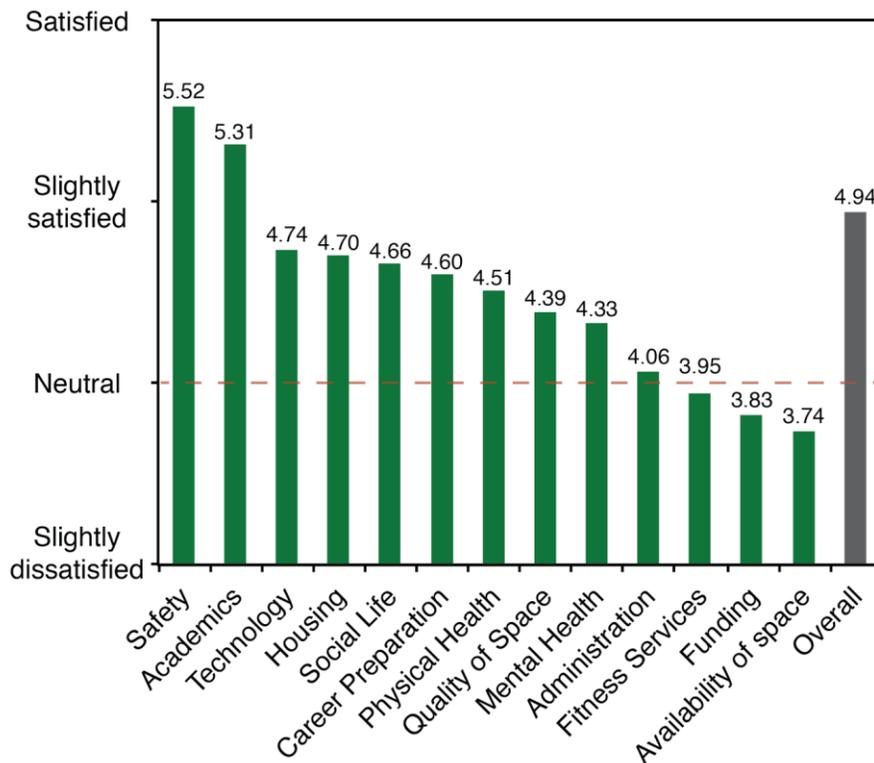


Student Affairs Committee Quality of Life Report:

**Executive Summary**

The Student Quality of Life (QoL) initiative is a biennial University-wide survey that aims to characterize student satisfaction and provide data that will ultimately enhance the student experience at Columbia. The first iteration of the survey, released in 2012, led to substantive changes in many facets of Columbia life and operations, including the implementation of a global printing system and email alias feature, the creation of gender-neutral bathrooms in Columbia buildings, and improvements in Public Safety training to increase sensitivity towards minority groups. Over 9,500 students from across Columbia’s twenty schools and affiliated institutions participated in the second iteration of the survey in May of 2015, which addressed a broad spectrum of wellness categories listed in the following figure.



*Satisfaction was rated on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being “very dissatisfied,” 4 being “neutral,” and 7 being “very satisfied.”*

Overall, students were slightly satisfied with their experience at Columbia. This was relatively consistent across undergraduate, non-PhD graduate students, and PhD-track graduate students. Interestingly, PhD-track and undergraduate students were slightly more dissatisfied than their non-PhD graduate peers. In general, categories such as Safety and Academics consistently ranked higher across all populations than other survey categories such as Fitness, Funding, and Space. Key areas of concern include (1) student accessibility to administration and (2) notable dissatisfaction among three student demographics: low-income, disabled, and transgender.

With regards to administrative satisfaction, the data lead us to believe that discontent primarily stems from a perceived inaccessibility to administrators. In other words, students would like more direct and quality time with higher level administrators in daily academic and social settings.

Statistical analysis suggests that low-income students are less satisfied with their social lives and perceive greater academic struggles than higher income students. A breakdown of the Funding category also revealed dissatisfaction with the amount of financial aid available and the ability to manage basic daily expenses.

Disabled students were primarily concerned with ease of accessibility to classrooms and buildings and their overall ability to physically navigate the Morningside campus.

Moving forward, SAC intends to form two subcommittees focusing on financial insecurity and disability services. The subcommittees will consist of student, administrative, and faculty stakeholders and will brainstorm policy recommendations for Senate action. Additionally, to begin addressing the perceived disconnect between students and their administrators, SAC will host a speaker series featuring dynamic faculty and administrators presenting on their areas of expertise.