

NARST 2016 Annual International Conference Survey Report

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Introduction

In July 2016 two surveys were conducted by the Immediate Past President of NARST: A Worldwide Organization for Improving Science Teaching and Learning Through Research. The purpose of the first survey was to evaluate the experiences of those who participated in the 2016 NARST Annual International Conference in Baltimore, MD. After the 2016 NARST Annual International Conference, participants were asked to complete an anonymous SurveyMonkey questionnaire, consisting of nine questions. Data were downloaded from SurveyMonkey on July 18, July 25, and August 1, 2016.

Survey Question #1: Did you attend one of the NARST Pre-Conference Workshops? (If you answer "No", please skip to Question #3).

This question was asked to 141 participants; 137 participants answered and 4 participants skipped this question. Out of 137 responses, 30 participants (21.9%) attended one of the NARST Pre-Conference Workshops, and 107 participants (78.1%) did not attend any of the NARST Pre-Conference Workshops.

Did you attend one of the NARST Pre-Conference Workshops?			
	Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		21.9%	30
No		78.1%	107

Table 1. Responses to Survey Question #1

¹ With support from Randy Yerrick

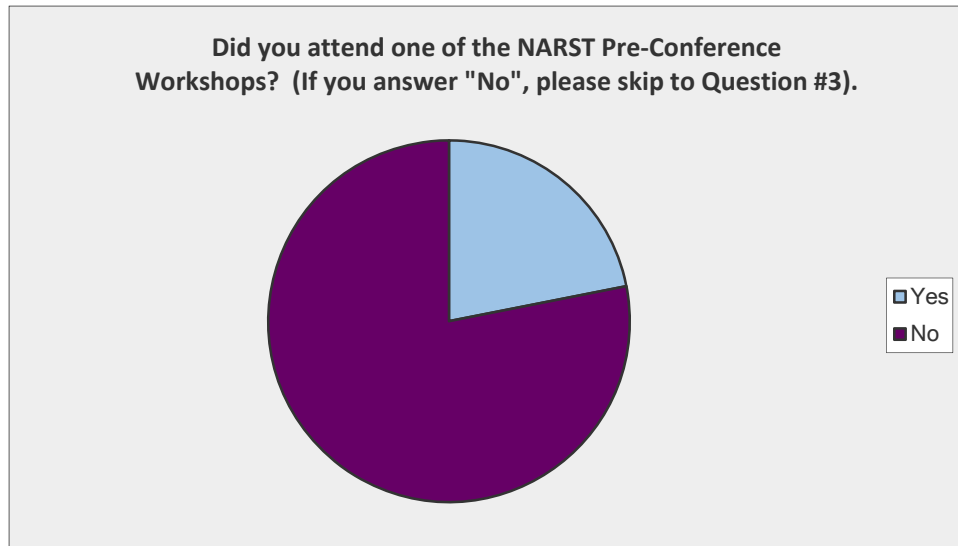


Figure 1. Graphical Representation of the Responses to Survey Question #1

Survey Question #2: Please evaluate the Pre-Conference Workshop you attended. For workshops you were not present for, leave the option "did not attend."

The participants who attended to one of the NARST Pre-Conference Workshops were asked to evaluate the Pre-Conference Workshop they had attended. The participants were categorized into seven groups, and responses were grouped based on the workshops attended.

1. Seven participants evaluated the first workshop—Equity and Ethics Committee: Toward Equity & Justice: Scientific Literacy as a Human Right. Three of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop very good and four of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop excellent.
2. One participant evaluated the second workshop—Research Committee: Supporting the Success of Latin Scholars in Science Education Research Committee; that participant found the Pre-Conference Workshop excellent.
3. Eight participants evaluated the third workshop—Research Committee: Videocase-based, Analysis-of-Practice for Teacher and Student Learning: How To's from a 10-year Line of Research. Five of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop very good and three of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop excellent.
4. Four participants evaluated the fourth workshop—Research Committee: Science and Art-Research for Creativity and Inclusion Research Committee. Two of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop very good and two of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop excellent.

