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The Reality and the Perception of Greek Life at Grand Valley State University

Katherine Smigelski

Honors Senior Project

Abstract

This research was conducted in order to determine whether Grand Valley's Greek life atmosphere is stereotypical of Greek life around the country, as portrayed in the media, or if the reality is better than the perception. 179 responses were collected from current Grand Valley State University members of Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association organizations to determine whether their reality of their organizations is accurate compared to the perception of their organizations.

Keywords: fraternity, sorority, Greek life, perception, reality

Introduction

Greek life has been a staple of American college life for over two centuries. It has been portrayed in movies and television shows, and frequents the media. How the media portrays certain organizations, such as Greek life, give way to stereotyping by people not involved in the organization. Common stereotypes surrounding Greek life members is that they are dumb, rich, clones of each other, who only like to party and do not get along with other chapters. These stereotypes are portrayed in movies like *Neighbors* (2014) and *Animal House* (1978). Parties, sex, and controversies between organizations are common themes of fictional portrayals of Greek life.

The media has a strong influence over a person's perception of the world. Both print and electronic media have the power to withhold certain information, while forcing other information out to the public, which can construct a perception that may not be accurate (Happer & Philo, 2011). For example, the media may run multiple news stories about the negative effects of vaccinations, without mentioning the positives, and the viewers of that channel might have a stronger negative connotation of vaccines than someone who receives their news from a different source. When Greek life is portrayed in the media, it is rare for a positive story to be run. The most common stories discuss hazing issues, sexual assault, drugs, and partying. If a person's only knowledge of Greek life comes from the media, it may be hard for them to differentiate between the popular perceptions and stereotypes of Greek life in America, and the reality of what being a member of Greek life actually is.

This study will focus on if the negative media coverage of Grand Valley State University's (GVSU) Greek life is actually the reality, or just creates a negative perception of Greek life to the non-affiliated population.

Problem

At Grand Valley State University (GVSU), only around 8% of the student population is involved in Greek life. This is about 1,800 students, which is a small percentage compared to some larger schools in America. However, those students have a large presence on campus. Students see Greek members on campus, attend their philanthropy events and social events, and discuss them on campus. It seems that everyone has an opinion of GVSU's Greek life. Currently, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the National Panhellenic Association (NPC) have a reputation at GVSU as being partiers and upholding the stereotype of overall American Greek life, but this is mainly due to a few negative events on campus recently. Over the last two years, three GVSU fraternities have been removed from campus. Delta Upsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and most recently, Kappa Sigma, were removed due to alcohol and hazing related issues. These are the stories that have been frequenting the media concerning GVSU Greek life. On October 31, 2018, GVSU suspended all Greek events with alcohol (Scott, 2018). According to the university, this suspension was put in place to ensure that student welfare and institution obligations could be achieved after a pattern of alcohol-related issues have occurred (Scott, 2018). This is just another negative media story that has been shared throughout the country about GVSU Greek life.

This is not the reality of GVSU Greek life in the opinion of members though. GVSU has had long-standing reputation for being a different, more welcoming and friendly version of Greek life than at other schools around the country. Members pride themselves on being diverse, philanthropic, and free of the typical stereotypes. The problem being addressed in this study, using survey results, is whether the media portrayal of Greek life at GVSU is accurate, or whether the members' reality is the truth of Greek life at this university. My hypothesis is that

what is in the media is not the true reality of the majority of Greek life, but the instances where negative events have occurred, the media has blown them out of proportion and created negative connotations of Grand Valley's Greek life as the result.

