

To: Faculty Senate

Fr: Thomas Borchert, President of the Faculty Senate, on behalf of the Executive Council

Re: recommendation concerning Senate representation

In December 2021, the Senate passed a resolution concerning how Senate representation is allocated. Senate representation is tied to Departmental faculty numbers and changes as Departments change and consolidate, sometimes having the unintended consequence of reducing representation in the Senate. The charge of the resolution was as follows:

Therefore, the Faculty Senate Executive Council shall appoint a study committee to consider the processes by which faculty representation is determined and allotted within the Senate. This study committee should bring a report back to the Executive Council and the full Senate no later than the October 2022 meeting so that it might consider changes to the bylaws in time for the 2023-2024 academic year. (Full resolution available [here](#))

In order to fulfill the charge of this resolution, the FS Executive Council tasked Immediate Past President of the Faculty Senate, Christopher Burns, and Laurie Eddy, Faculty Senate Coordinator, to gather information about Senate representation at UVM and also at other Universities. The FS EC discussed these matters on four different occasions during the course of its Spring Semester meetings. In the September meeting, we discussed Senate representation in relation to the charts that we are sharing with you today.

There are a few factors that we want to highlight.

- CAS and LCOM each comprise about 1/3 of the Senate, with the remainder of the units comprising the remaining 1/3.
- No single unit has the capacity to force through any resolution on its own, but must convince Senators in multiple units. The majority of the votes in the Senate pass by a substantial majority, and do not follow College lines.
- There is a provision for the President to vote in case of a tie, but in recent memory, the President has not been called on to vote.

It is also worth noting that there are both over and under representations currently in place regarding a unit's representation as a percentage of the Senate. For example, CAS is currently comprised of about 20% of the Faculty, but holds 30% of the Senate seats. The same is true of CALS (4% gap), Grossman, CNHS, and CEMS which all have a 2% gap. On the other hand LCOM faculty comprise 49% of the Faculty and 32% of the Senate. However, attempts to achieve strictly proportionate representation add complexity in other ways, and as described above, the current system has been functioning well in many respects.

Our recommendation to the Senate is that we take no action in the current moment to change our method of representation. We acknowledge that there is a fluctuation in representation, and this could have an effect on the organization of the Senate, but we do not see that happening in the near to mid-term. Should conditions change, we can reopen this question.

Resolution for Reconsideration of the Allocation of Senate Representation

Whereas the University of Vermont is in the midst of a variety of conversations about how the university is organized; and

Whereas even while broad-scale university reorganization is unlikely in the near term, several units have proposed or enacted changes to the organizations of departments, including the creation of a larger Department of Education in CESS, the combination of Geography and Geology into a new department of Geography and Geophysical Sciences in CAS, the movement of Speech and Debate into the Department of English in CAS, the proposed School of the Arts in CAS; and