5. Three participants evaluated the fifth workshop—Research Committee: Building an Equity-Focused Knowledge Base for NGSS by Fostering Partnerships between Research and Practice. Two of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop very good and one of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop excellent.
6. Four participants evaluated the sixth workshop—Publication Advisory Committee and NSTA Research Committee: Publishing for Practitioner Audiences – Disseminating Your Research to Create Broader Impacts. One of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop poor, two of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop satisfactory, and one of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop excellent.
7. Eight participants evaluated the seventh workshop—International Committee: How to Conduct Cross-culture Science Education Research International Committee. One of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop poor, two of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop satisfactory, four of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop very good, and one of them found the Pre-Conference Workshop excellent.

Please evaluate the Pre-Conference Workshop you attended.						
Answer Options	Did not attend	Poor	Satisfactory	Very Good	Excellent	Response Count
<u>#1: Equity and Ethics Committee</u> Toward Equity & Justice: Scientific Literacy as a Human Right	60	0	0	3	4	67
<u>#2: Research Committee</u> Supporting the Success of Latin@ Scholars in Science Education	61	0	0	0	1	62
<u>#3: Research Committee</u> Videocase-based, Analysis-of- Practice for Teacher and Student Learning: How To's from a 10- year Line of Research.	58	0	0	5	3	66
<u>#4: Research Committee</u> Science and Art-Research for Creativity and Inclusion	58	0	0	2	2	62

#5: Research Committee

Building an Equity-Focused Knowledge Base for NGSS by Fostering Partnerships between Research and Practice.

61 0 0 2 1 64

#6: Publication Advisory Committee and NSTA Research Committee

Publishing for Practitioner Audiences – Disseminating Your Research to Create Broader Impacts.

59 1 2 0 1 63

#7: International Committee

How to Conduct Cross-culture Science Education Research.

