

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 recommendations, a second iteration of the survey was developed and sent to members in April 2017. This survey contained some new questions related to the respondent’s membership (chapter, length of membership, etc.) and other new questions in order to deepen understanding of experiences within the community.

Improved Relationships with Student Programs & Engagement

The table below demonstrates opinion on the relationship between SP&E and the FSL community grew substantially between the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. **Most notably, perceptions of SP&E’s support for the FSL community nearly doubled since the previous survey.** These increases are likely due to departmental efforts to build relationships with new and general members, be more visible at events, and be more proactively involved in chapter activities – all of which were recommended and undertaken as a result of the Fall 2016 survey.

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

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

To varying degrees, sorority members, newer members, and executive board members have more positive perceptions about this relationship compared to their fraternity member, more senior member, and general member peers.

Growing Connections to Student Affairs Advisors

Compared to Fall 2016, students more strongly agreed that they know who to seek out for support (55.9% to 62.5%) – likely due to the addition of five Student Affairs Advisors this spring. For those students, many of whom were general members, who did not feel as positively about advising support, this may have been due to a lack of interaction with their Student Affairs Advisor. That being said, respondents across the board stated an interest in building stronger relationships between Advisors and general members, primarily through advisor presence at chapter meetings.

Clearer Needs Related to Chapter Culture, Education, and Accountability

Overall, there has been relative consistency in responses to questions about chapter culture, education, and accountability across the two iterations of the survey.

Question	Respondents who selected “Agree” or “Strongly Agree”		Change
	Fall 2016	Spring 2017	
“I am aware of Bentley’s Hazing Policy and what behaviors constitute hazing”	96.6%	95.6%	-1.0
“I understand Bentley’s Title IX policy and what behaviors constitute sexual violence”	96.6%	95.6%	-1.0
“I am comfortable intervening if I see violations of [policies] within my chapter”	N/A	83.3%	N/A
“I know how to report violations of Bentley policy or the Student Handbook”	72%	77.2%	+5.2
“I am comfortable going to SP&E staff [to discuss potential] chapter misconduct”	60.7%	53.9%	-6.8
“My chapter would retaliate against me if I reported a violation of Bentley policies”	N/A	18.5%*	N/A

**includes Neutral responses*

Responses to new survey questions highlight additional areas of interest and illuminate differences in culture, education, and accountability across the community:

- Newer members were more likely to strongly agree regarding their awareness/understanding of Bentley's hazing/Title IX policies (+10 and +8 for hazing and Title IX, respectively), compared to more senior members.
- Newer members reported feeling slightly more comfortable intervening than more senior members (+6 points).
- Executive Board members felt more knowledgeable (+8 points) than general members on how to report violations.
- Fraternity members were almost four times as likely to report strong agreement, and twice as likely to report agreement, with the statement that their chapter would retaliate against them, compared to sorority members.

Newer members likely have a stronger understanding of policies and an increased willingness to intervene in situations of misconduct as a result of their participation in recent risk management/Title IX and bystander trainings.

Most students (82.7%) were proud of their chapter's reputation. Some chapters fell above/below the average.

To the open response question, "How do you define risk management?", most students replied with a definition that was focused on **ensuring individual safety and well-being while proactively preventing issues from occurring**. However, there are slight differences of opinion between fraternities and sororities on this question:

- There is stronger consensus among sorority members that risk management involves promoting individual safety.
- Fraternity members were more likely than sorority members to cite definitions that involved planning ahead, monitoring issues, and avoiding reputational risk.

The selected survey response below represents the most prevalent concepts referenced within all student responses. This response, which represents major themes from survey responses in general, points to a generally positive awareness of key risk management concepts within the FSL community.

"Risk management is first and foremost about taking steps to prevent [any] incidents which may cause harm to our org and those who are around us. Additionally risk management has to take steps to save [or bolster] a good reputation with the school and the community in order to be a functioning part of both parties.

Overview of Recommendations

While it is clear that efforts to improve relationships, support, and education efforts within the community have made an impact, new data generated by this survey offers direction for continued improvement. Below is a summary of action steps for the department, in addition to other recommendations contained in the full report:

1. SP&E should focus on **supporting the fraternity community specifically, as well as those chapters** who reported feeling less connected, while maintaining connections with the sorority community and other chapters and replicating recent efforts to build relationships with new members and executive board members each semester.
2. **Student Affairs Advisors should attend chapter meetings**, even on an infrequent basis, in order to promote general member awareness of this resource and relationship building with the chapter as a whole.
3. **Kappa Sigma must obtain a Student Affairs Advisor** at the beginning of the Fall 2017 semester.
4. **Providing additional programming that involves honest conversations about chapter culture** and related risk management data points, while maintaining a commitment to new trainings and policies, is necessary.
5. SP&E and Student Affairs Advisors should **prioritize the reputational concerns** of chapters who reported comparatively lower levels of pride, while continuing recent efforts to recognize and market the benefits and positive elements of FSL membership as a whole.