

## MISSION OF A&SP

A&SP fosters a culture of evidence within Student Affairs by providing exceptional assessment services, resources, and training. We empower departments to deliver impactful co-curricular programs and services that enhance student learning, success, and development. Leading annual reporting and accreditation efforts, we utilize data-informed decision-making to align with the strategic priorities of Auburn University and Student Affairs. Our Vision is to provide exceptional support to Student Affairs to promote strategically planned initiatives for student success and continuous operational improvement.

## PURPOSE OF STUDY

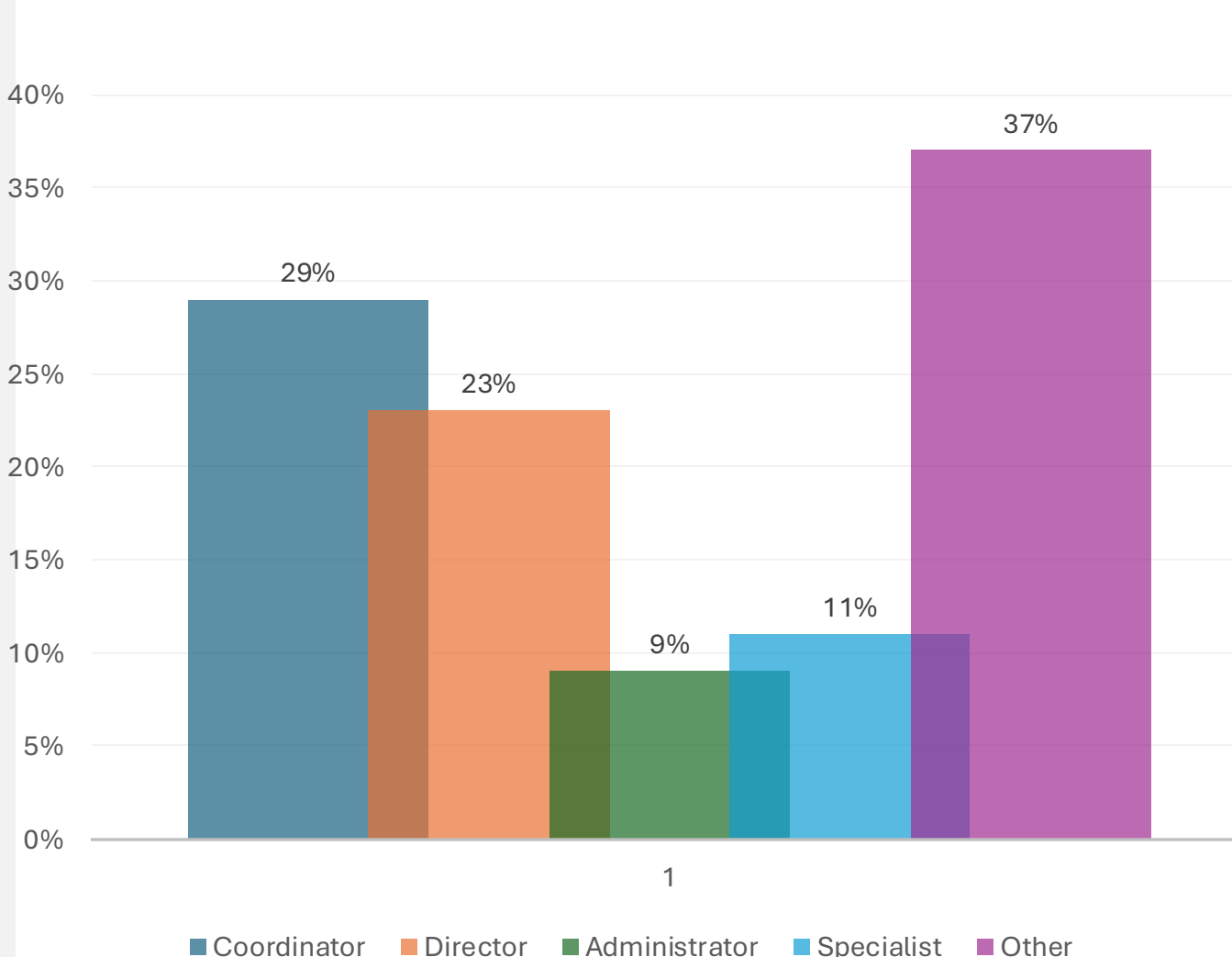
To gain a deeper understanding of how staff perceive and contribute to the student experience within the Division of Student Affairs. This effort seeks to inform strategic priorities that enhance both student outcomes and the staff work environment by identifying challenges, opportunities, and insights from those who work most closely with students. By elevating staff voices, the initiative ensures that planning efforts are grounded in the experiences of those who directly support and shape the student journey.