55 1 2 4 1 63

Table 2. Responses to Survey Question #2

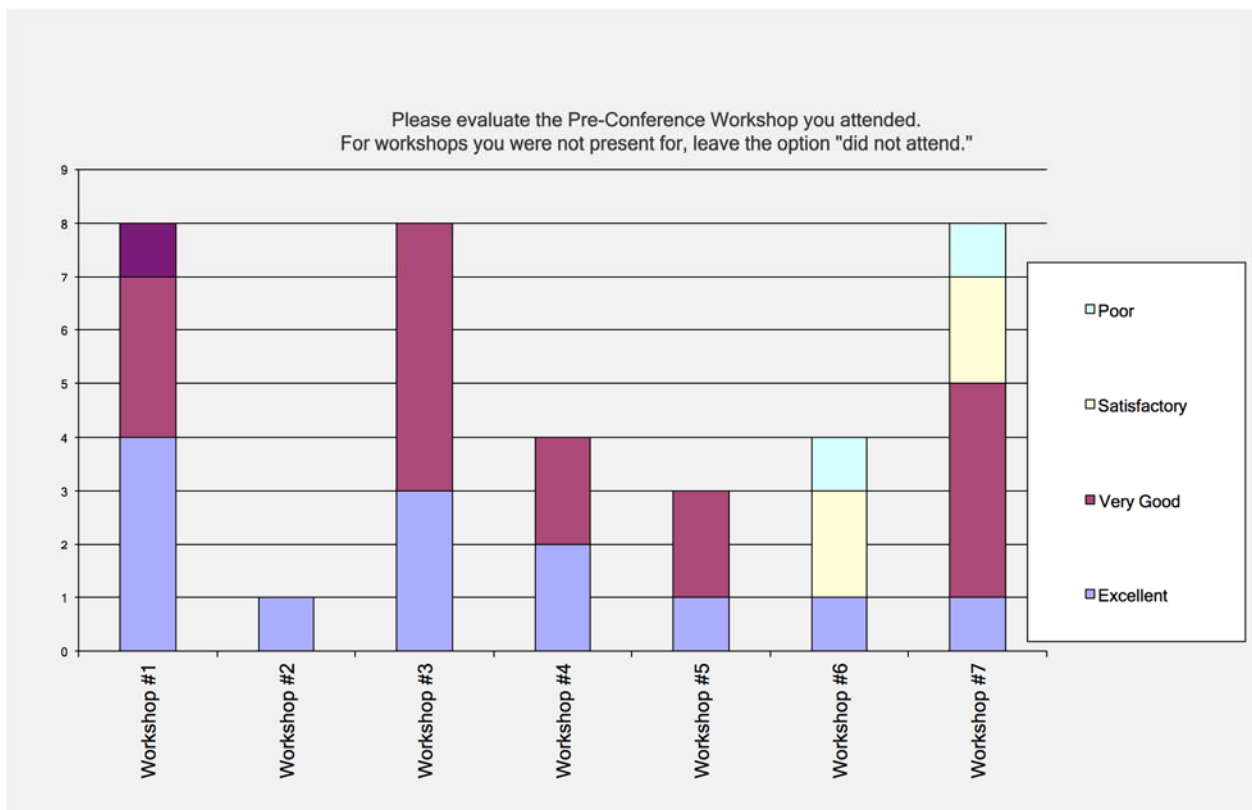


Figure 2. Graphical Representation of the Responses to Survey Question #2

Survey Question #3: Please evaluate the Plenary Sessions you attended. For sessions you were not present for, leave the option "did not attend."

Participants were also asked to evaluate the Plenary Sessions they attended. One hundred and nineteen participants answered this question, and 22 participants skipped it. Seventy-eight participants did not attend plenary speaker Arnetha F. Ball’s session *Equity, Justice and Generativity in Education Research for Quality Teaching and Learning*. Of those who attended this session, seven found the plenary session poor; 19 found it satisfactory; 10 found it very good; and five found it excellent. Eighty-seven participants did not attend the plenary session presented by André Green, Nam-Hwa, Kang, Femi Otulaja, and Ingrid Sánchez Tapia. Of those who attended this session, two found the plenary panel session poor, 16 found it satisfactory, six found it very good, and three found it excellent.

Please evaluate the Plenary Sessions you attended. For sessions you were not present for, leave the option "did not attend."						
Answer Options	Did not attend	Poor	Satisfactory	Very Good	Excellent	Response Count
Plenary Speaker:						
Arnetha F. Ball and Learning.	78	7	19	10	5	119
Plenary Panel Session	87	2	16	6	3	114