Whereas representation is determined by departments within units (CBL 2.3); and

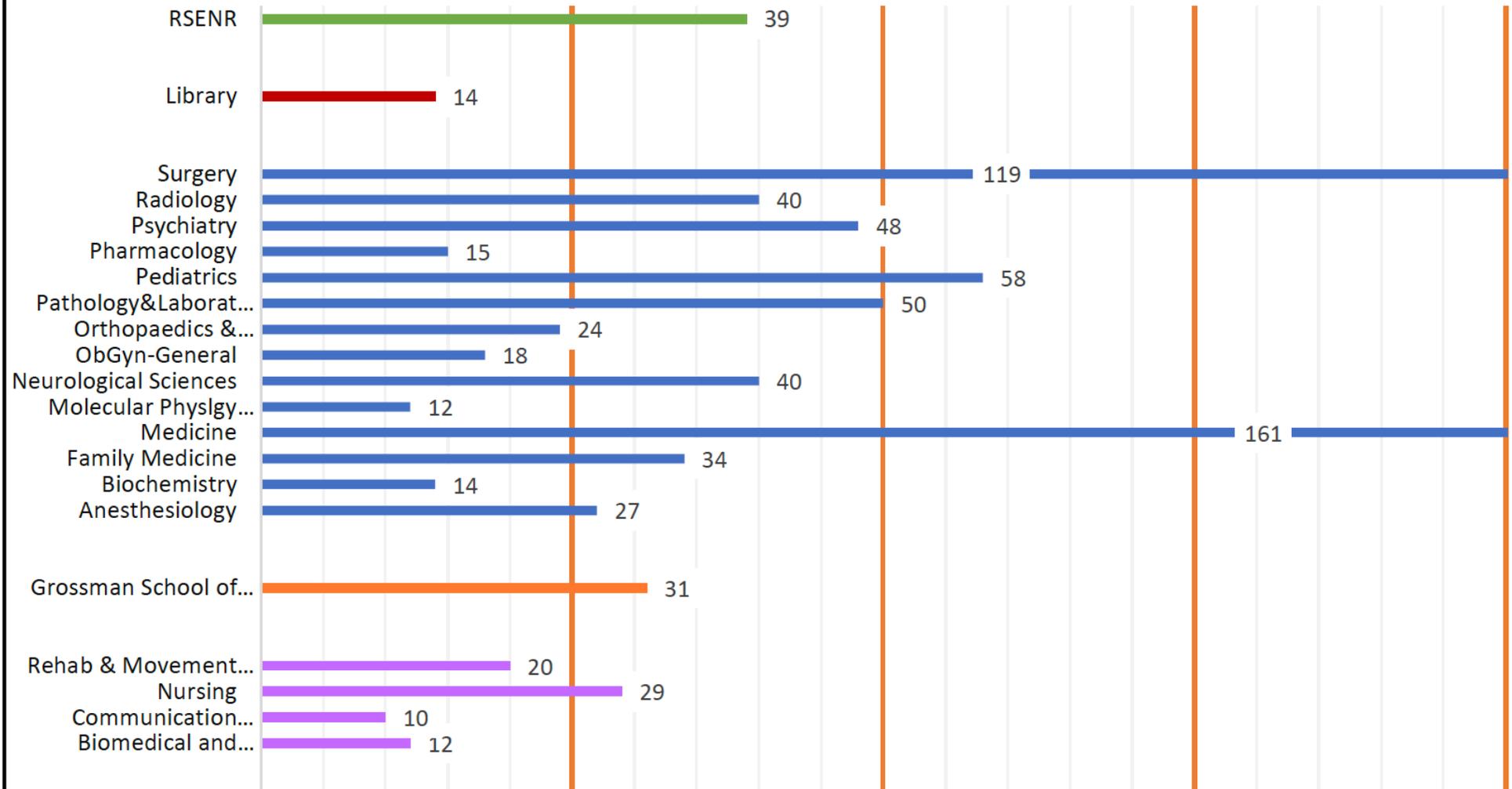
Whereas the changes to departments have or will result in changes to Senate representation; and

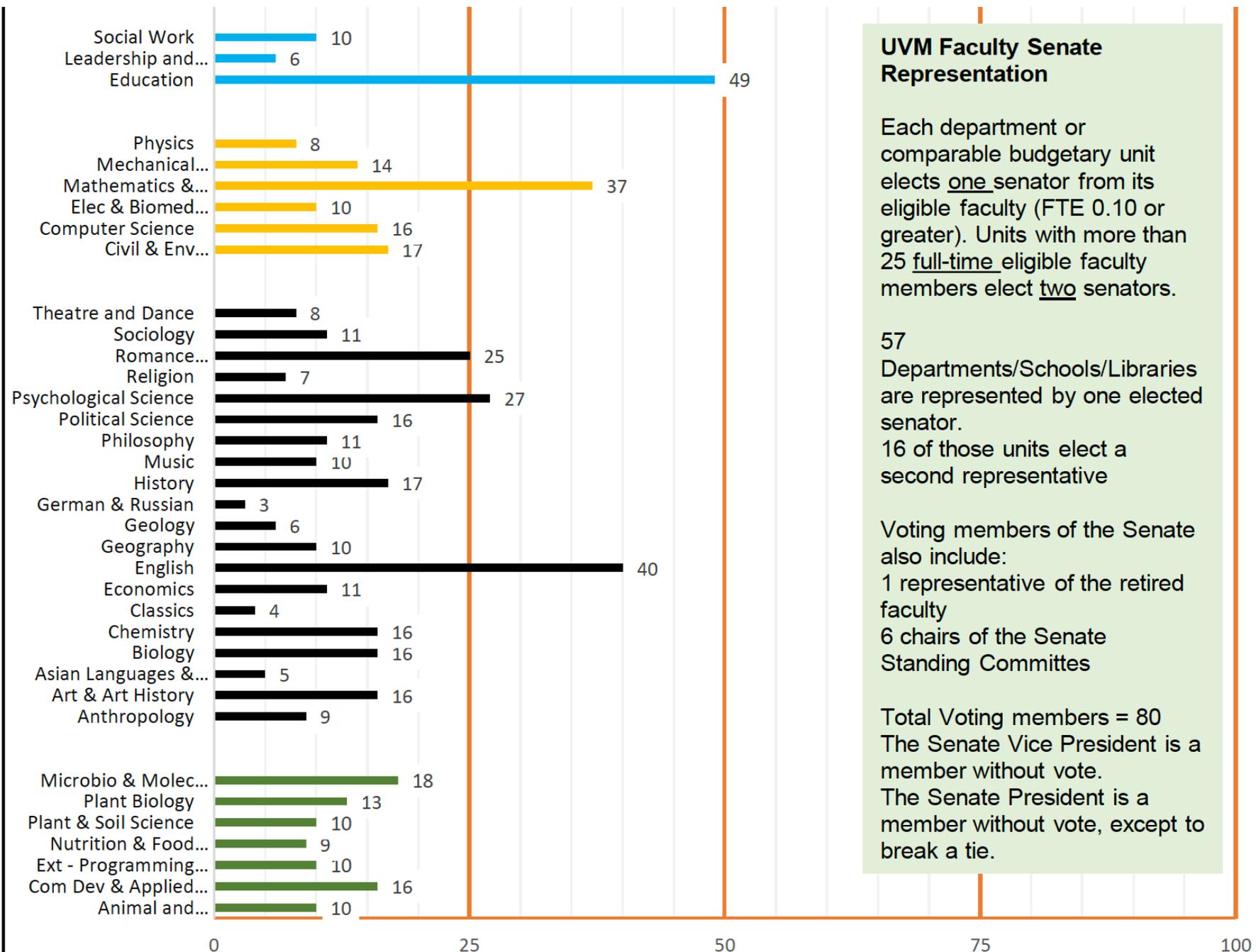
Whereas Colleges and Schools determine their organization in ways that are not consistent across the University; and