Literature Review

History of Greek Life

The first fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, was founded in 1776 at William and Mary College. The idea of fraternities quickly spread to the Ivy Leagues; by 1850, there were many fraternities throughout the country (Durham, 2016). These original organizations were exclusive to males, so women founded the first female-only fraternity, Pi Beta Phi, in 1867 at Monmouth College, but the actual term 'sorority' was not utilized until 1874 (Durham, 2016). Although there are fraternities and sororities that are minority-based, there is a distinct lack of diversity in Greek life. Greek organizations are predominantly Caucasian, with members who come from middle- and upper-class areas (Durham, 2016). The original concept of fraternities and sororities stemmed from secret literary societies, but were meant to increase social interactions while studying at universities, which lacked social events. Quickly though, the meaning changed from being a social, academic group to an escape from academia. Members drank, smoked and womanized heavily, which contradicted the Christian values that many fraternities were originally founded upon, and these acts became a staple in the stereotypical fraternity lifestyle (Durham, 2016).

Greek Life in the Media

Greek life has been a controversial topic for as long as it has been around. When fraternities were first emerging in the early 1800s, university presidents had meetings to discuss what to do about them because they posed a threat to the academic focus of their universities

(Durham, 2016). As Greek life became more and more popular, it began being fictionalized for television and cinema. This form of media gave college students expectations about what joining Greek life would be like, and that is what they wanted. Parties and girls were being glorified in fraternity-centered movies, like *Animal House* (1978). Parties, boys, and drama was being glorified in sorority-centered movies, like *The House Bunny* (2008). These expectations members had created in their heads due to media influence has created a reality of partying, hazing, and sex for Greek organizations across the nation. This reality has led to very real and terrifying news headlines.

One of the most prominent and frequent headlines in the media concerning Greek life recently has been involving alcohol-related deaths. A study done in 2003 found that Greek life members drink more frequently, more heavily, and have more alcohol-related problems than non-Greeks (Bartholow, Sher, & Krull, 2003). For many Greek members, alcohol is a form of entertainment (Drout & Corsoro, 2003). Pledges, the term for a new member of a fraternity, are being forced to drink alcohol as part of hazing rituals to the point of injury, or even death (Drout & Corsoro, 2003). Hazing is publicly condemned by all Greek organizations and universities, but is still a commonly practiced tradition in Greek life. In 2017, a Penn State student died after his fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, hazed him and forced him to drink 18 drinks in less than 90 minutes. He fell down a flight of stairs and his fraternity brothers waited more than 12 hours to call 911. The student subsequently passed away (Ganim & Andone, 2018). These are the stories that have been making headlines over the last few years and have forced universities and Greek leaders to crack down on their organizations. According to the Associated Press, there has been at least one college hazing death since 1961, but the publicity of these deaths has gotten larger (Franko &

Kang, 2017). Hazing deaths, as well as other Greek life issues, have been highly discussed in the media and the discussion is only going to increase as these problems continue.

Sexual assault is another common media subject in regards to Greek life. Women who attend fraternity parties are at a higher risk for rape, according to research done at Temple University (Boswell & Spade, 1996). When comparing fraternity parties and the bar scene, it was clear that women are less-respected and have a higher chance of being sexually assaulted at a fraternity party with heavy drinking than at the bar (Boswell & Spade, 1996). There is a difference between high-risk and low-risk fraternities, though. A high-risk fraternity had more men than women, heavier drinking, more crude language and dancing, and men frequently tried to persuade women to go upstairs with them alone. At low-risk fraternities, the atmosphere was much more relaxed, there was minimal crude language and behavior, and most of the people there were coupled up already (Boswell & Spade, 1996). This research has also shown that the atmosphere is much more positive and less promoting of rape culture if conversations are the focus of the situation, rather than alcohol (Boswell & Spade, 1996). A study from *Behavioral Sciences* focused on rape myths within Greek life compared to non-Greeks. A rape myth is a prejudicial, stereotyped, or false belief about rape, rape victims, and rapists, which can create a hostile climate for victims (Martinez, Wiersma-Mosley, Jozkowski, & Becnel, 2018). Researchers found that Greek life members endorse rape myths more than non-members. They also found that Greek men believe that they are “good guys,” and no “good guy” would rape. However, this study showed that 64% of college rape victims were members of the Greek community, which is contradictory to what fraternity brothers stated (Martinez et al., 2018). In the last year, many universities have made headlines due to accusations of rape on their campus, and multiple fraternities have gone under investigation due to this. In 2017, Michigan State’s

chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha made headlines after they were shut down due to an accusation of sexual assault. They were also under a Title IX investigation (Weidmayer, 2017). All of these negative headlines can have a huge impact on the perception of Greek life to non-members. Adults and students will have it instilled in their minds by the media that Greek life is full of negative people, parties, and illegal behavior.

