

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, Spring 2017, and Fall 2017 recommendations, a fourth iteration of the survey was developed and sent to members in April 2018. The survey's findings show positive growth in relationships between the FSL community and the department and establishes helpful baseline measures related to the new FSL Strategic Plan.

Continued Growth in Relationship Building

There continues to be positive growth in member perceptions of the relationship in all four areas (expectations, availability, support, and trust).

Substantial Advancements in Trust-Building

There was the most positive growth in the area of trust over the course of the last semester, and this is especially true among general members. In Fall 2017, perceptions of trust in the department among general members was 50% and 60% for executive board members. Now, both 66% of both groups have positive perceptions of trust in the department.

Achievement of More Equitable Connections with Fraternity, General, and More Senior Members

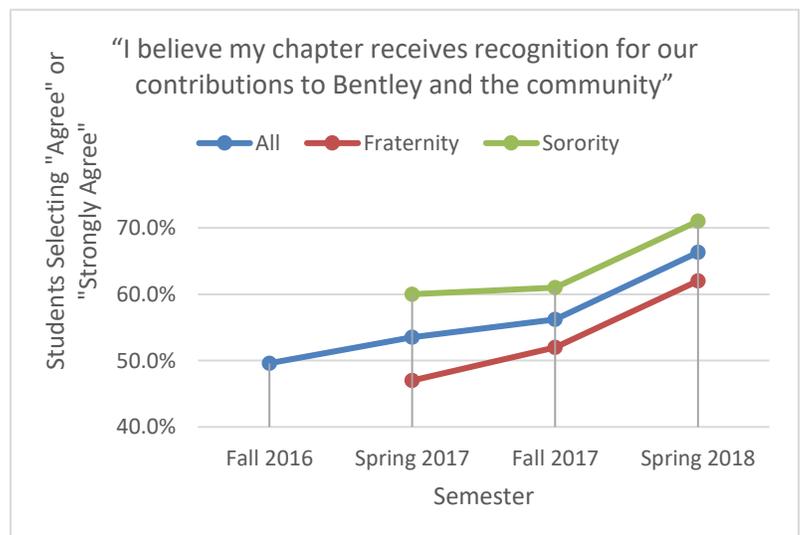
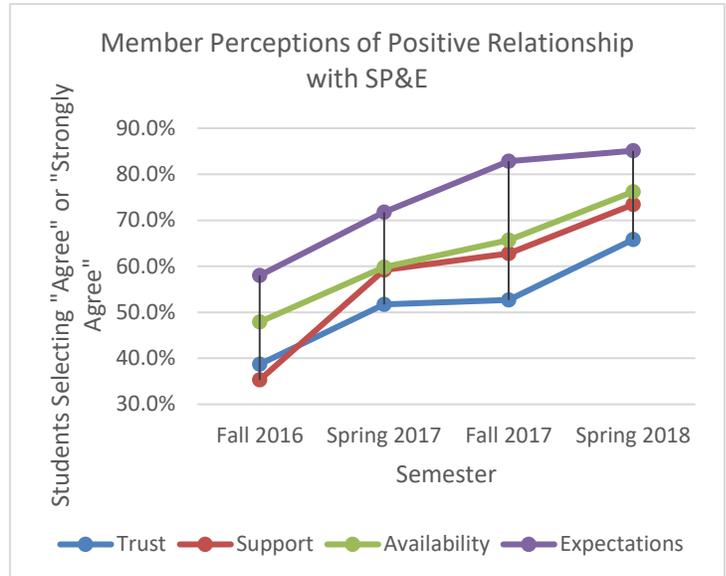
Perceptions of the relationship among fraternity, senior, and general members – all subgroups that have historically expressed more negative views based on the data – have increased and now align with experiences of their sorority, executive board, and newer member peers. These gains are likely due to increased focus on the fraternity community, through connections to IFC, streamlining recruitment, and more fraternities having student affairs advisors, as well as a stronger focus on general members through staff attendance at chapter meetings and events.

Strategic Priority I: Academic Success & Career Preparation

There seem to be the potential for strong networks of both academic mentorship and professional development present within the FSL community. **One in two (45% of) members of Greek Life obtains a job or internship directly due to their affiliation** and **96.1% report that a brother or sister has helped them understand an academic concept** related to a class assignment.

