



Students taking the wheel

Designing a framework to implement student-led mini courses at McGill



Introduction

What if undergrads could design and teach a course at McGill, and both they and their students would receive credit for their participation? At UBC, UC Berkeley, Stanford, and at least nine other universities, they already can.

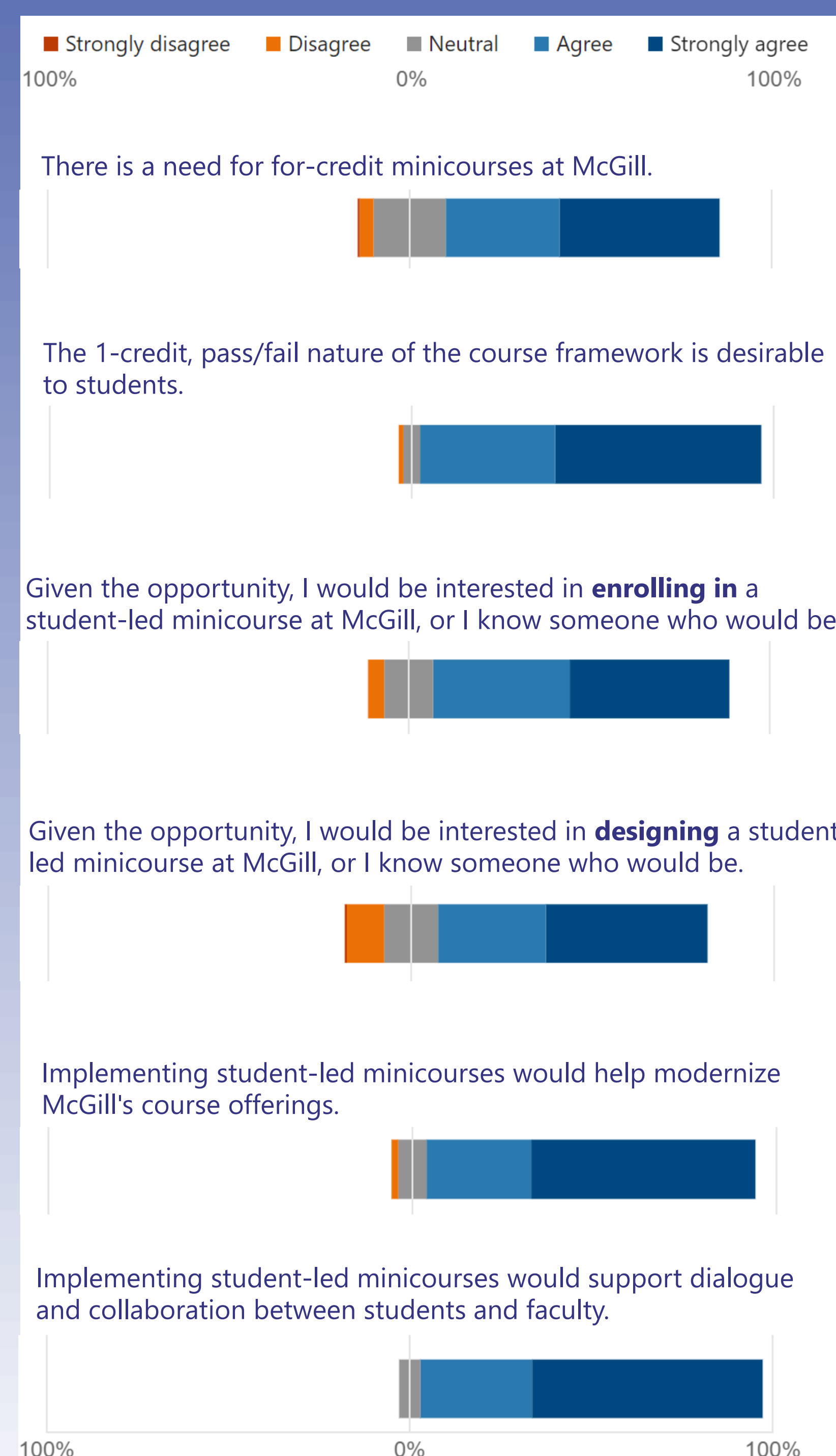
This research project involves creating a pilot program for 1-credit, pass/fail mini courses designed by students under faculty supervision to be offered through the Faculty of Science at McGill. Upper-year undergraduates would spend a semester learning teaching skills following course approval.