Diversity in Greek Life

Historically, Greek life has been predominantly white, upper-middle class, heterosexual students (Durham, 2016). Minorities and homosexual members are rare. Law does prohibit race-based exclusion in college sororities and fraternities, but that does not mean it does not occur, according to research done at Mississippi State University (Hughey, 2010). There is a stark contrast between white and non-white Greek organizations. Even the few non-white members of traditionally white Greek organizations have a hard time crossing color boundaries and merging cultures (Hughey, 2010). There is a trend of white supremacy within Greek life, which *National Public Radio* did a segment on. The station discussed a fraternity's actions at Syracuse University, and how the administration was considering expelling the students over racist remarks that pledges had made on tape (Singh, 2018). At Yale in 2015, a story made headlines that involved a "white girls only" Halloween fraternity party. Allegedly, a group of black female students were turned away from the door due to their race (Miller, 2015). The fraternity was investigated, and it was determined that there was not enough evidence of racism to support disciplinary action, which caused an uproar across the county (Miller, 2015). It is these types of events and news stories that have allowed people to make presumptions about Greek life, even though it is possible these events are rare, but overly publicized.

There have been news stories over the last few years that have shown how Greek life is progressing in the area of diversity and inclusion. In 2017, Alpha Chi Omega sorority became the first Greek organization to accept transgender members (Gutierrez, 2017). There are now many more fraternities and sororities opening their membership to people of the transgender community. This is a huge improvement for a community who originally only accepted heterosexual members. However, in 2018, a George Mason University cheerleader with Down syndrome was rejected from every sorority during recruitment. This story went viral over social media very quickly and shed light on the exclusivity of Greek organizations (Cassidy, 2018). The perception of Greek life will not change easily if the viral news about fraternities and sororities does not become positive.

Grand Valley State University Greek Life Review

In 2017, the Dean of Students Office at GVSU sent a survey out to all members of the Greek life community. This survey was created by the company Dyad Strategies, with a goal to assess the social culture within fraternities and sororities. Upon distribution of this survey, many members of the Greek community were outraged. They found some of the questions to be pointed and stereotypical, especially questions concerning alcohol, hazing, and sexual assault. A total of 289 fraternity members and 708 sorority members completed this survey, and the results were mainly positive (McCreary, Schutts, & McCready, 2017). Within fraternities, the survey found that GVSU members have strong connections to their brotherhood, healthier attitudes related to sexual assault, more ethical behavior, and less frequent binge drinking than the average fraternity man in America. GVSU fraternity members were also found to be less likely to conform to negative group norms, including hazing, than the average fraternity man nationally (McCreary et al., 2017). The biggest negative found was that fraternity members have a weaker

sense of obligation to their organization than the national average. Within sororities, it was found that members have higher than the national average in: accountability, belonging, and sharing a common purpose. They also care less about the social pecking order of GVSU's sororities than women around the country do. However, sororities were found to prioritize social events more than women nationally, and have lower sense of obligation to their organization (McCreary et al., 2017).