Whereas the changes to departmental organization may inadvertently reduce faculty representation in the Senate,

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Full-Time Faculty Members by Department/School/Library AY2022-2023





UVM Faculty Senate Representation

Each department or comparable budgetary unit elects one senator from its eligible faculty (FTE 0.10 or greater). Units with more than 25 full-time eligible faculty members elect two senators.

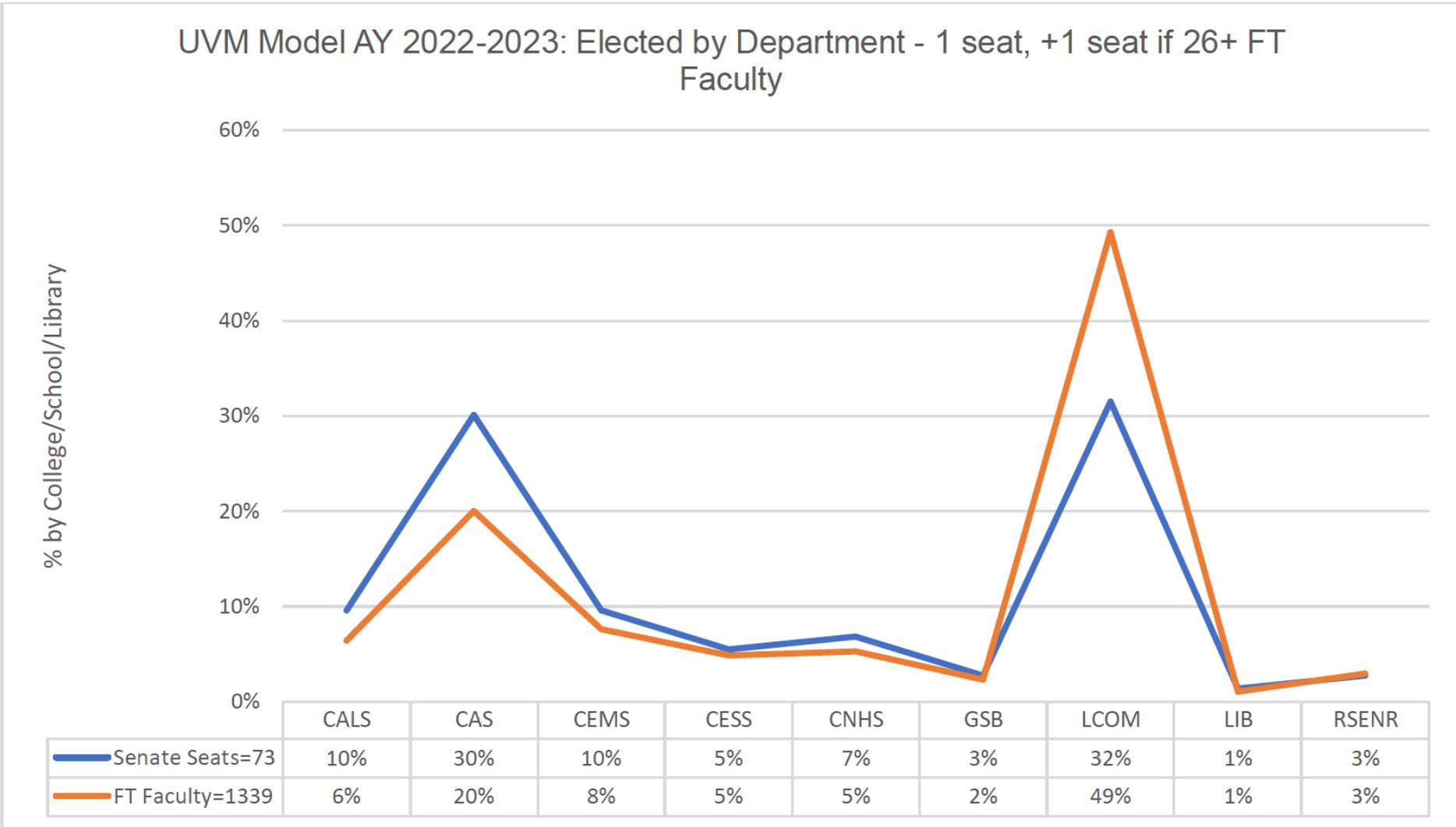
57 Departments/Schools/Libraries are represented by one elected senator. 16 of those units elect a second representative

