

STUDENT PROGRAMS & ENGAGEMENT



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GREEK LIFE @ BENTLEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In an effort to assess positive change within the Fraternity & Sorority Life community and the effectiveness of delivery of the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 recommendations, a third iteration of the survey was developed and sent to members in December 2017. The survey’s findings suggest positive movement along departmental priorities related to fraternity support and connection, clarifying expectations and standards, and risk management education.

Continued Growth in SP&E Relationships, Clearer University Expectations & Improved Fraternity Connections

The table below demonstrates positive opinion on the relationship between SP&E and the FSL community continued to grow between the Spring and Fall 2017 semesters. **Most notably, student perceptions that the department sets clear expectations for FSL increased substantially.** This is likely due in part to departmental efforts to clarify FSL policies, specifically the introduction of the new FSL Standards Program in September 2017.

Question	Respondents who selected “Agree” or “Strongly Agree” and Changes From the Prior Semester				
	Fall 2016	Change	Spring 2017	Change	Fall 2017
“SP&E sets clear expectations...”	58%	+13.8	71.8%	+11	82.8%
“I know I can seek out SP&E staff with any questions or concerns...”	47.9%	+11.9	59.8%	+5.9	65.7%
“SP&E supports FSL...”	35.3%	+23.9	59.2%	+3.6	62.8%
“I trust SP&E to have the best interests of FSL in mind”	38.7%*	+13	51.7%	+1	52.7%

**In Fall 2016, this question was “I trust SP&E staff as a resource for the FSL community here at Bentley.”*

More specifically, fraternity recognition of department staff support has grown substantially and now aligns with historically positive sorority perceptions. Since Spring 2017, sorority perception of knowing who to seek out increased from 64% to 66% while the fraternity perception increased from 56% to 66% -- a 10 point increase in just one semester. Possible contributing factors may include departmental staff presence at fraternity chapter meetings, an expanded advising relationship with the InterFraternity Council, and increased departmental involvement in fraternity recruitment and new member education. While sorority members, newer members, and executive board members still tend to have more positive perceptions of the relationship with SP&E compared to their fraternity member, more senior member, and general member peers, overall these gaps have been narrowed. General members were the only group for which positive perceptions of the relationship did not increase since Spring 2017.

Stronger Connections to Student Affairs Advisors

After one year with most chapters having Student Affairs Advisors, students more strongly agreed they know who to seek out for support (moving from 55.9% to 73.4% between Fall 2016 and Fall 2017). This near 20-point increase is likely due to a chapters having had the opportunity to build relationships with advisors over the past year through advisor attendance at chapter meetings and events.

Clearer Understanding of Risk Management Perceptions

In responses to questions about chapter culture, education and accountability, the department was able to generate a clearer understanding of student perceptions related to risk management.

- **Hazing: 93.5%** of all respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they **understand Bentley’s new hazing policy**. An overwhelming majority (**87.5%**) agreed or strongly agreed that a behavior may be considered hazing **regardless of an individual’s willingness to participate**. Similarly, strong majorities (83-95%) reported a variety of behaviors were somewhat or highly likely to be considered hazing although more subtle forms of hazing received lower agreement (64-74%). These positive data points are likely a result of new hazing prevention initiatives introduced this year.

- **Title IX:** 14.9% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that issues of **sexual harrassment and/or assault, relationship abuse, stalking, and/or hostile environment are prevalent** within the Bentley Greek Life community. However, this group rises to 34.5% of respondents when neutral responses are included. Sorority and more senior members reported stronger agreement (+10 percentage points for both groups) on this question than their fraternity and mew member peers.
- **Reporting Misconduct:** Majorities (66-80%, depending on the method) of respondents felt either somewhat or definitely utilizing each of the four methods (SP&E, Deans Office, University Police, anonymous form) for reporting potential misconduct. Specifically, **72% now feel comfortable reporting misconduct through SP&E staff** – an increase from 60.7% in Fall 2016.
- **Retaliation:** A small portion of respondents (14%, 13%, and 8%) felt neutral, agreed or strongly agreed that their chapter would retaliate against them for violation Bentley’s alcohol, hazing, and Title IX policies, respectively. This parallels the 18.5% of members responding similarly to questions of retaliation in general in Spring 2017, when fraternity members were also more likely to state potential for retaliation compared to sorority members.
- **Standards:** About seven in ten (69%) FSL students reported **familiarity** with the Standards Program and felt the program **helps chapters hold members accountable**. General and executive board members were similarly familiar with Standards (70% and 69%, respectively), showing consistent awareness regardless of role in the organization.

The new FSL Standards Program...	Agree or Strongly Agree
<i>Is something with which I am familiar</i>	69%
<i>Helps chapters hold members accountable</i>	69%
<i>Sets consistent expectations for all chapters</i>	68%
<i>Provides incentives for chapter success</i>	64%

- **Areas of Concern:** In response to questions about areas of concern related to Greek Life, most students selected University support (77.4%), University requirements for chapters compared to other student groups (72%), and Greek Life’s reputation (69.6%) as top concerns. When asked to elaborate on their selections, **50%** of students who answered the question provided an open response narrative that highlighted their **perception that other student groups on campus are not held to a similarly high expectations** or requirements related to hazing prevention. Respondent comparisons referenced varsity athletics, business fraternities and club sports. respondent shared the following feedback, which was common among other responses:

“Why are we the only ones subject to such detailed hazing trainings (not that they aren't necessary) when other groups are just as likely to haze[?] There are no "standards" for athletic teams or club teams, etc.”

- **Points of Pride:** In response to questions about points of pride related to Greek Life, most students selected balanced involvement, academic success, and philanthropic commitment as top points of pride.

Overview of Recommendations

While it is clear that efforts to improve relationships, support, and education within the community continue to make an impact, new data generated by this survey offers direction for future improvements. Below is a summary of action steps for the department, in addition to other recommendations contained in this report (see page 7):

1. Identify ways to **improve support among general members**.
2. Review the new FSL Standards Program and University expectations of chapters to **ensure intended outcomes are being achieved and student feedback on expectations are considered**.
3. Develop a **strengths-based marketing campaign** that highlights academic and philanthropic achievements.
4. Utilize the survey findings related to risk management to **enhance existing training, education, and support resources for members to be more tailored to community culture and needs**.