Regardless of the results of the survey, GVSU has had major issues within Greek life over the last few years. Since 2013, seven fraternities and two sororities have been sanctioned or suspended at GVSU due to violations usually regarding alcohol and hazing (Scott, 2018). Three fraternities have been banned from campus either indefinitely, or for a significant length of time, which were stories that circulated the media heavily. GVSU recently banned alcohol from Greek events, as well as Greek life expansion, in order to prevent the university from being involved in national conversations, such as other Greek organizations have been recently due to tragedies (Scott, 2018). In 2017 alone, two fraternities were removed from campus due to alcohol problems. Although the university had hoped that these expulsions would be a wake-up call, a third fraternity was suspended from campus for 2 years in October, 2018 due to another alcohol-related incident. IFC and NPC are beginning to take action and mandate new training for members in order to prevent these problems for the future (Oszust, 2017).

Greek life at GVSU does have some positive aspects, however. According the the GVSU website, in 2017 there were over 54,000 service hours completed and over \$225,000 raised for philanthropies by Greek life organizations. The all Greek GPA was also 3.053 on a 4.0 scale, which is higher than the average GPA of non-Greek students (Office of Student Life, 2018). In 2018, Alpha Tau Omega fraternity made headlines for spending their spring break walking 160

miles across Michigan to raise money for their philanthropy, The National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The brothers of ATO have raised over \$200,000 throughout the past six years for this philanthropy (Gondek, 2018). Sadly, this is one of the very few news articles about GVSU Greek life that is positive. Greek life members seem to be committed to improving push against the negative media that has been surrounding them, both locally and nationally, in order to continue to uphold the standards GVSU set themselves at many years ago (McNeel & Moran, 2018).

Methodology

Participants

The participants of this survey were members of Greek organizations at Grand Valley State University. There are nine NPC sororities at Grand Valley: Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Sigma Tau, Delta Zeta, Gamma Phi Beta, Phi Sigma Sigma, Phi Mu, Sigma Kappa, and Sigma Sigma Sigma. There are ten IFC fraternities at Grand Valley: Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Sigma Phi, Alpha Tau Omega, Delta Sigma Phi, Delta Tau Delta, Kappa Sigma, Pi Kappa Phi, Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Pi, and Theta Chi. All participants were either current active members, or were active members at some point in the previous academic year and are now considered alumni of their organization. The ages of participants ranged from 17 to 23. All participants identified as either male or female.

Procedures

Using the survey software Qualtrics through GVSU, a 29-question survey was created (see appendix). This survey was completely anonymous and was emailed to the president of all nine NPC sororities and all ten IFC fraternities. The presidents were asked to distribute this survey to their organization twice: October 1, 2018, and November 12, 2018. The survey was sent out twice to ensure that there would be enough responses to analyze, but also to see if there

was a change in the responses depending on the date. When the survey was first sent out, October 1, recruitment for IFC and NPC was almost over. This is a time when sisterhood and brotherhood are stronger than usual, as members are recruiting other students to join their organization. The survey was sent out again on November 12, which was about two weeks after GVSU suspended all fraternity and sorority events with alcohol.

It was extremely important to keep this survey as anonymous as possible in order to achieve the most accurate and honest results. Participants were only asked their age, gender, and length of membership as part of any identifying demographic information. No names or organization affiliations were collected. The purpose of this survey was to gather as many honest opinions about how members feel about their organization as possible, and allowing them to answer anonymously was to ensure that they did not have to sugarcoat their opinions. Questions included if participants follow how Greek life, nationally and locally, was portrayed in the media, how strong they feel their sisterhood or brotherhood is, how their organization may handle hazing and sexual assault accusations, and if they feel GVSU Greek life has a more positive atmosphere than Greek life at other schools. Question responses were multiple choice and short answer.

Results

After the survey was distributed twice, 169 responses were recorded and the data was analyzed. Of the participants, 37.37% had been involved with Greek life for one year, 26.63% had been involved for two years, 23.08% for three years, 11.24% for four years, and 1.18% for five or more years. Female sorority members made up for 85.88% of responses, and male fraternity members made up 14.22% of responses. Over 50% of participants were between the ages of 19 and 20, but ages ranged from 17-23. Over 45% of participants did take the survey

that was distributed in April, 2017 by the Dean of Students Office, and of these, over 60% found that survey to be offensive, with only 15% finding it appropriate, and the remaining were neutral.

