



Evaluation Data Report

Hierarchy and Leadership Working Group

Meeting One: April 25-27, 2013

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Hierarchy and Leadership Working Group, Meeting One Evaluation Data Report

Evaluation Design

Evaluation Questions

The evaluation of the working group was both formative and summative in nature, in that the data collected from participants was intended to both gain feedback from participants about the quality of the current working group and also to inform future meetings. Several questions constituted the foundation for the evaluation:

1. Were participants satisfied with the working group overall?
2. Did the meeting meet participant expectations?
3. Do participants feel the working group made adequate progress toward its stated goals?
4. Do participants feel they gained knowledge about the main issues related to the research problem?
5. Do participants feel they gained a better understanding of the research across disciplines related to the working group's research problem?
6. What impact do participants feel the working group will have on their future research?
7. Were participants satisfied with the accommodations offered by NIMBioS?
8. What changes in accommodations, group format, and/or content would participants like to see at future meetings?

Evaluation Procedures

An electronic survey aligned to the evaluation questions was designed by the NIMBioS Evaluation Coordinator with input from the NIMBioS Director and Deputy Director. The final instrument was hosted online via the University of Tennessee's online survey host, Qualitrics. Links to the survey were sent to 12 working group participants on April 29, 2013 (organizers were not asked to evaluate the meeting). Reminder emails were sent to non-responding participants on May 6 and 9, 2013. A total of 9 participants filled out the survey, for a response rate of 75%.

Evaluation Data

Respondent Satisfaction

Figure 1. Satisfaction with content and format of the working group

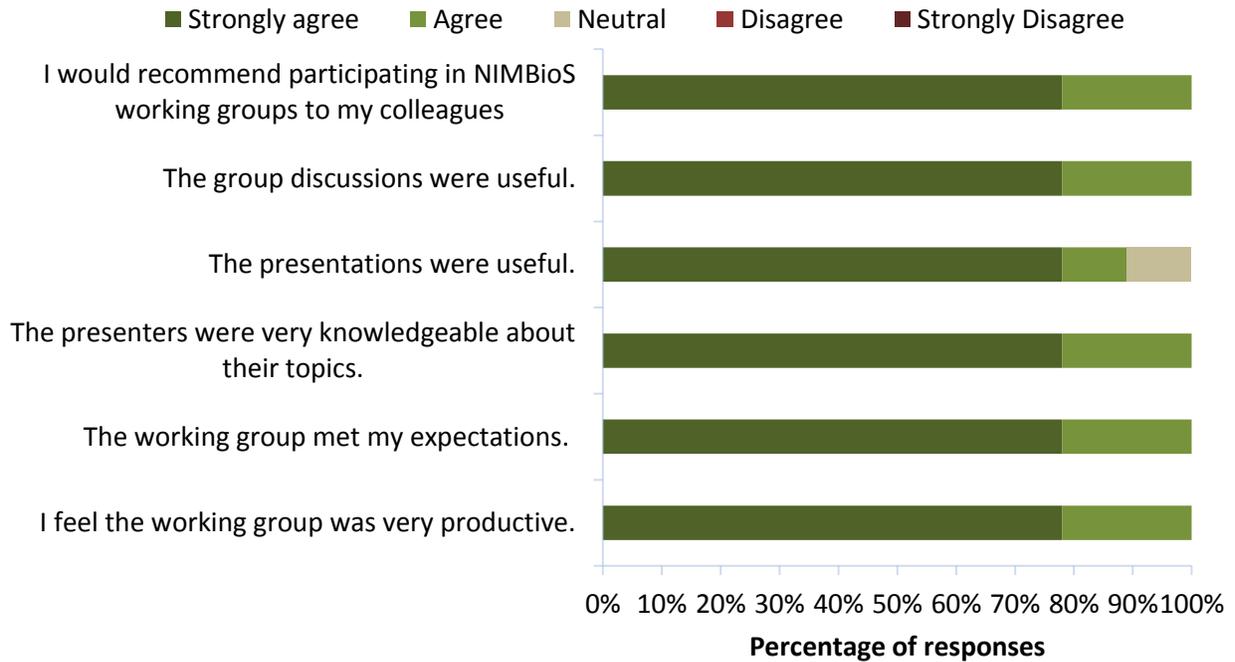
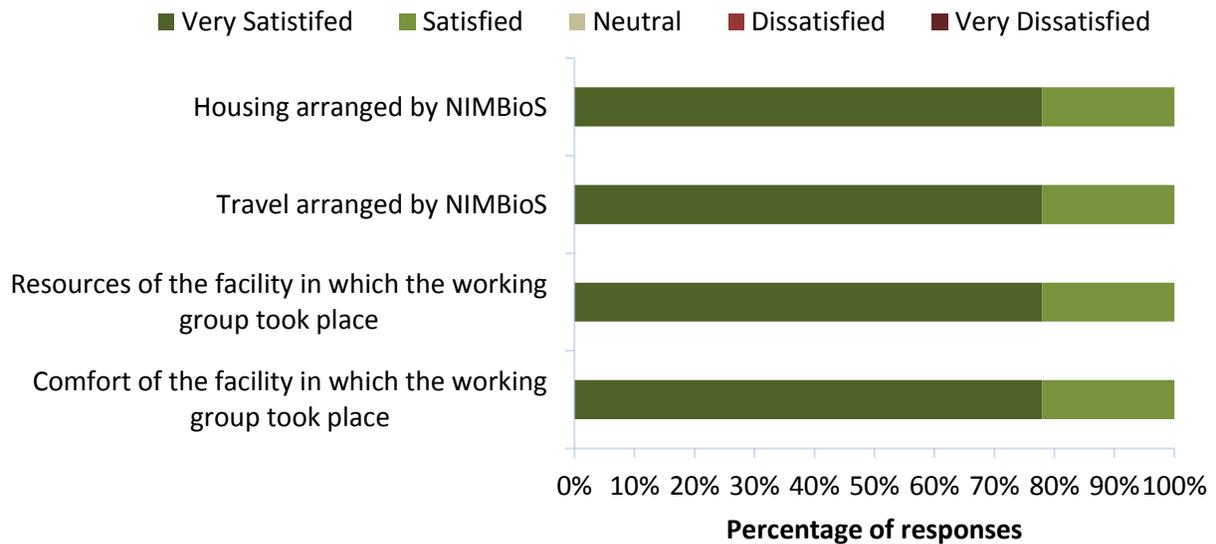