Voting members of the Senate also include:
 1 representative of the retired faculty
 6 chairs of the Senate Standing Committes

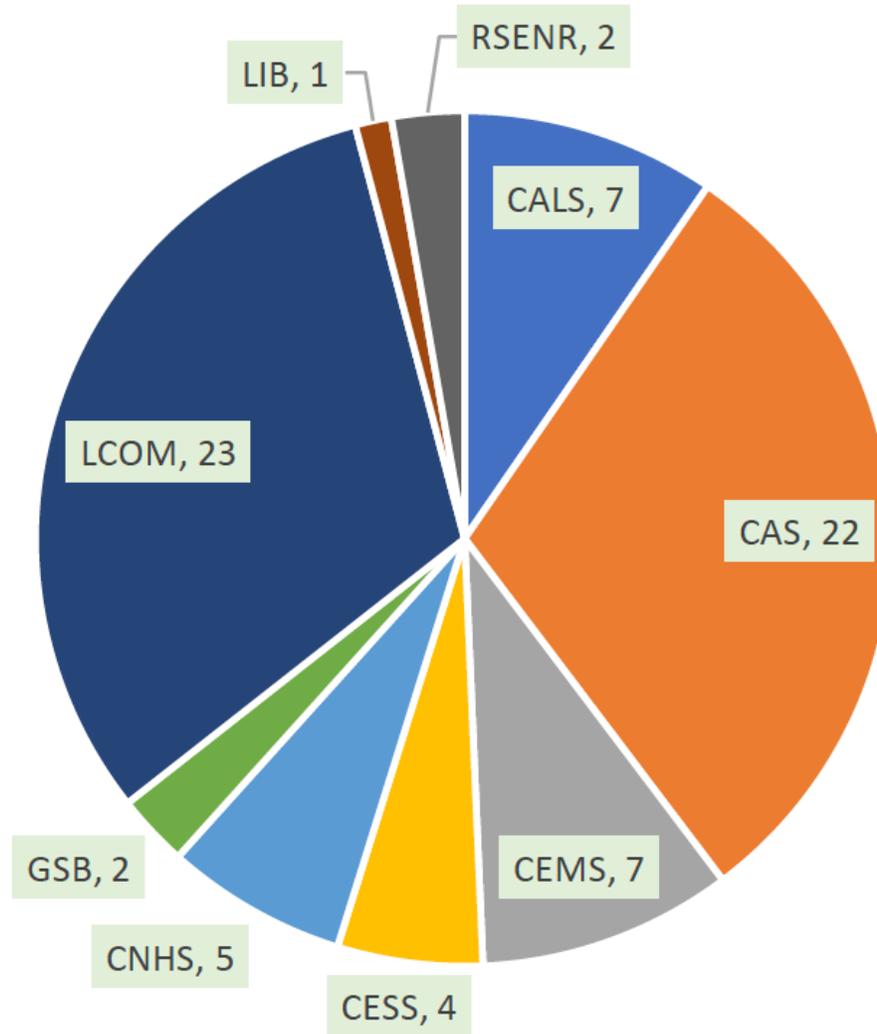
Total Voting members = 80
 The Senate Vice President is a member without vote.
 The Senate President is a member without vote, except to break a tie.