Unity and Philanthropy

Regarding unity, inclusivity, and brotherhood/sisterhood within GVSU's Greek life results were fairly positive. Over 75% of respondents believe GVSU has an inclusive Greek life, and only 8.5% believe it is exclusive. Philanthropy is a large part of Greek life at Grand Valley, and 84% of students believe GVSU is more active in their philanthropies than Greek life at other schools. Over 93% believe that GVSU Greek life is welcoming, positive, and integrated with other Greek organizations, with 89.5% believe that their own organization's sisterhood/brotherhood is unified. Overall, 98% of GVSU Greek life members believe that Greek life is much more positive and united at GVSU than the Greek life at other schools around the country.

When given the opportunity to explain their reasoning behind their answer choices, most text box responses were fairly descriptive. Many students agreed that fraternities and sororities at GVSU do more than just "sign a check" for their philanthropies, which is unlike many other schools. Many students also stated that organizations are extremely supportive of other chapters on campus when they are hosting a philanthropy event, or any general event. There were also a few students who stated that philanthropy is the focus of Greek life at GVSU. Students are proud that they have friends in chapters other than their own, there is minimal rivalry between chapters on campus, and everyone is supportive of each other regardless of the situation. One student even described GVSU Greek life as the "Disney World" of American Greek life communities. When asked to state their favorite part of Greek life at GVSU, participants had a common trend of stating "the friendships" and "the community." There were very few negative comments about

feeling welcomed on campus, however one participant stated that “some chapters do not even acknowledge us [their chapter] as being here.” There were also 3-4 comments that described the “cliques” and “mean girls” in their sorority. Another student stated that although they are welcoming and inclusive towards all IFV and NPC chapters, it would be beneficial to interact more with other GVSU organizations to help promote a more united campus overall. A few students mentioned that GVSU does not have a social “tier” or “ranking” system for fraternities and sororities, which is common at other schools. However, one student did state that there will always be sororities at GVSU that have a better reputation than others, yet she also said that does not affect how they are treated by other chapters. One of the strongest themes in the responses about unity was the topic of community and support within organizations and between organizations, and how that is not at all common at other schools, such as Michigan State or schools in the Southern part of America.

Partying, Hazing, Sexual Assault

In the media, partying, hazing, and sexual assault are regularly in the headlines in regards to Greek life around the country. GVSU has been included in these headlines recently, but the many students at GVSU feel that this is an inaccurate portrayal of Greek life. 89% of students agree that Greek life at GVSU promotes a strong culture of care; yet only 82% truly feel safe at unofficial Greek events, such as parties and tailgates. However, at official Greek events, over 98% of respondents do feel safe. There was also a strong decline in the amount of students who believe sexual assault is not a problem in GVSU’s Greek life; only 56% of participants believe sexual assault is not an issue. In regards to hazing, only 21% of Greek life members believe that it is a true problem at Grand Valley. When asked about partying, 37% of participants believe it is a large part of the Greek life culture at Grand Valley. Over 90% believe that their specific

organization handles the topics of sexual assault, hazing, and partying well, but only 52% believe that GVSU officials handles these topics well.

When given the opportunity to comment on their opinions, the strongest trend regarding safety was that if students are in groups, they are much safer than when they are alone. Many responses also showed that sisters look out for one another when at a party, and fraternity men try to keep sorority women safe, especially when alcohol is involved. A surprising result was that a few people stated they feel less safe when non-Greeks are around because they do not know them, and everyone in the Greek system knows each other. The few negative responses about safety at unofficial Greek events was that alcohol can be scary. One comment was that there are “lots of drinking and closed doors” at parties, and women should not “be constantly afraid that someone will take advantage” of them. It seems that everyone who responded that they do not feel safe at unofficial Greek events feels this way due to the way alcohol dilutes common sense and respect for others.