Table 3. Responses to Survey Question #3

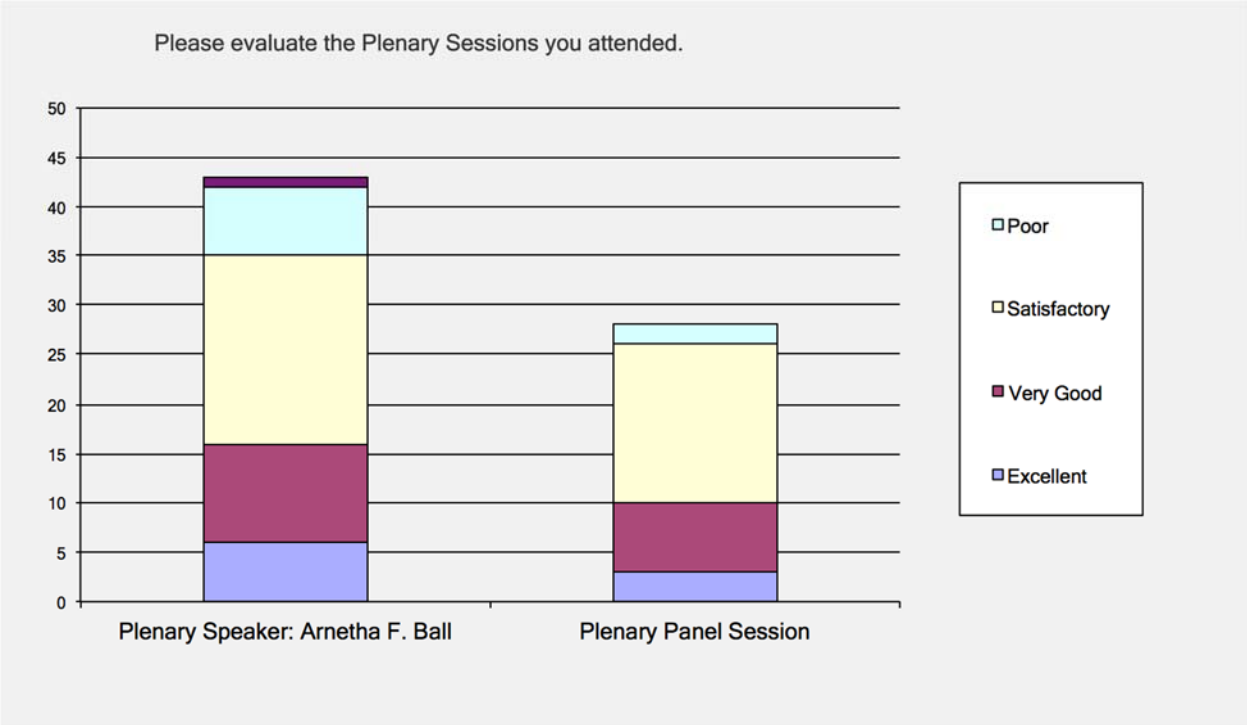


Figure 3. Graphical Representation of the Responses to Survey Question #3

Survey Question #4: Please evaluate the Awards Luncheon (if you attended).

The participants were also asked to evaluate the Awards Luncheon. One hundred and twenty-three participants answered this question, and 18 participants skipped it. Thirty-three participants had not attended the Awards Luncheon; of those who attended the luncheon, 15 found it poor, 41 found it satisfactory, 22 found it very good, and eight found it excellent.

Please evaluate the Awards Luncheon (if you attended).						
Answer Options	Did not attend	Poor	Satisfactory	Very Good	Excellent	Response Count
The Awards Luncheon (food, service, flow of session) was:	37	15	41	22	8	123

Table 4. Responses to Survey Question #4

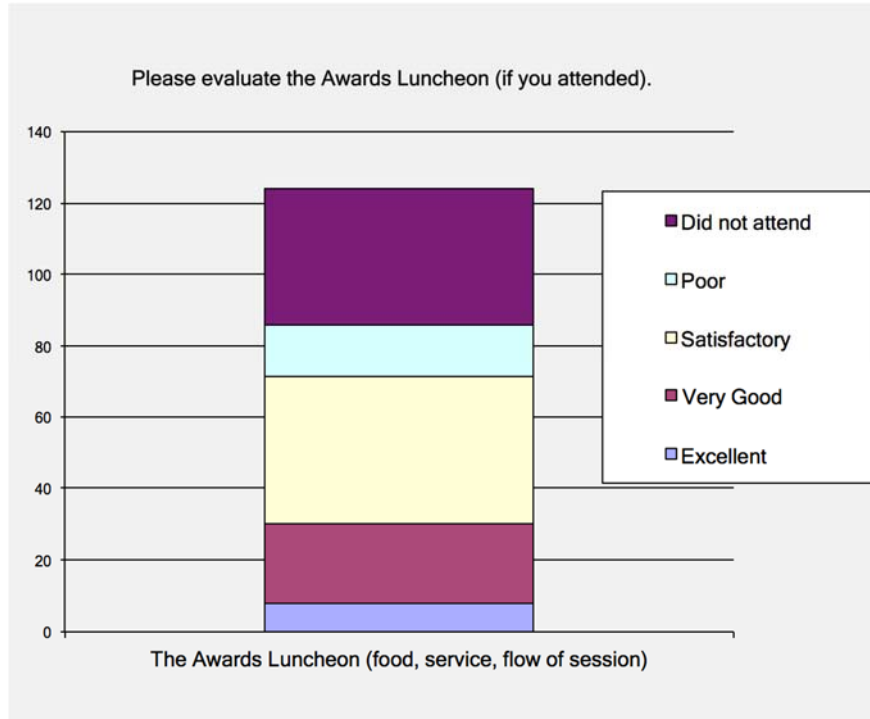


Figure 4. Graphical Representation of the Responses to Survey Question #4

Survey Question #5: I concur that the NARST Board Members should receive their plaques at the Awards Luncheon.