UVM Model: AY 2022-2023 Each Department elects 1 seat. Departments with 26+ FT Faculty elect a second seat.

Seat Changes in AY 22-23: Physics moved from CAS to CEMS; additional seats added to Nursing and Psychological Science. Total Elected Senate seats = 73



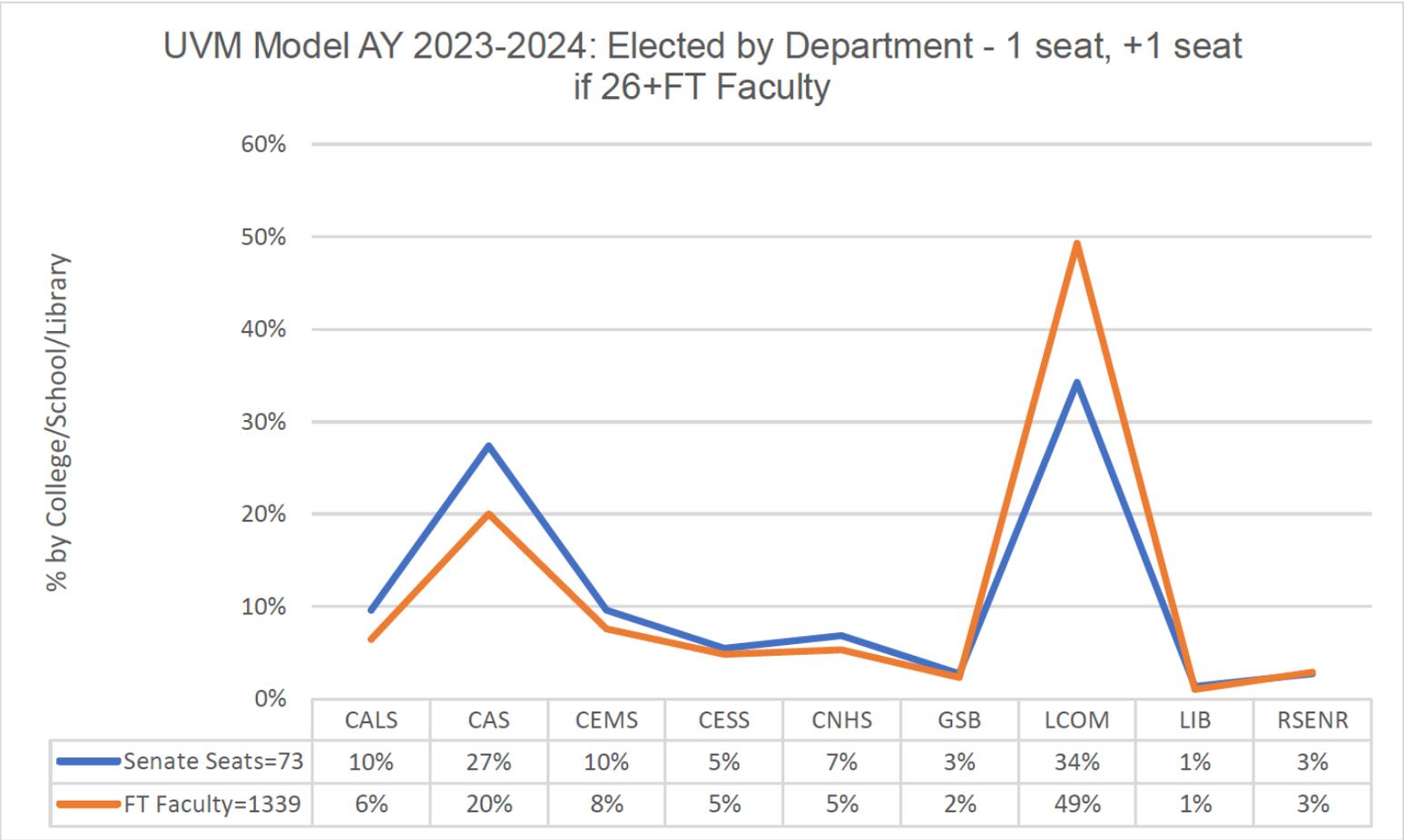
UVM Model: AY 22-23 # Seats by College/School/Library
Total Seats = 73