Regarding sexual assault, people were in agreement that sexual assault is a problem everywhere, not just in the Greek community. Multiple comments mentioned the safety alert emails that GVSU sends out when sexual assault is reported. Even the responses that stated they do not believe sexual assault is a problem within Greek life, acknowledged that it is a problem on all campuses in general. One comment stated that there have been chapters on campus who have forced disaffiliated a member rather than dealing with the backlash an accusation of sexual assault would have on their chapter. However, the majority of respondents believe that even one sexual assault is too many and that their chapters are taking strides to fix the sexual assault problem at GVSU. The strongest theme of this topic is that sexual assault is not a Greek life problem, but a campus problem.

When asked to comment on if hazing is a problem within GVSU's Greek life, only 21% of people found it to be an issue. Many participants mentioned that it only occurs in fraternities, and discussed the organizations that have been kicked off campus over the last few years. Some people believe that there are rumors, but nothing extreme. Others have had absolutely no experience with hazing, nor have they heard it talked about. One participant mentioned that in fraternities hazing is "the norm" and should be expected when a person joins. All national chapters and GVSU have anti-haze policies, and many comments cited these. One student stated that part of the reason GVSU has such a strong, united Greek life is due to the fact that there is no hazing.

One of the largest issues participants had with the topics of hazing, partying, and sexual assault was how GVSU officials handle these situations. Students want GVSU to investigate more, educate students more, and make fewer assumptions about Greek life. Participants feel that although GVSU is trying to handle these situations the best they can, they are taking action before knowing the full story and without communicating with the organization that is having an issue.

GVSU in the Media

Of the participants, 86% of Greek life members at GVSU regularly follow news about Greek life in the national media, and 95% of them believe Greek life is portrayed negatively. In regards to media specific to GVSU Greek life, 60% believe it is portrayed negatively.

Comments about how Greek life is portrayed nationally describe how all the media focuses on is alcohol, rape, and hazing deaths. There were multiple comments about how the media has created stereotypes and does not acknowledge that every school has a unique culture within Greek life. Students believe that philanthropy work should be highlighted more, rather

than partying issues. One student even said that a news station told his organization they were being “annoying” when they asked the station to do a segment on their philanthropy event. The strongest theme about national media was that stories about Greek life only highlight the negatives, rather than the positive aspects and many of the stories are based off the stereotypes surrounding Greek life, especially fraternities.

When asked about GVSU Greek life being portrayed in the media, the ratio of positive to negative media changed. Only 60% of respondents believed GVSU Greek life is portrayed negatively, compared to 95% of national Greek life news. Students did mention multiple times that currently the media is only focused on the alcohol ban GVSU has recently put in place, which they believe gives the perception that all GVSU Greek life cares about is partying. One student stated the only stories they had seen in the media were about fraternities being shut down. Another student said that the media only publishes the “rumors” of why fraternities were shut down. There was one example that described a situation where the news was filming at GVSU about the alcohol ban, but in the house behind them, there was a philanthropy event going on. It seems many students are disappointed in the way the local media portrays Greek life at GVSU. However, a few students commented that they were proud their fraternity’s philanthropy event was covered in the media, but there were few comments on the positive stories, and they all mentioned the same article about the same fraternity event.

Analysis

The results of this study did align with the original hypothesis. It seems that GVSU Greek life members do believe that the reality of Greek life is much better than the way media portrays it. In the area of unity, results were the strongest. The vast majority of people believe that all of Greek life at GVSU is welcoming and inclusive, supportive of other chapters, and lacks the

rivalry that other schools' Greek life has. Students repeatedly acknowledged how philanthropy and service of the focus of Greek life, rather than the partying. This is not what the media highlights. Members feel that the perception of Greek life that stems directly from the media is an inaccurate portrayal. However, it was surprising how many members did believe sexual assault is a large issue, not just in Greek life, but on GVSU's campus in general. It could be beneficial for GVSU itself to try and take more action when dealing with sexual assault. Although partying does occur at GVSU, members do not think it is a major focus, but that is instead a basic stereotype of Greek life in America. The results of this show that GVSU does hold itself to a higher standard than Greek life around the world, and if the university, as well as the media, would be more willing to work with Greek life members, the perception and reality could align in the future.