Strategic Priority II: Community Relations

Overall, **71%** of respondents agree that **Greek Life at Bentley is a united community** and **90%** of respondents agree that **Greek Life at Bentley is welcoming during recruitment**. Additionally, perceptions that chapters receive credit for their contributions continue to increase over time.



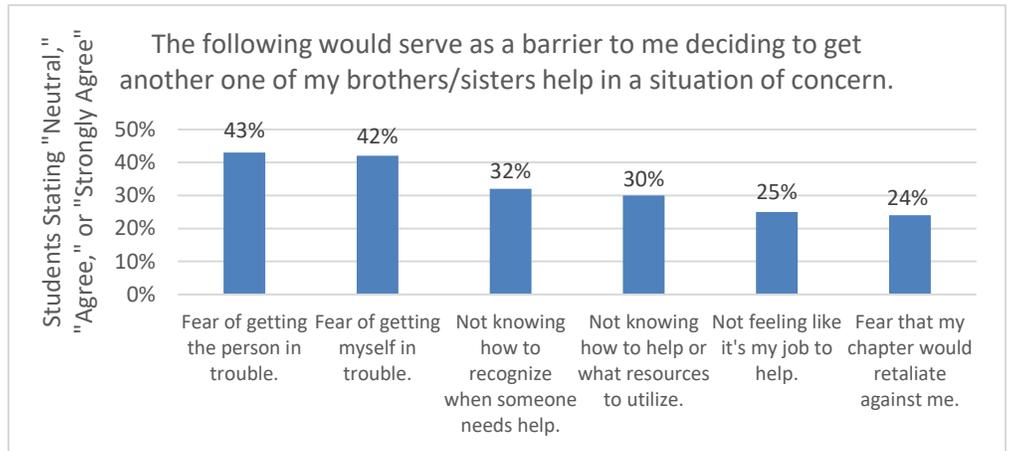
Strategic Priority III: Social Responsibility

Active Leadership: Four in ten members of Greek Life strongly agreed, agreed, or felt neutral that **fear of getting someone in trouble would serve as a barrier to getting help** for a brother or sister in a situation of concern.

New Member Education: A majority (**61%**) of respondents stated their **new member process required 0 to 4 hours**

per week. While fraternity processes have longer time commitments, **sorority members were more likely to agree** (19%, compared to only 9% of fraternity members) **that it was challenging to balance academic responsibilities** during the new member process. Overall, 70% of new members stated the process was what they expected it to be. The most prevalent outcomes new members associated with the process was building strong relationships with members of the chapter, learning more about the chapter’s values and history, and skill-building in the areas of communication and time management.

Standards: Overall, **strong majorities** of respondents **are familiar with Standards and feel positively about the program’s impact**. Agreement with most Standards questions dropped slightly compared to last semester, likely a result of stronger awareness during the rollout semester (Fall 2017), so it will be important to observe how these perceptions evolve over time. The one area in which positive perceptions increased was in agreement that the program provides incentives for success, likely a result of multiple chapters earning monetary rewards for their performance this year.



The new FSL Standards Program...	Respondents who selected "Agree" or "Strongly Agree"		
	Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Change
<i>Is something with which I am familiar</i>	69%	57%	-12
<i>Helps chapters hold members accountable</i>	69%	61%	-8
<i>Sets consistent expectations for all chapters</i>	68%	65%	-3
<i>Provides incentives for chapter success</i>	64%	69%	+5

Overview of Recommendations

The following recommendations align with the direction of the new FSL Strategic Plan and provide a guide for its implementation over the coming semesters:

1. Develop plans to **build on existing academic support and career development efforts** within chapters.
2. Promote programs and partnerships that **bring the FSL community together** to increase sense of unity.
3. **Examine potential new member perceptions of FSL being a "welcoming community"** so that the experiences of students who are not offered or do not accept a bid are included in understanding inclusion within the community.
4. Explore ways to address and **reduce fear** of getting someone in trouble as a barrier to getting help.
5. Use the data to **enhance the new member experience** so that time commitments are more consistent across chapters, processes are more predictable for new members, and negative impact on academics is mitigated.
6. Consider **accountability, consistency, and communication to members** in future changes to the Standards Program.