Moreover, the participants were asked to evaluate whether NARST Board Members should receive their plaques at the Awards Luncheon. One hundred and twenty-six participants answered this question, and fifteen participants skipped it. Sixty-two participants (49.2%) agreed that NARST Board Members should receive their plaques at the Awards Luncheon; 12 participants (9.5%) disagreed; and 52 participants (41.3%) were neutral on this issue.

I concur that the NARST Board Members should receive their plaques at the Awards Luncheon.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Agree	49.2%	62
Disagree	9.5%	12
Neutral	41.3%	52

Table 5. Responses to Survey Question #5

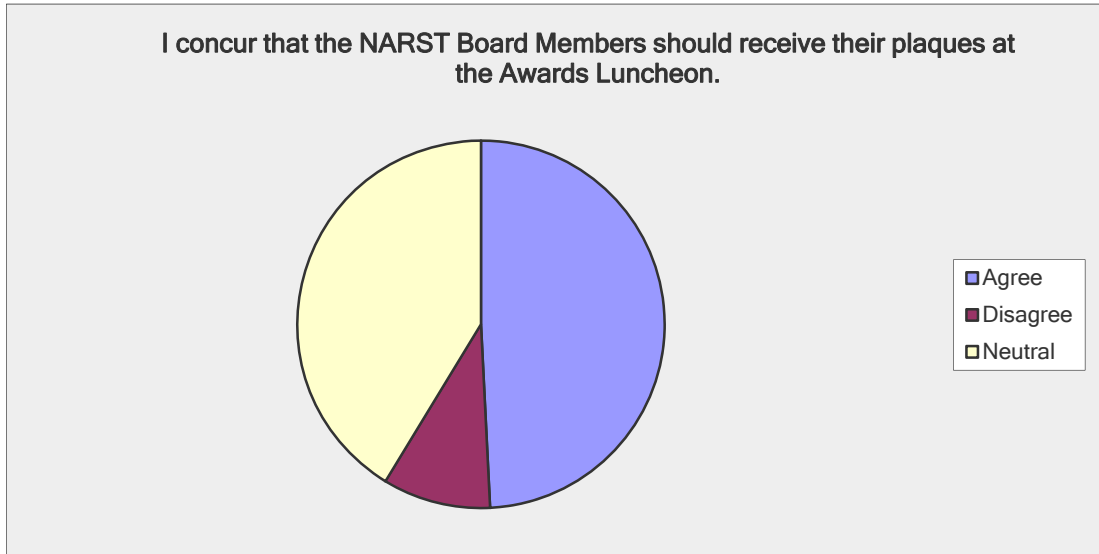


Figure 5. Graphical Representation of the Responses to Survey Question #5

Survey Question #6: I concur that the committee meetings should be scheduled later than 7:00 a.m.

Moreover, the participants were asked whether the committee meetings should be scheduled later than 7:00 a.m. One hundred and twenty-six participants answered this question, and 15 participants skipped it. Seventy-three participants (57.9%) agreed that committee meetings should be scheduled later than 7:00 a.m.; 12 participants (9.5%) disagreed, and 41 participants (32.5%) were neutral on this issue.

I concur that the committee meetings should be scheduled later than 7:00 a.m. in the morning.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Agree	57.9%	73
Disagree	9.5%	12
Neutral	32.5%	41