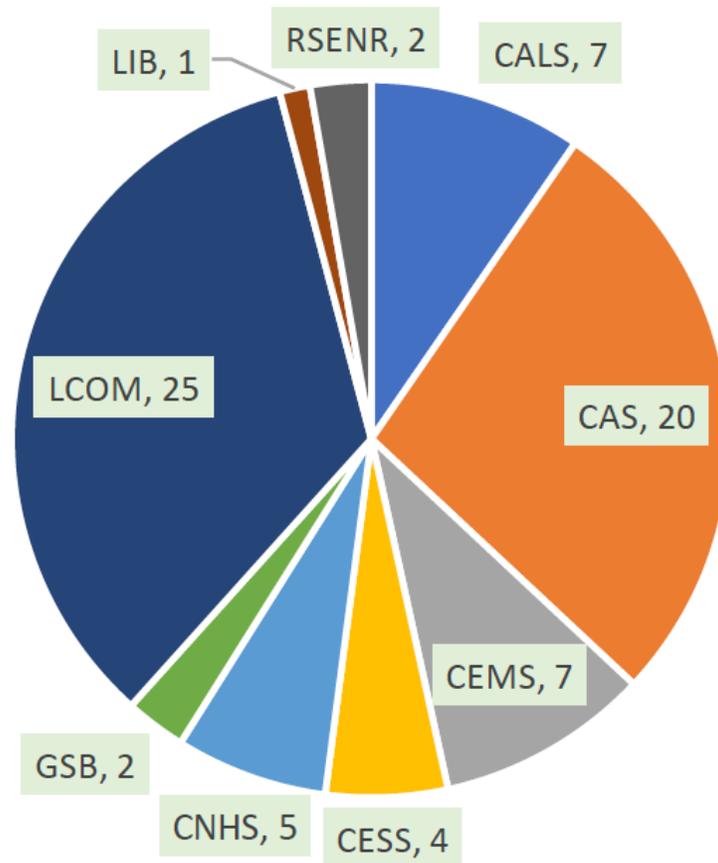
UVM Model: AY 2023-2024 Each Department elects 1 seat. Departments with 26+ FT Faculty elect a second seat.

Seat changes AY 2023-2024:

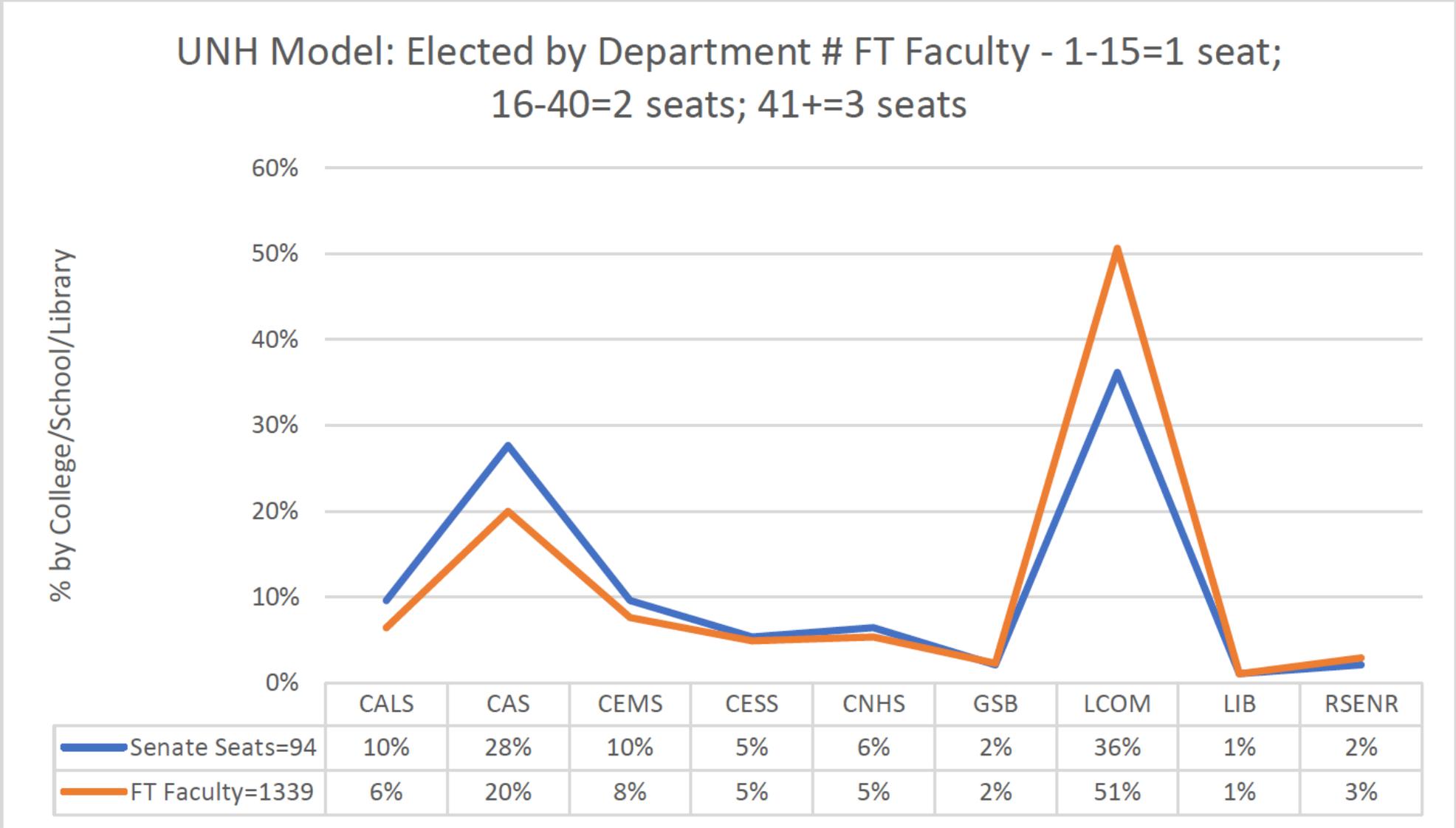
- CAS: Add 3 seats (2 seats for School of the Arts, 1 seat Dept of Geography & Geosciences). Remove 5 seats (1 seat each for Depts of Art & Art History, Geography, Geology, Music, Theatre & Dance)
- LCOM: Add 2 seats Department of Emergency Medicine
- Total elected Senate seats = 73



