

In his February 6 address, University of Vermont President Daniel Mark Fogel assured trustees that reducing the faculty through attrition and nonreappointment while increasing the student body will not negatively impact student experience next fall: "[W]e will in fact see *more* of the small sections valued so highly by UVM's students and faculty and only a small increase in large classes." Following the trustees meeting, however, President Fogel acknowledged that the Registrar appears to have included as "0- to 11-seat" classes independent study, honors thesis, and internship credit hours. In addition, the Fall 2009 "0- to 11-seat" section count included Continuing Education seats reserved in larger classes, adding to the appearance of an 87-section increase in very small courses. President Fogel has requested more accurate data from the Registrar. As we await that data, we present the following analysis focusing on classes with 12 or more seats, much more typical of the courses available to first- and second-year students.

What the following table and charts show is that available seats in small classes, once the norm for UVM, are in decline while the number of seats in "supersize me" classrooms, used sparingly in the past and only where pedagogically appropriate, are on the rise. Bottom line: As the student body grows and the faculty shrinks, eroded is the special character of a UVM education where students are known by name, not number.

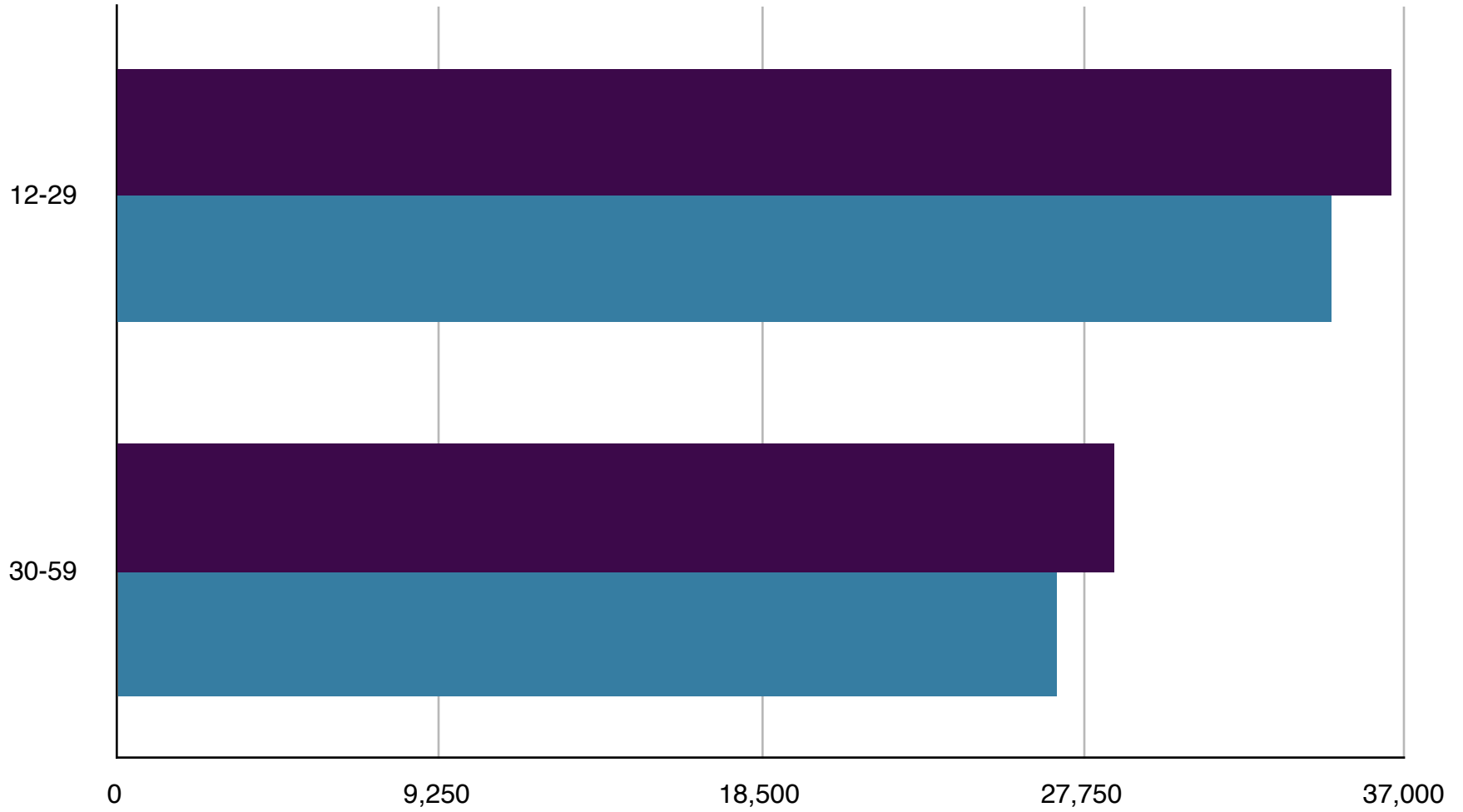
Class Size	Number of Seats Fall 2008	Number of Seats Fall 2009	Change in Number of Seats	Percentage Change from 2008 to 2009	Share of Total Seats Fall 2008	Share of Total Seats Fall 2009
12-29	36639	34890	-1749	-5%	40%	37%
30-59	28665	27029	-1636	-6%	31%	28%
60-99	6485	9115	2630	29%	7%	10%
100+	20642	24306	3664	15%	22%	25%
Total	92431	95340	2909	3%	100%	100%