## DATA COLLECTION

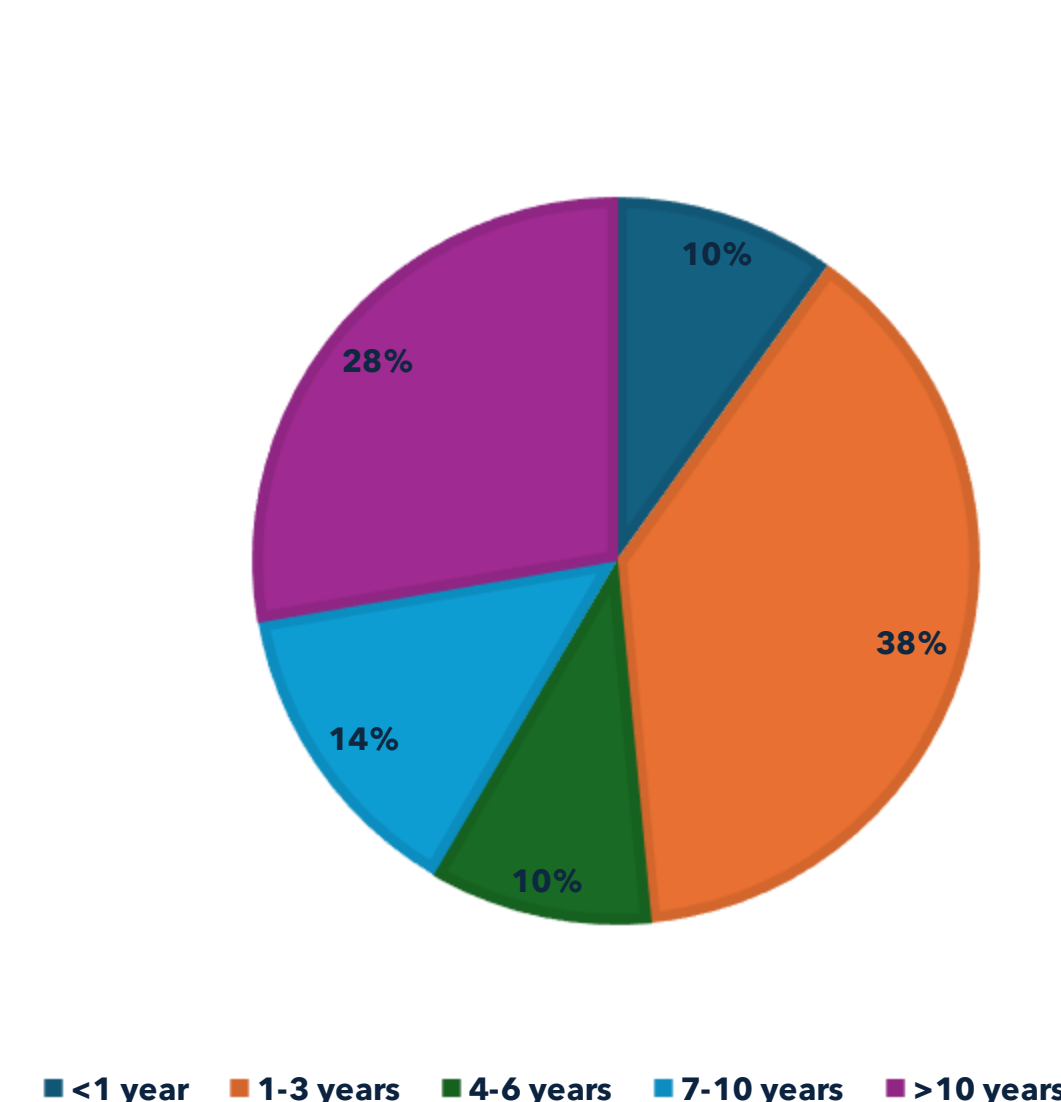
- This study presents preliminary findings from a SWOT analysis based on Student Affairs (SA) staff perspectives, aimed at informing the development of a new SA strategic plan.
- During the Fall 2024 semester, over 100 staff members responded to the Strategic Planning Staff Perspective Survey, and approximately 30 participated across six focus groups.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Current Roles in Student Affairs



YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN STUDENT AFFAIRS



## Quotes from Staff:

*"Student Affairs is the launching pad for the student experience through First Year Experience with CWE and SOS, and it segues to the First 56. We strive on the student experience"*

*"During my time at Auburn, I observed that Student Affairs excels in creating exceptional student experiences, particularly through a wide array of involvement opportunities....."*

*"Ideas are great, but without staff to pull them off, they don't go anywhere"*

*"More research on the student experience in SA programs to be shared at conferences and such"*

*" People are the most valuable resource, and having more staff to support students would be incredible"*

*"Invest more in your employees!"*

*"No other school loves their mascot like Auburn does"*

*"Auburn University is the best employer I have ever had and Student Affairs and FYE are just the icing on the cake. I am so beyond grateful for the opportunity to work here"*

*".....Keeping staff members aware of SA services as well as interacting with each other to create meaningful working relationships will help students gain access to necessary SA resources to help them succeed."*

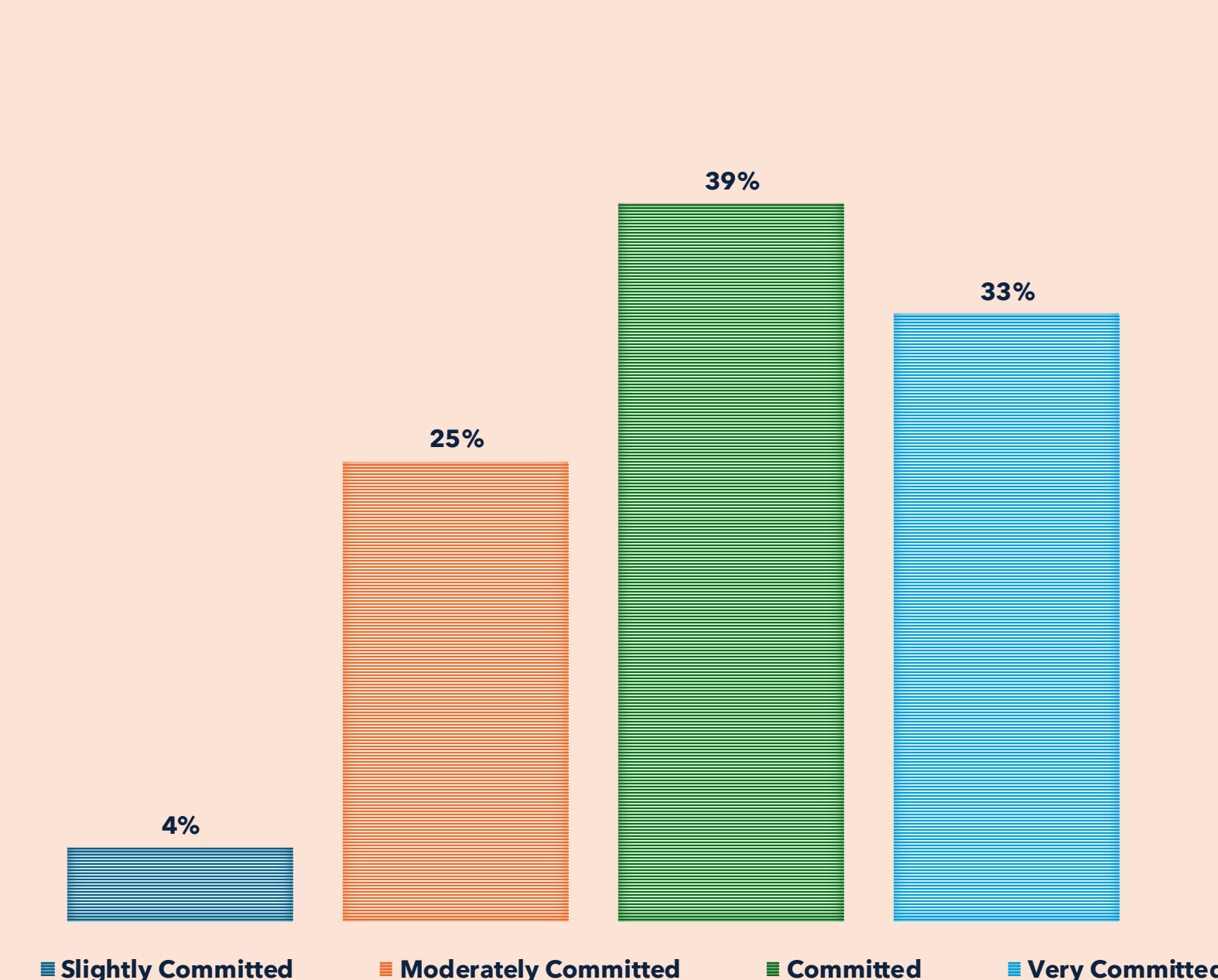
*"Having worked here almost 2 years, I have seen how students are treated very well and respected so highly!"*

*"I think some of our students from underrepresented groups may be struggling with the passage of SB129 and the dissolution of some of the offices that focused on belonging"*

*"Building more on-campus housing for first-year students would better enhance the student experience"*

*"Lady Cox gives parents (all of them) her personal cell number... Amazing"*

COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENCE WHERE STAFF FEEL WELCOMED, VALUED, RESPECTED