Limitations

There were multiple limitations to this study. The first being that only about 11% of Greek life members responded. Of these participants, over 85% were members of a sorority, and only about 15% were part of a fraternity, which may have skewed results, as most of the publicized issues about GVSU Greek life have involved fraternities. Sororities are not surrounded by as much controversy as fraternities, so results could have been more favorable towards Greek life than they should have been. Another limitation is that the survey was distributed at two extremes: a time during which members are more strongly bonded to their organization, and an extremely controversial time where members may have been more upset and angry with their organization and GVSU as a whole. It would have been beneficial to have distributed the survey a total of three times, with the third being at a time where emotions are at a more neutral level. Finally, as an alumna of Phi Sigma Sigma at GVSU, there is most likely

some bias in this research, although I tried my best to keep that to a minimum. However, I do know what it is like to be a member of a GVSU Greek organization, but I also understand what it is like to be on the outside looking in, and the two perspectives do not align.

Conclusion

There was not much previous research on the topic of the reality of Greek life. However, the amount of responses received was strong, and the general consensus of GVSU Greek life was that it is a positive, but misrepresented part of campus. In the future, it could be beneficial for GVSU officials to look into each individual chapter more in-depth. This could help them to see why the participants of this survey feel the way they feel.

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Appendix

Survey Questionnaire

1. How many years have you been involved in Greek life at Grand Valley?
2. Are you affiliated with an IFC fraternity or Panhellenic sorority?
3. What is your age?
4. What is your sex?
5. If you were involved in Greek life in April, 2017, did you take the survey that was distributed to all of GVSU Greek life by the Dean of Students Office?
6. Was the survey appropriate? (Please move on to Question 7 if you responded “no” to Question 4.)
7. Was the survey offensive?
8. Do you feel that GVSU’s Greek life is inclusive?
9. Do you think GVSU’s Greek life promotes a culture of care?
10. Do you keep up with how Greek life is portrayed in the media across the country?
11. Do you think the media portrays Greek life positively or negatively?
12. Do you think GVSU’s Greek life is portrayed positively or negatively in the media?
13. Do you think GVSU’s Greek life has more involvement in philanthropic events than other schools?
14. Do you think GVSU’s Greek life is a more positive Greek atmosphere than Greek life at other schools?
15. Do you feel that your organization, specifically, is unified (has a strong brotherhood/sisterhood)?

16. Do you feel that your organization, specifically, is welcoming and integrated with other Greek organizations?
17. Do you think GVSU has a more positive and united Greek life than other schools do?
18. If you are at an official Greek event (philanthropy event, social, etc.), do you feel safe?
19. If you are at an unofficial Greek event (party, tailgate, etc.) do you feel safe?
20. Do you think sexual assault is a problem within Grand Valley Greek life?
21. Do you think hazing is a problem within Grand Valley Greek life?
22. Do you think partying, including alcohol and drugs, is a large part of GVSU's Greek life culture?
23. Do you think your organization, specifically, handles difficult topics and situations, such as sexual assault, hazing, and partying, well?
24. How do you think your organization would handle an accusation of sexual assault?
25. How do you think your organization would handle an accusation of hazing?
26. Do you think GVSU handles difficult topics and situations, such as sexual assault, hazing, and partying, well?
27. How could GVSU improve how they handle difficult situations?
28. How could your organization, specifically, improve how they handle difficult situations?
29. What is your favorite part about being a member of Grand Valley's Greek life?