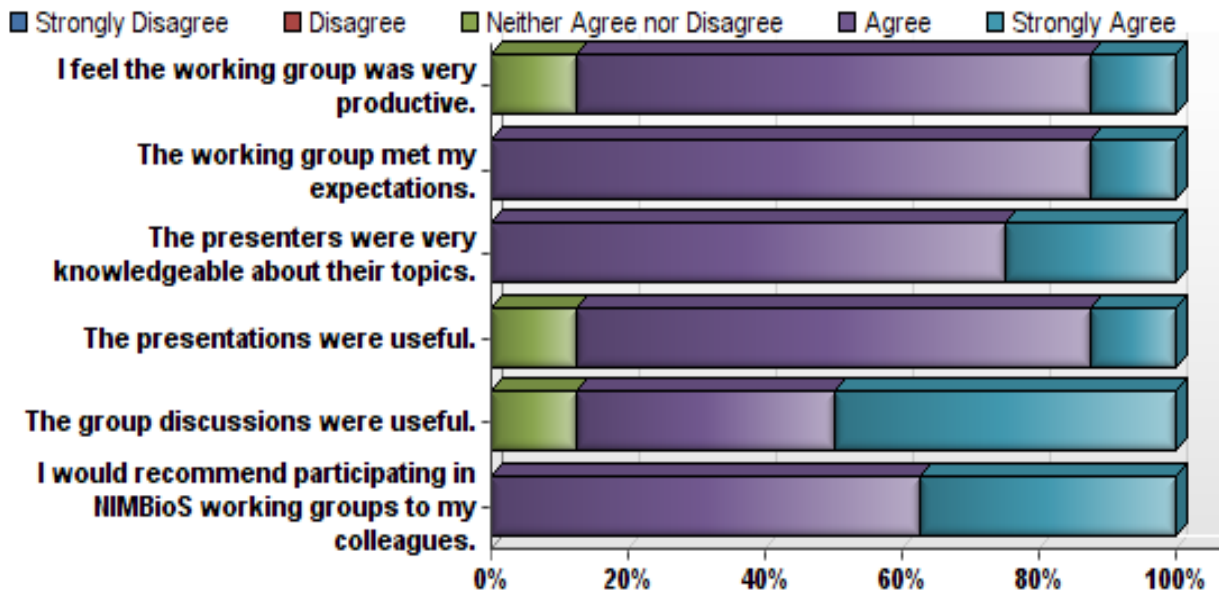## *Meeting One*

March 13-14, 2014

Pamela Bishop
Program Evaluation Manager
National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis
April, 2014

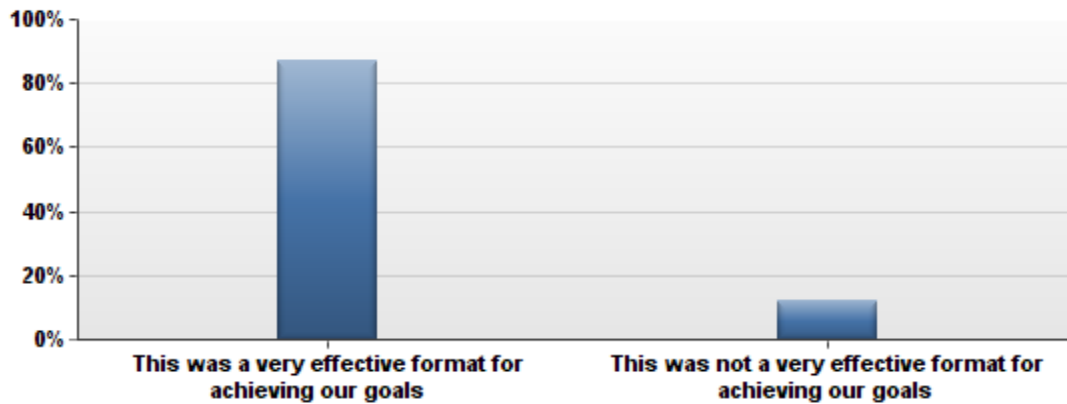## 1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

As a result of participating in this working group, I have a better understanding of:

2. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this working group:
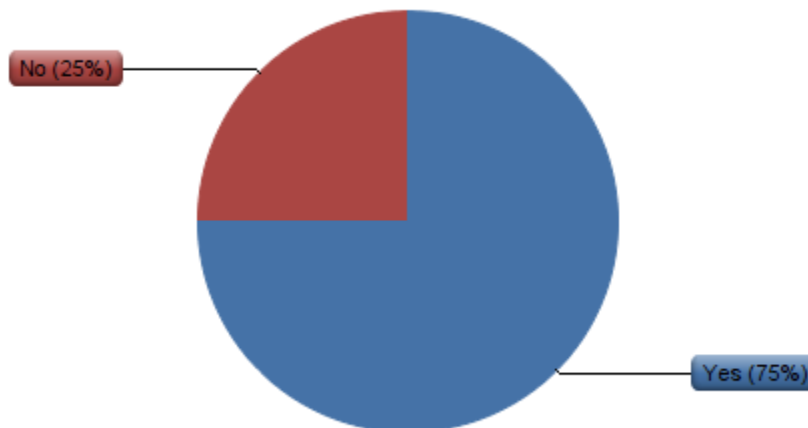
3. How do you feel about the format of the working group?

The working group format would have been more effective if: No data

4. Do you feel the working group made adequate progress, for its first meeting, toward finding a common language across disciplines in the research area?

Comments:

The meeting was too short

The progress here was maybe slower than I hoped, but I do thing we are converging and have a sense of the next steps.

We made some progress, but there is still work to be done on that front over the next meetings.

5. Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area?
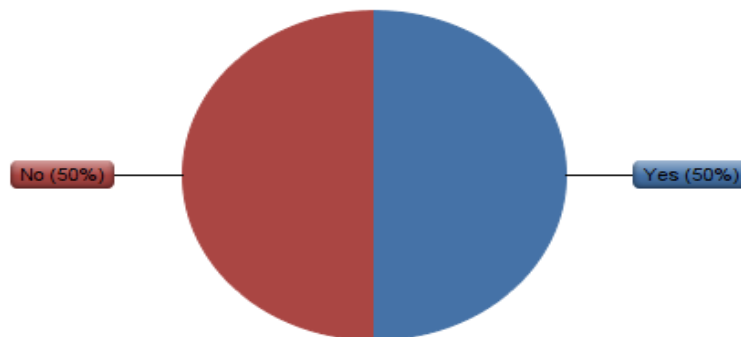

Please explain:

I learnt of research that some of the participants are doing in different disciplines from mine that are highly relevant to my work. I will collaborate with them or use their guidance and understanding to guide future projects of mine.

In addition to joint projects that have already emerged from this meeting, I have new ideas for my own research based on conversations at this meeting.
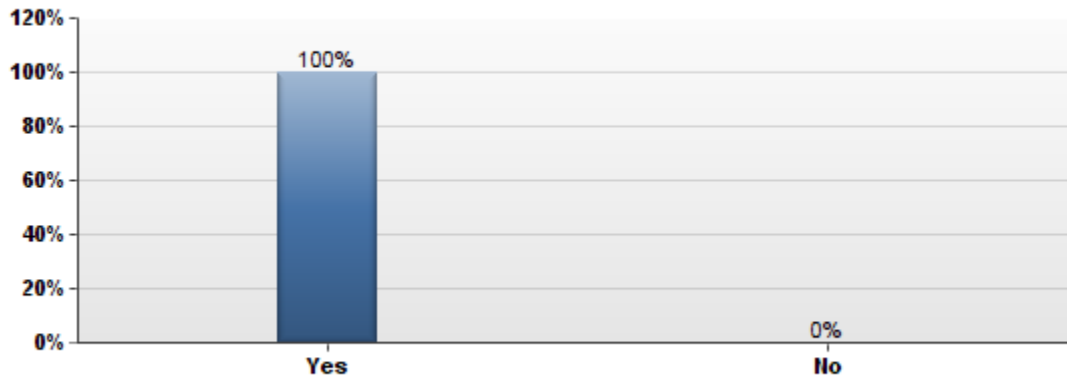
6. Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants?
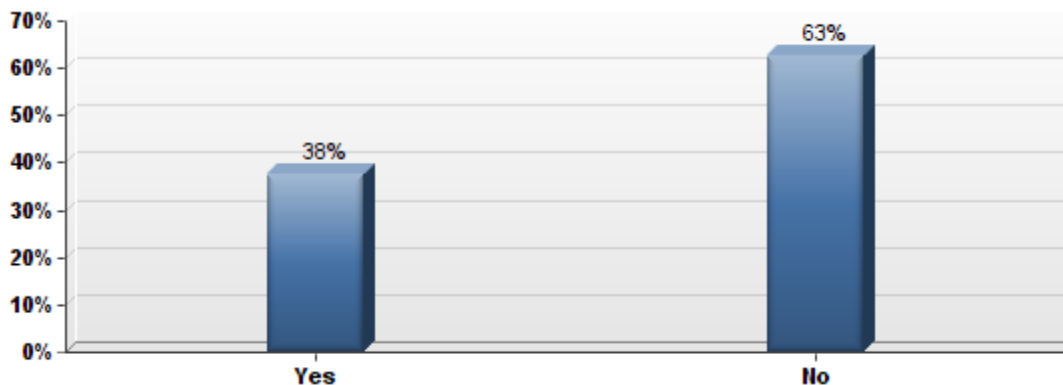