Methods

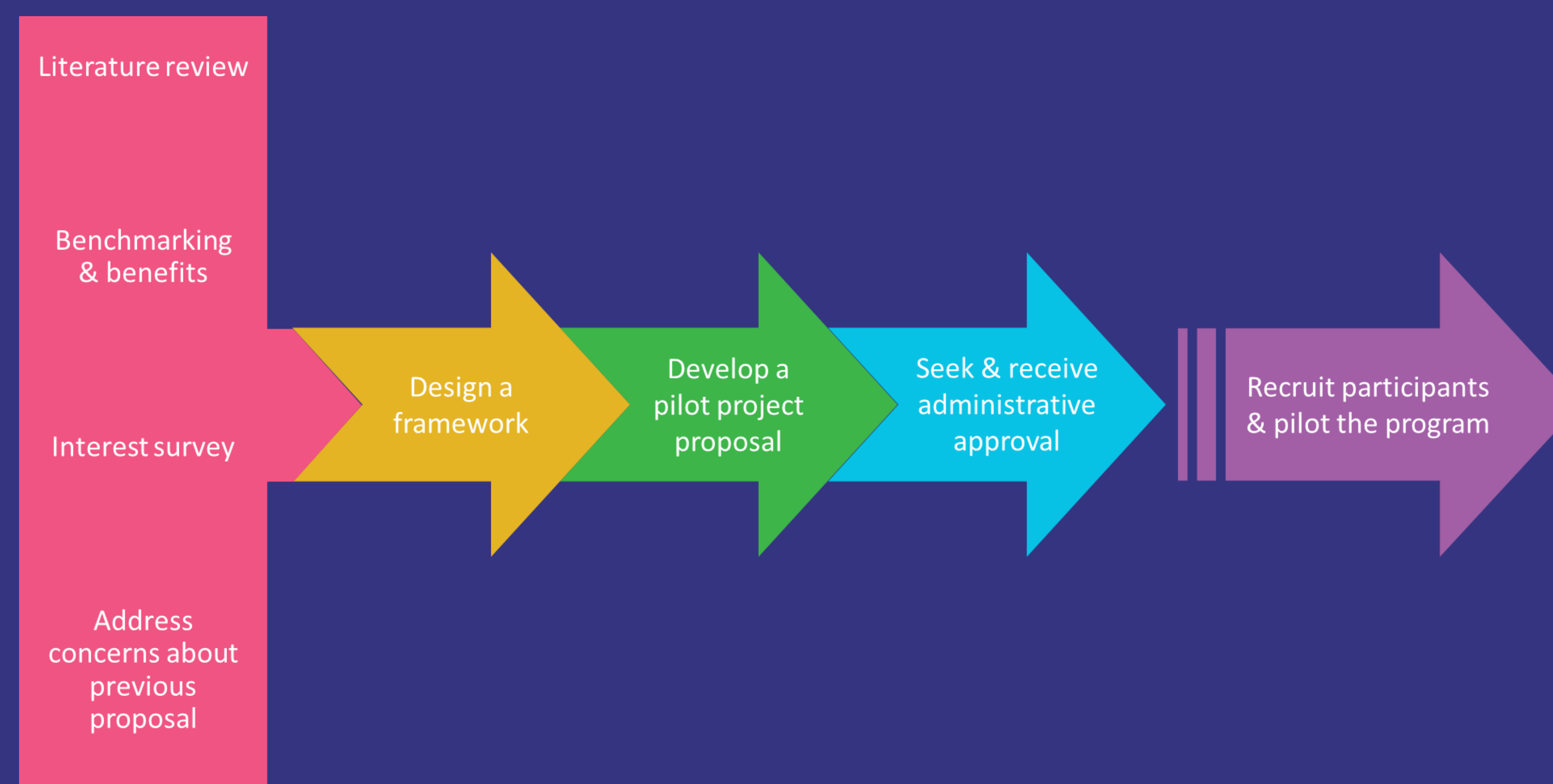
Summarized in the arrow diagram.

Results

While this project is ongoing, an anonymous interest survey has been completed. It was sent to current members of the Science Undergraduate Society by email. 160 students indicated their level of agreement with the six statements shown below, and 24 wrote short-answer responses.



Providing students with the opportunity to design courses allows them to become *drivers*, rather than passengers, on their educational journeys.



So what?

Students are seeking ways to “take the wheel” and empower themselves academically. First-years can benefit from student-led mini courses by exploring interesting topics before having to declare a major. Conversely, for students reaching the end of their degrees with a 1-credit deficiency, mini courses could help them graduate on time. Overall, this project will mean more opportunities for McGill students.

Acknowledgements

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