Figure 2. Satisfaction with working group accommodations

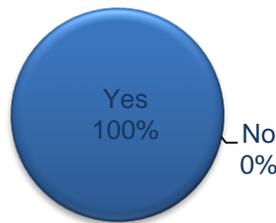


Suggestions for NIMBioS to improve the resources and/or accommodations available to working group participants:

No comments

Views of Group Progress

Figure 3. Do you feel the working group made adequate progress, for its first meeting, toward finding a common language across disciplines in the research area? (n = 7)



Comments about finding a common language:

No comments

Working Group Format and Content

Figure 4. Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area? (n = 7)

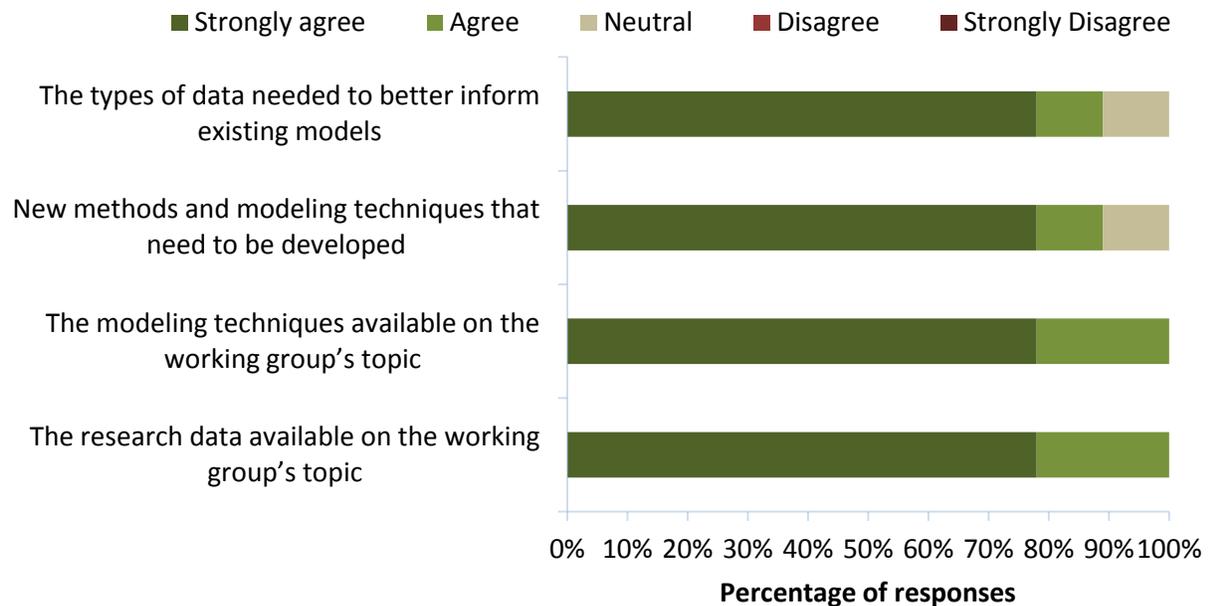


Comments about understanding research in other disciplines:

This could have been better though. I have participated in 2 NIMBioS working groups, and I think I had a clearer sense of direction leaving the 1st meeting of the other working group than I did this one. We're still not entirely sure how we want to define "leadership" and the "homework" aspect is not all that clear. I.e. we didn't make definite decisions about what needs to be done before we meet next.

Figure 5. Learning about issues related to the working group’s research problem

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



Most Useful Aspects of the Meeting

Free ranging discussions, and attempt to identify questions that are manageable.

Hearing from researchers whose perspective was quite different from my own (I am an applied mathematician, and was around anthropologists and primatologists).

It was a nice selection of people. I think we'll work well together.

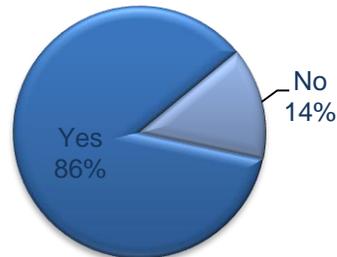
Presentations to understand which data are available and to learn where others are coming from; Informal lunch break and coffee break slots were extremely useful for conversations and to keep the momentum up.

Presentations, discussions, informal chat.

The diversity of research perspectives that were represented in the working group.

Impact on Future Research Plans

Figure 6. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will influence your future research? (n = 7)

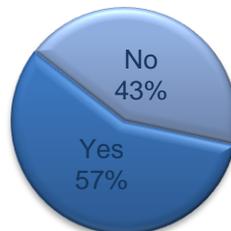


Comments about influence on future research:

I learned about a lot of unpublished research by participants that will help us achieve collaborative goals. We all have data sets that will be useful to one another, and that can be used for new goals in addition to those for which we originally collected these data.

Not sure yet.

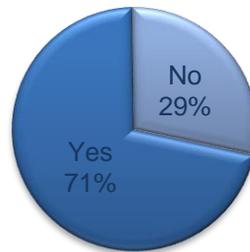
Figure 7. Did you develop plans for collaborative research with working group participants with whom you have not previously collaborated? (n=7)



Comments about plans for collaborative research:

Not yet but probably will in future meetings

Figure 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)? (n = 7)



Comments about understanding what is expected of working group members:

As I said in my previous answer, this aspect could have been better.

Suggestions for Future Meetings

A bit more opportunity for "break out" sessions in which new research questions could be very concretely nailed down.

I do think we'll have to make our goals a bit more concrete during the next meeting if we want to have publications soon after the final meeting.

Specific assignments of tasks and expectations for the next meeting were articulated but more specific details would have been helpful;

Additional Comments about working group

A productive first meeting, but a bit hard to see yet exactly what we can achieve, even though some good ideas were discussed.

A very promising start!

Very nice experience - I am looking forward to further group meetings.

Appendix

Hierarchy and Leadership Working Group Evaluation Survey

Hierarchy and Leadership Group Survey

Thank you for taking a moment to complete this survey. Your responses will be used to improve the working groups hosted by the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis. Information supplied on the survey will be confidential, and results will be reported only in the aggregate.

Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this working group: (Very satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied)

I feel the working group was very productive.

The working group met my expectations.

The presenters were very knowledgeable about their topics.

The presentations were useful.

The group discussions were useful

I would recommend participating in NIMBioS working groups to my colleagues.

Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

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

(Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree)

the research data available on the working group's topic

the modeling techniques available on the working group's topic

the types of data needed to better inform existing models

new methods and modeling techniques that need to be developed

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

Yes

No

Comments:

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

Yes

No

Comments:

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)?

Yes

No

Comments:

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

Yes

No

Please explain:

Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants with whom you had not previously collaborated?

Yes

No

Please explain:

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

What would you have changed about the working group?

How do you feel about the format of the working group?

This was a very effective format for achieving our goals

This was not a very effective format for achieving our goals ->

The working group format would have been more effective if:

Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the working group accommodations:

(Very satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied)

Travel arranged by NIMBioS

Housing arranged by NIMBioS

Comfort of the facility in which the working group took place

Resources of the facility in which the working group took place

Please indicate any changes NIMBioS can make to improve the resources and/or accommodations available to working group participants:

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