Please explain:

No concrete unanticipated -- the concrete plans are those that came from the workgroup structure we decided upon, so they are not unanticipated. However, other collaborations may arise.

7. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will influence your future research?

Comments: No data

8. Do you feel the expectations for the next working group are clear (in the sense that you are leaving this meeting with a good idea of what your contribution will be at the next meeting)?

Comments:

Not at the moment but I am confident that this will be clear before the next meeting.

9. What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the working group?

Meeting researchers from other fields.

Meeting people with similar interests from different disciplines

The opportunity to network and to create joint projects.

Putting so many talented people with varied and relevant backgrounds in the same room for a few days.

Bringing together people from such different disciplines and seemingly unrelated research agendas into a single group where there was incredible commonality in interests.

I thought the narratives written in advance by all the participants on how their work speaks to the topic of the workshop were a great way to get introduced to the topic. It made it easier to converge on a common language among the participants.

10. What, if anything, would you change about the working group?

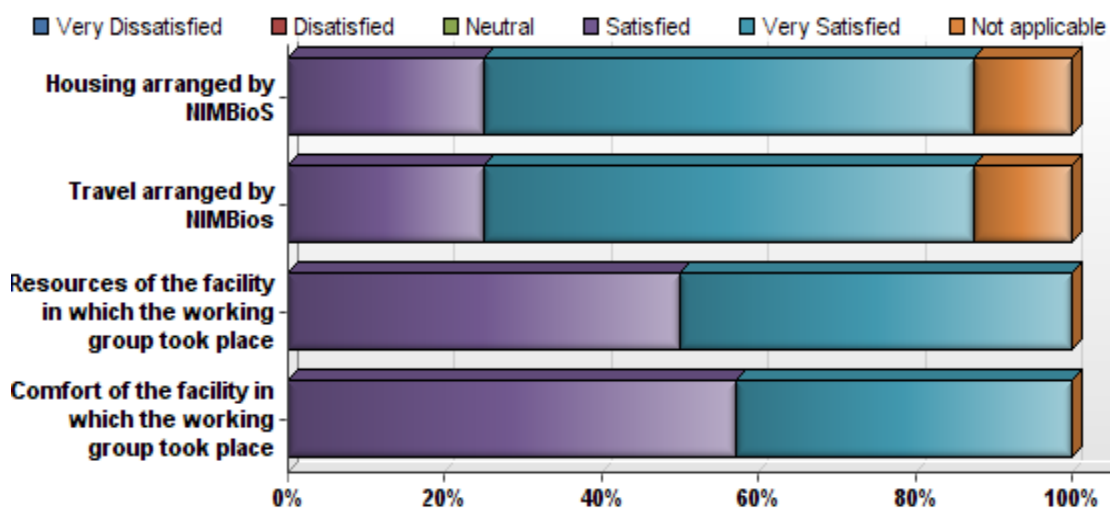Would rather hear more presentations of research and less freewheeling discussion.

Nothing

I would screen more carefully for people who "play well with others." There was one participant who did not play well with others; at one point, this person took a white board pen out of another participant's hand and erased what that participant had written.

Clearer expectations of investment (common readings, etc.). Some files were posted, but it seemed that many people did not spend much time preparing for the meeting.

Nothing.

11. How satisfied were you with the following accommodations provided to you?

12. Please provide any additional comments about your overall experience with the working group:

I thought everything went very smoothly. The break-out groups seemed to go well.

Excellent organization and facility. A highly productive time.