Table 6. Responses to Survey Question #6

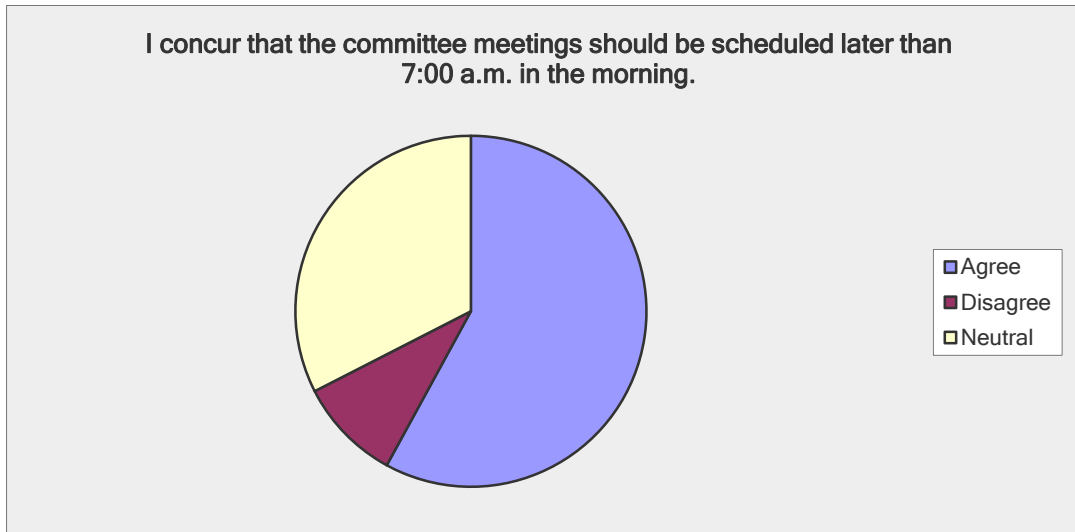


Figure 6. Graphical Representation of the Responses to Survey Question #6

Survey Question #7: Overall, the conference venue for the NARST 2016 Annual International Conference was...

The question about the venue for the NARST 2016 Annual International Conference was evaluated by 126 participants, and skipped by 15 participants. Out of 126 responses, five participants (4.0%) found the conference venue poor; 47 participants (37.3%) found it satisfactory, 50 participants (39.7%) found it very good, 23 participants (18.3%) found it excellent, and one participant (0.8%) responded “not applicable.”

Overall, the conference venue for the NARST 2016 Annual International Conference was...		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Poor	4.0%	5
Satisfactory	37.3%	47
Very Good	39.7%	50
Excellent	18.3%	23
N/A	0.8%	1

