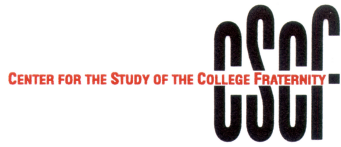


2009

The Center for the Study of the College Fraternity



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA PEMBROKE

THE FRATERNITY AND SORORITY EXPERIENCE SURVEY (FSES)

Fraternity and Sorority Experience Survey

- University of North Carolina,
Pembroke -

General Information

The FSES is a 12 part survey that assesses fraternity and sorority student experiences and a wide range of learning outcomes. The sections in the survey include student demographic information, early fraternity and sorority experiences, chapter housing facility, gaining new members, new membership intake process, chapter affairs, chapter advising, personal involvement, academics, personal growth and development, and alcohol/drug use.

The data contained in this report were based on data collected from UNCP during the fall semester 2008. The information presented in this report represents a small fraction of the entire data, and was selected on the basis of what appears, in our opinion, to be useful for higher education practitioners.

Background Information

149 members of *University of North Carolina, Pembroke* participated in the Fraternity/Sorority Experience Survey. Of those:

- 73.8% identified as female
- 26.2% identified as male
- 0.0% identified as transgendered or 'other'

Ethnicity

- 61.1% identified as White/Caucasian
- 21.5% identified as African American
- 16.8% identified as American Indian/Alaskan Native/Aleut
- 2.7% identified as Chicano/Latino/Hispanic
- 49.7% stated that while academic work and progress are important, they believe an *equally* significant part of their college experience exists outside the classroom.

- 85.9% experience a feeling of "community" on *campus* compared with 94.6% who experience a feeling of "community" within the *fraternity and sorority system*¹.

Perceptions Prior to Joining

The most commonly cited reasons for joining a fraternity or sorority were:

1. Opportunities for Involvement in campus life
2. Friendship
3. Opportunities for Leadership Development

The most commonly held concerns *prior to* joining were:

1. Financial Concerns
2. Academic concerns/would affect grades

New Members

- 100% cited *Brotherhood/Sisterhood* as the major thing that has aided their chapter in successfully gaining new members. Conversely 83.8% indicated *chapter housing facility* as not being beneficial in gaining new members.
- 96.6% cited *purpose of fraternity/sorority* as something learned during their membership in their fraternity or sorority¹.
- 5.5% indicated that their membership had failed in helping them learn more about *integrating the purpose of their organization*² into daily action.
- 23.5% stated that they had participated in activities during the new member/intake process that that could be deemed inappropriate.

Chapter Operations

The five most commonly cited chapter problems were³:

1. Gaining new members within the chapter
2. Getting members to share chapter work

¹ Combination of "somewhat" and "a lot" responses

² Combination of "not at all" and "not too much" responses

³ Combination of "problem" and "serious problem" responses

3. Having active alumni involvement
 4. Relationship with other chapters on campus
 5. Maintaining member support of officers
- 13.3% believed their chapter spent too much time on *meetings*, while 48.0% did not believe that the chapter spent enough time on *alumnae/graduate activities*
 - 45% felt that their alumni advisors were very involved with chapter advising compared with 46% who felt that their faculty/ staff advisors were very involved with chapter advising.

Personal Involvement

During this academic year, 38.7% volunteered more than 10 hours in service to others, while 30.6% volunteered fewer than 5 hours in service to others

The most commonly referenced venues for active involvement outside of the fraternity/sorority community were⁴:

1. Minority ethnic organizations
2. Intramural or Club Sports
3. Organization in academic major

Intellectual Development

- The perceived most effective academic support mechanisms were *paid tutors* and *monetary rewards/incentives*, while *chapter facility quiet hours* and *workshops on study skills* were perceived as being ineffective⁵
- 50% regularly⁶ *had a discussion about a major political issue* and 50% regularly *had a discussion about a major social issue*.
- Overall, 43% believed their fraternity/sorority experience to be a positive effect on their grades.

Personal Growth

- 91.2% reported that their fraternity/sorority experience had a positive effect on their *leadership abilities*.
- 89.5% reported that their fraternity/sorority experience had a positive effect on their *ability to practice social responsibility*.
- 89.9% reported that their fraternity/sorority experience had a positive effect on their *ability to work effectively with others on group tasks and projects*.
- 2.9% indicated that their fraternity/sorority experience had a negative effect on their *ability to make decisions*.
- 2.9% reported that their fraternity/sorority experience had a negative effect on their *feelings of interpersonal competence*.

Alcohol

- The average reported number of drinks consumed per week was 2.0

During the past 30 days:

- 34.7% reported that they *drank non-alcoholic beverages when alcohol was being served*, three or more times
- 30.0% reported that they *refused an offer of alcohol*, three or more times
- 28.6% reported that they *encouraged others to limit their drinking*, three or more times
- 4.9% reported that their chapter's alcohol policies were not enforced.
- 10.3% agreed that there was a lot of pressure for them to drink in the Greek Community

⁴ Combination of "active involvement..." and leadership position" responses

⁵ Combination of "not too effective" and not at all effective responses

⁶ "Regularly" derived by combining "often" and "very often" responses