Seats were calculated by taking the 12 categories from President Fogel's Table 1 of his February 6 report to trustees and multiplying the maximum size in each of the categories with the number of sections in that category. Calculating seats by multiplying the average size in each category with the number of sections produces virtually identical results.

2009

2010

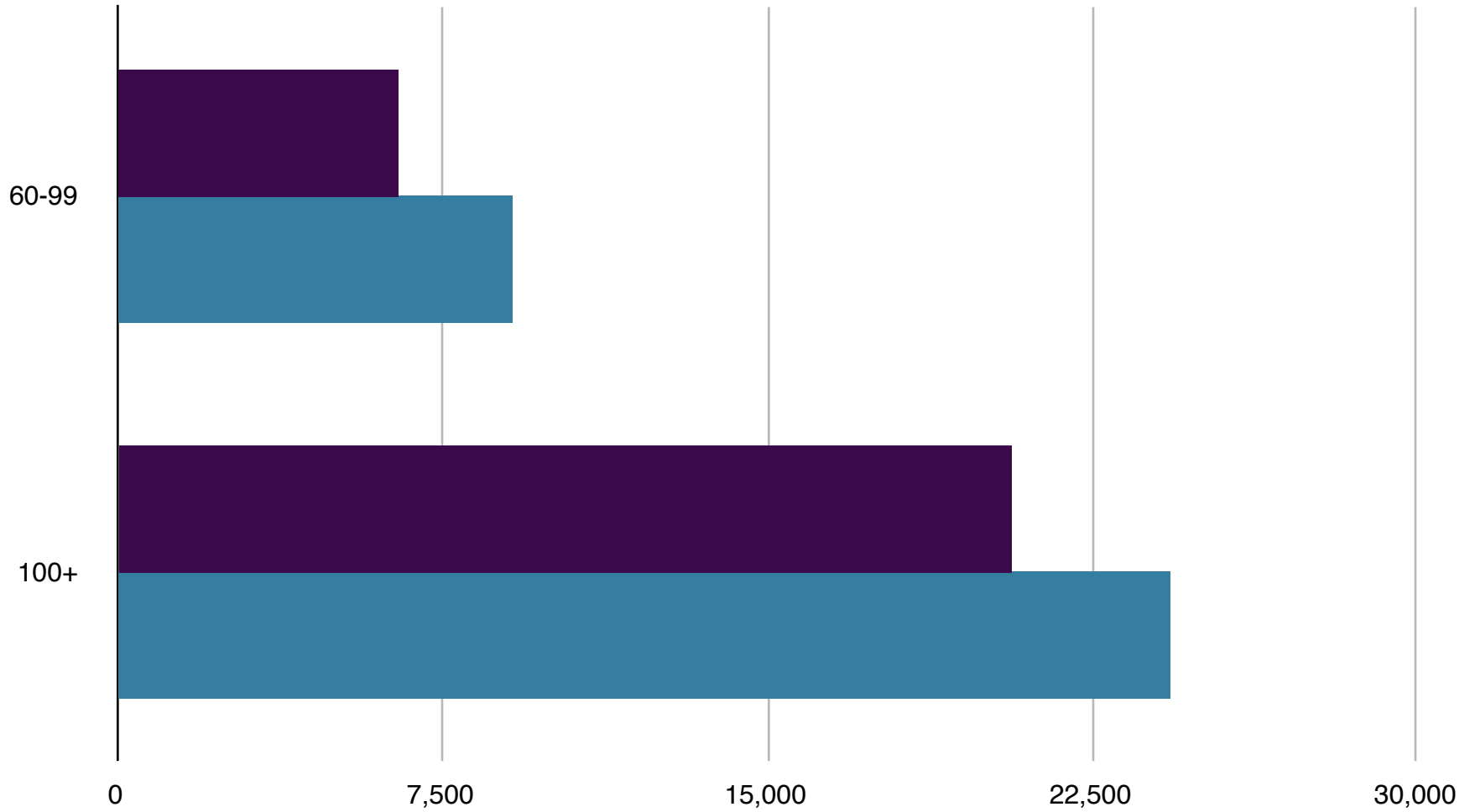
Number of Seats in Small and Medium Classes Decline



2009

2010

Number of Seats in Large and Super-Sized Classes Grow



In 2010 More than a Third of Seats Will Be in Large and “Supersize Me” Classes

● 12-59

● 60-100+