Table 7. Responses to Survey Question #7

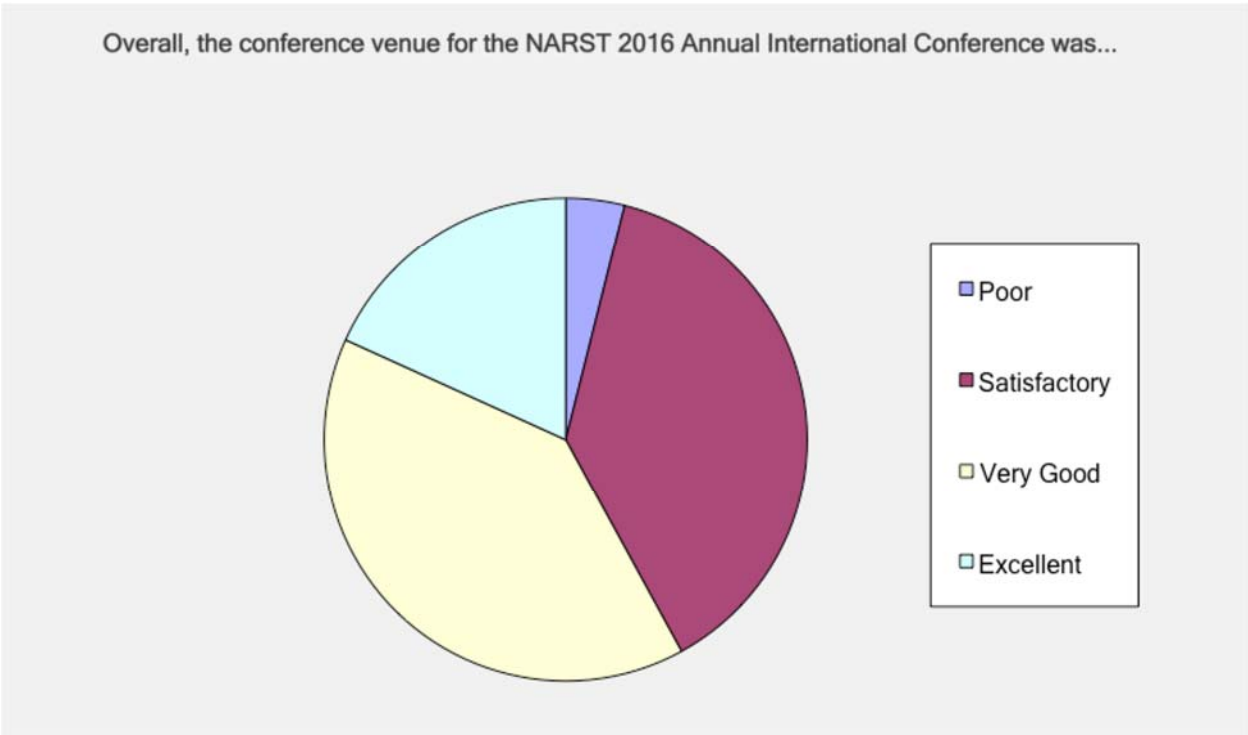


Figure 7. Graphical Representation of the Responses to Survey Question #7

Survey Question #8 (Open Response): What aspects of the 2016 Annual International Conference did you most like and would like to see retained?

Additionally, the participants were asked what aspects of the 2016 Annual International Conference they most liked and would like to see retained. This open-ended question was answered by 71 participants (50.4%), and skipped by 70 participants (49.6%). The responses can be categorized into three groups: session types, networking, and venue.

Open Response: What aspects of the 2016 Annual International Conference did you most like and would like to see retained?	
Answer Options	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	71
<i>skipped question</i>	70

Table 8. Responses to Survey Question #8

Responses to Question #8 can be categorized into three groups: sessions, networking, and venue. Furthermore, sessions were categorized into two subgroups based on the types of sessions and the format of the sessions. These categories were formed based on the most frequently mentioned items that participants liked the most and would like to see retained. Only a few responses did not fit into any of the categories above and were consequently excluded.

(1) Sessions

Overall, participants liked the variety and coordination of poster and paper sessions and the quality of presentations in those sessions.

(a) Types of Sessions

Sessions that participants commented positively on were grouped into four types: plenary sessions, poster sessions, parallel sessions, and Research Interest Groups (RIGs). In terms of the plenary sessions, one participant said, "I would like only having one plenary. But I would like NARST to return to plenary sessions that apply to all in attendance. In recent years the plenary sessions have focused on special interest groups and have rarely been of interest to international members." The following comment was made regarding the poster sessions: "The conference was well organized with a variety of sessions. I particularly enjoyed the poster paper presentations because of the opportunity to dialogue one on one with the presenters." The comment "Interesting parallel sessions. Especially NGSE [sic] symposia" was made regarding the parallel sessions and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) symposia. The comment "RIG meetings and technical sessions were good. Often the room for Strand 11 sessions were [sic] too small while other strands were very large" was made regarding RIGs and technical sessions.

(b) Format of the Sessions

Participants responded favorably to the topics, the format of the presentations, and the schedule with regard to the sessions. In terms of topics, one participant stated, "There was a good variety of sessions and topics presented." Regarding the format and the quality of presentations, one participant said, "I liked the multiple formats of the presentations, including traditional presentations and posters. I would keep this the same," and another participant said, "I love sessions that allow presenters and attendees to actually engage in conversation. Is there a way to adjust the number of presenters per session or the amount of time per

presentation?” With regard to the schedule of the presentations, the participants responded positively: For example, participants identified “the poster session times” and “variety of workshop/seminars” as aspects they liked.

