Fraternity and Sorority Life
Assessment Process
*Spring 2009-Fall 2009*

The Office of Student Development’s assessment of the overall effectiveness of fraternity and sorority life at Woodbury utilized a national student survey conducted by the Educational Benchmarking Institute, Inc. (EBI). Survey topics included the overall fraternity and sorority experience, academics, leadership and personal development, community service and philanthropic involvement, alcohol and other drugs usage, diversity, new member education, and anticipated alumni activity. The survey was administered via the internet to all active fraternity and sorority members during the Spring 2009 semester. In total, 34 Woodbury students responded for a 68% response rate. Seventy-two other institutions also participated; the areas of strength, areas to maintain and areas for improvement listed below are based on how Woodbury compared to our peer institutions.

**Areas of Strength**
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members rated DIVERSE INTERACTIONS significantly higher.
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members rated INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCE significantly higher.
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members rated LEADERSHIP SKILLS significantly higher.
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members rated CONTRIBUTION TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS significantly higher.

**Areas to Maintain**
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members responded similarly regarding SELF-WORTH.
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members responded similarly regarding INTRAPERSONAL COMPETENCE.
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members responded similarly regarding COLLABORATION.

**Areas for Improvement**
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members rated VALUE AND RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY slightly lower.
- Compared to peer institutions, Woodbury fraternity and sorority members rated COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE significantly lower.
- Woodbury fraternity and sorority members indicated that the current system-wide leadership structure (the Greek Council) is not effective due to members’ lack of time.

Additionally, we surveyed a comparison group of 92 Woodbury students who are not members of a fraternity or sorority. The fraternity/sorority and non-fraternity/sorority groups were similar in all areas except the following:
• Fraternity and sorority members were more likely to report developing relationships with students based around common interests.
• Fraternity and sorority members were more likely to report drinking more in one sitting.
• Fraternity and sorority members were more likely to report being encouraged to drink responsibly.
• Fraternity and sorority members were more likely to report having had unprotected sex since enrolling at Woodbury.

Strategies for Improvement
The Office of Student Development has already made the following changes to the Fraternity and Sorority Life Program based on the results of this assessment:
• We have changed the Greek Council structure to a Greek Presidents’ Council, where the five chapter presidents also provide leadership to the fraternity/sorority community as a whole. This means that fewer students are asked to contribute significant amounts of time to leadership positions. Additionally, because all chapters have equal representation within the Greek Presidents’ Council, members are more likely to perceive the leadership as representative and fair.
• In past years, members were required to participate in one risk-management workshop per semester. We have increased the requirement to two workshops per semester; one is always focused on hazing, and the other alternates between high-risk drinking behaviors and safe sex practices. Moreover, we are exploring alternative models of presenting this information based on the unique needs of our students and national best practices.

Additional initiatives will focus on:
• Developing a consistent focus on community service across chapters, and
• Utilizing the diversity within our fraternity/sorority community to teach students how to truly value and respect difference.