93%

**Rated Service Departments as effectively making a lasting and meaningful impact on each student's Auburn experience**

84%

**Rated Support Departments as effectively facilitating day-to-day operations to ensure exceptional student experience**

86%

**Rated SA as effectively cultivating a sense of community and belonging among students**

96%

**Rated SA as effectively offering extensive high-quality programs and services that are accessible to all students**

75%

**Staff report being satisfied with their overall experience within SA**

96%

**Staff believe it is important for SA to commit resources to staff development to enhance the overall student experience**

## More quotes from staff:

*"I don't feel like we have a lot of professional development that is SA specific. The HR professional development doesn't really match with a lot of what we do. I wish we had more workshops and opportunities to learn from each other"*

*"Monthly coffees and summits are excellent. That's the only time when we have everyone in the same place...."*

*"I think mentorship is lacking... I would like to have 1:1 mentorship opportunities with others outside of the AVP we report to"*  
*"Bringing back Student Affairs awards would be cool!"*

## Conclusion

While SA is performing well in many areas, and staff report high satisfaction levels, there are opportunities for improvement. Recommended areas include increased funding and staffing to meet growing needs, foster cross-departmental initiatives, and expand professional development offerings and mentorship programs.

**Have Questions? Need help in incorporating assessment into your department's daily activities & programs? Need to improve skills in assessment and strategic planning? Conduct surveys? Reach out to us!**