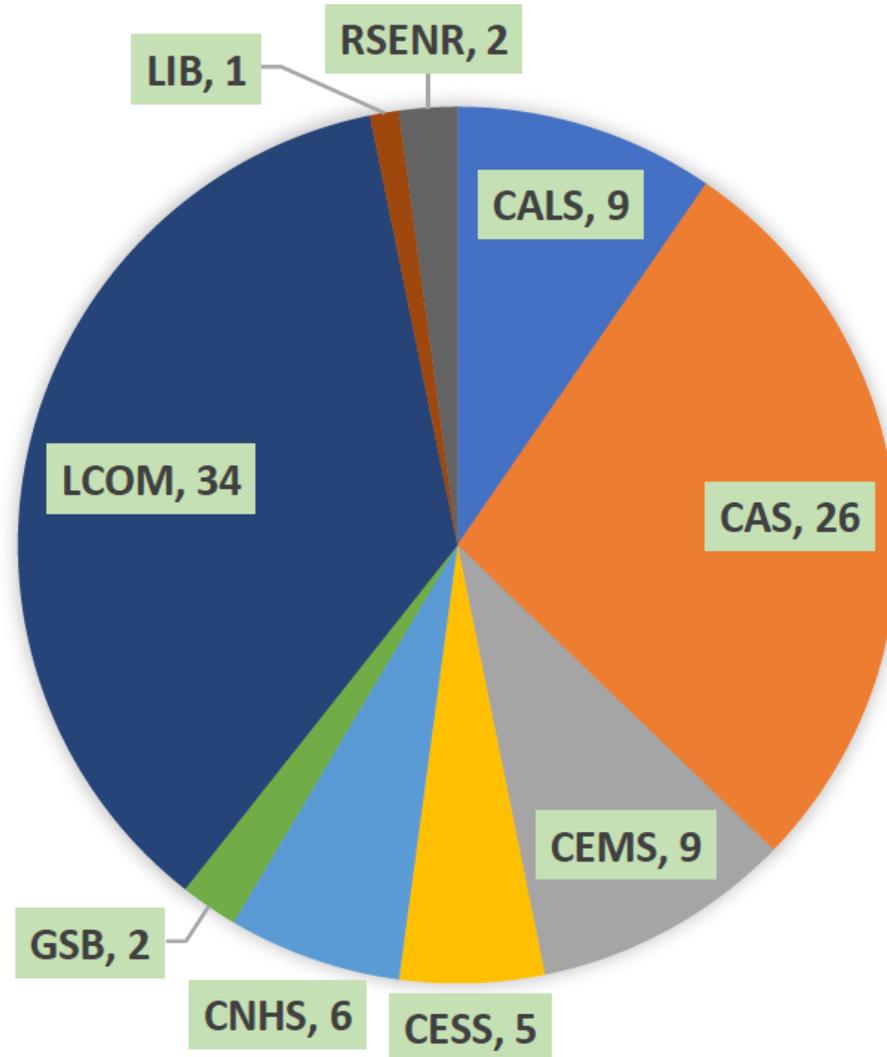
UVM Model: AY 23-24 # Seats by College/School/Library
Total Seats = 73



