

GREEK RESIDENTIAL LIVING SURVEY SUMMARY FALL 2007

The Office of Residence Life/Greek Affairs conducts an annual survey of students residing in on-campus, Greek housing. This survey is to provide the office with vital information about students' overall residential experience and inform us of areas in which there is potential for improvement.

This year, the office decided to conduct the survey near the middle of the academic year, in contrast to previously being conducted near the end, in hopes of using students' responses to begin improvements sooner and enhance every student's residential experience.

- Survey had **143** valid respondents
- In my opinion, respondents were fairly representative of the Greek residential population. Each house had at least one respondent. Most large houses had approximately 3.

Interesting Points

- 73.8% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the general physical condition of their houses.
- 69.8% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the timeliness of maintenance work order requests.
- 82.4% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the noise level in the houses does not interfere with their ability to study
- 97.9% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that they have had positive interactions with their house directors.
- 96.6% either agreed or strongly agreed that living in on-campus Greek housing has enhanced their ability to make connections between academic and life experiences.
- 93.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the programs and services provided by Greek Affairs.
- 91% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed they were satisfied with their on-campus residential living experience.
- 57.4% indicated that they would not be living in on-campus Greek housing next year, and 7.4% indicated maybe they would stay.

Respondents were asked to list the reasons why if they were not living in Greek housing next year. The overarching themes are listed below:

- Will be turning or currently is 21 years of age, and would like to be able to have alcohol.
- Will be a senior, and want to experience living off-campus
- It is less expensive to live off-campus.
- Parking is inconvenient.
- Have fulfilled chapter's live-in requirement.
- Will be starting student teaching/methods and needs a more conducive environment.
- Want to give younger members the opportunity to live in the house.

Respondents were also asked what their opinion was of the advantages to off-campus housing. A lot of the responses were very similar to the reasons listed above, but there were a few others listed below:

- Meal services: not being forced to have a meal plan that does not work in other on-campus dining halls and being able to cook more.
- More freedom/Less rules
- Moving in earlier/staying over breaks
- Choosing roommates regardless of GPA.

Conclusion:

From most of the responses, it seems that students are overall satisfied with living in Greek housing, but most of them are still planning on moving off-campus next year. Most of their reasoning seemed to be based around the theme of being a senior and wanting the experience and independence of living off-campus. Another reason that appeared quite frequently was them enrolling in their student teaching and methods courses.

From the tone of their open-ended responses, it seems as if once they have fulfilled their live-in requirement or reach senior status, that off-campus living is highly desired. Since most answered that they were satisfied with their Greek housing experience, but contrastingly indicated moving out next year, our next step is assessing what Greek Affairs can do to retain upperclassmen. A feedback group is being developed for the spring semester, composed of upperclassmen that once stayed in Greek housing but have chosen to move off, to inquire if there is any improvement or service that Greek Affairs could have offered to influence them to remain in Greek housing.

I believe our survey lets us know that we are providing sufficient services, but it is somewhat customary for senior students to live off-campus. The survey was not very effective in letting us know what we can do to improve our services. In the future, I believe we should gear more of our questions in ways that will highlight areas in need of improvement.

C. J. Mathis
December 13, 2007