(2) Networking

The conference provided an opportunity to network through a variety of different kinds of sessions. Participants responded favorably to coffee breaks, social activities, the Sandra K. Abell (SKAI) session, pre-conference workshops, the Graduate Student Forum, the president’s reception, the committee meetings, the opening reception, the Awards Luncheon, the mentor-mentee nexus, the Equity and Ethics dinner cruise, and the Fun Run. The following are comments and suggestions from participants:

- “The Ph.D. student gathering was valuable. It would be beneficial to increase the opportunities for Ph.D. students to network in informal settings over the course of the conference as well.”
- “I enjoyed the later times to meet with the committee's. I also enjoyed the new format of the mini course which was very exciting.”
- “Committee meetings later in the day. Please retain the luncheon. Appreciated committee members being acknowledged at the luncheon.”

(3) Venue

The location of the international annual conference is always a concern to the NARST Executive Board. Hence, it is important to determine the opinions of the participants related to the location of the conference, the hotel, and the facilities at the hotel. Participants liked the hotel, the Equity & Ethics committee cruise, and the city, writing the following kinds of comments about the venue in Baltimore, Maryland:

- “Greatly enjoyed the harbor locale of Baltimore.”
- “Nice venue hotel, nice people to talk to.”
- “The location was great - keep up choosing good spots.”
- “Good location with multiple options for lodging and food.”

Survey Question #9 (Open Response): What aspects of the 2016 Annual International Conference did you most dislike and would like to see changed?

The other open-ended question asked what aspects of the 2016 Annual International Conference the participants most disliked and would like to see changed. The question was answered by 74 participants (52.5%) and skipped by 67 participants (47.5%).

Open Response: What aspects of the 2016 Annual International Conference did you most dislike and would like to see changed?	
Answer Options	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>	74
<i>skipped question</i>	67

Table 9. Responses to Survey Question #9

It is very important to determine what aspects of the international annual conference the participants disliked and would like to have changed. Responses to this question can be categorized into three groups: the awards luncheon, sessions, and technology. Only a small number of responses did not fit into one of these categories and were excluded.

(1) Awards luncheon

Participants criticized the length of the award luncheon. For instance, participants responded negatively to the following aspects of the award luncheon: “The luncheon is quite boring - it would be nice to change it; adding some interactive pieces”; “Awards Luncheon went longer than scheduled, making it difficult to get to the next sessions”; and “Awards luncheon: it went very long this year. Exiting Board members should get plaques during the luncheon. I would like to see the President conduct the luncheon rather than the executive director. The Presidential team and Board should have more visibility than the executive director.”

(2) Sessions

Limited interaction with presenters and limited space were the problems participants mentioned the most regarding the sessions.

The following are some comments regarding the limited space:

- “The hotel venue was a little cramped in the open areas, kind of difficult to get around quickly between sessions.”

- “Some sessions, particularly the topics on race, diversity and culture had small spaces to conduct the sessions. This was discouraging given the need and the topic of equity only to find that other sessions were given a noticeable priority compared to others in terms of assigned room space.”
- “Some popular presentations should have been scheduled in larger rooms”
- “The poster session presentations was [sic] particularly hard for me to see because there were so many in such a tight space. Some of the rooms in the program did not coordinate with the sessions and I noticed that the rooms with critical presentations got less chairs and space than others. I want to see more critical work being presented.”

Moreover, a number of participants made comments on the topic of the limited interaction:

- “It is difficult to navigate and interact with presenters at the poster session. How might the sessions be organized in a way that allows conversation?”
- “I think some of the strands (e.g., strand 6) have become quite large and over the capacity of the rooms. During some sessions, people had to sit on the floor because the rooms were so full. It seems necessary to move some of the strands that are more popular to larger rooms. I also would welcome more networking opportunities.”
- “Not enough time for interactions (formal and informal) with the presenters.”
- “The poster sessions were crowded and loud. It was hard to have conversations and get through the crowds.”

(3) Technology

Some participants requested computers for the presentations and richer presentation opportunities:

- “I most disliked not existing a computer for reflecting our presentations in every salon and I would also disliked to not existing lunch during the conference. I would like to see changed these situations”
- “The presentation setup is poorly designed.”
- “Purchase presentation software and computers that can be set up at the conference center, so talks can be centrally uploaded and distributed on the network.”