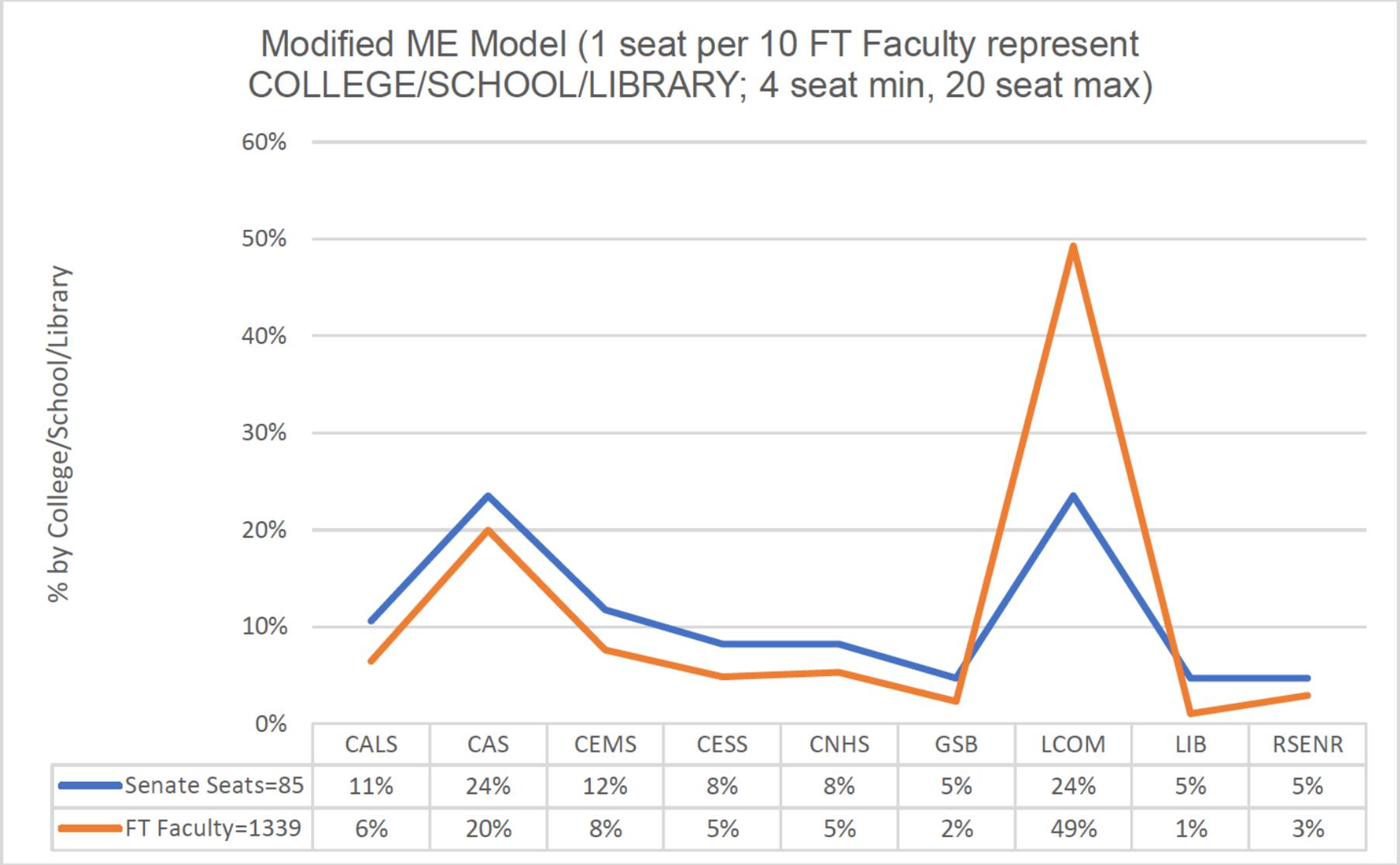
UNH Model: Each **Department** elects seats per # FT Faculty
 (1-15 =1 seat; 16-40=2 seats; 41+=3 seats)



UNH MODEL: # SEATS BY COLLEGE/SCHOOL/LIBRARY
TOTAL SEATS=94



ME Model (Modified): Each **College/School/Library** elects 1 seat per 10 FT Faculty: minimum 4 seats, maximum 20 seats



ME MODEL: # SEATS BY COLLEGE/SCHOOL/LIBRARY
TOTAL SEATS=85

