

Situation Assessment as Based on JML Survey

Chapter of Electrical Engineering and Chapter of Medical Engineering

2022



Inledning

The following document is a summary of responses to the *JML Equality and Diversity Survey* performed by the joint Equality Committee of the Chapters of Electrical Engineering and Medical Engineering in the spring of 2022. The survey consisted of four parts:

1. Inclusion in student life and activities
2. Alcohol and pressure within the Chapters
3. Access to information pertaining to the Chapters
4. Information about the respondents

The survey and response analysis were carried out by Silvia Barrett and Ariok Hedberg from the Chapter of Electrical Engineering, and Desiree Sundberg from the Chapter of Medical Engineering. The analysis is broken down into four parts:

1. The Respondents
2. Assessment Results
3. Conclusion
4. Closing Words

Part 1 provides general information about the respondents, and Part 2 describes the survey responses collected. Part 3 summarizes the conclusions drawn from the preceding parts.

1 The Respondents

The survey received a total of 81 responses, with the Swedish version of the survey accounting for 79 responses, and the English for 2. The Chapter of Electrical Engineering numbered 508 members as of this spring; the Chapter of Medical Engineering had 211 members at the same time. The distribution of respondents between chapters can be viewed in figure 1. Many Master's Degree students in the Electrical Engineering program are studying abroad and so cannot participate in activities, which makes them difficult to reach.

As seen in figure 2, the majority of respondents are men¹. None of the respondents were international students. Figure 3 shows that 85% of respondents are members of their Chapter. Cited reasons for non-membership are a lack of reason, as well as a negative view of THS.

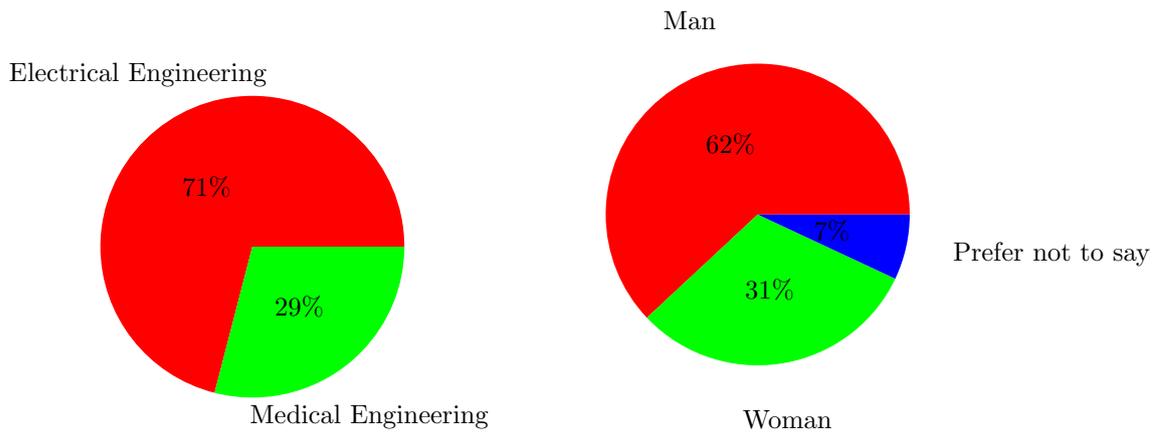


Figure 1: Responses to the question *Which program are you enrolled in?*

Figure 2: Responses to the question *What is your gender identity?*

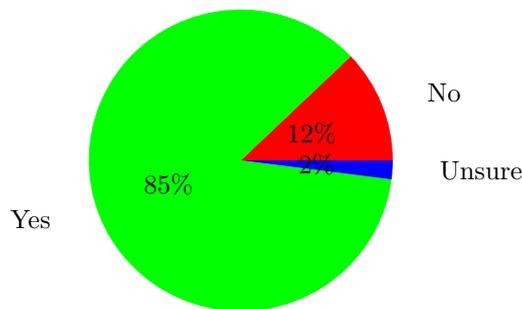


Figure 3: Responses to the question *Are you a member of your program's Chapter?*

¹The figure depicts the options that were selected by respondents. More options for gender identity were available in the survey.

2 Assessment Results

2.1 Inclusion in Student Life

Figure 4 shows the respondents' participation in various Chapter activities. The number next to each bar corresponds to the number of respondents who selected the option (81 being the total number of respondents). Approximately 58% of respondents have participated in activities during the Student Reception, which, along with Chapter meetings, Thursday Pubs, and Discord pubs, comprise the Chapter activities with the most participants. Approximately 47% of respondents have been engaged in various Chapter Committees in the past year, and approximately 28% in various clubs within the same time span.

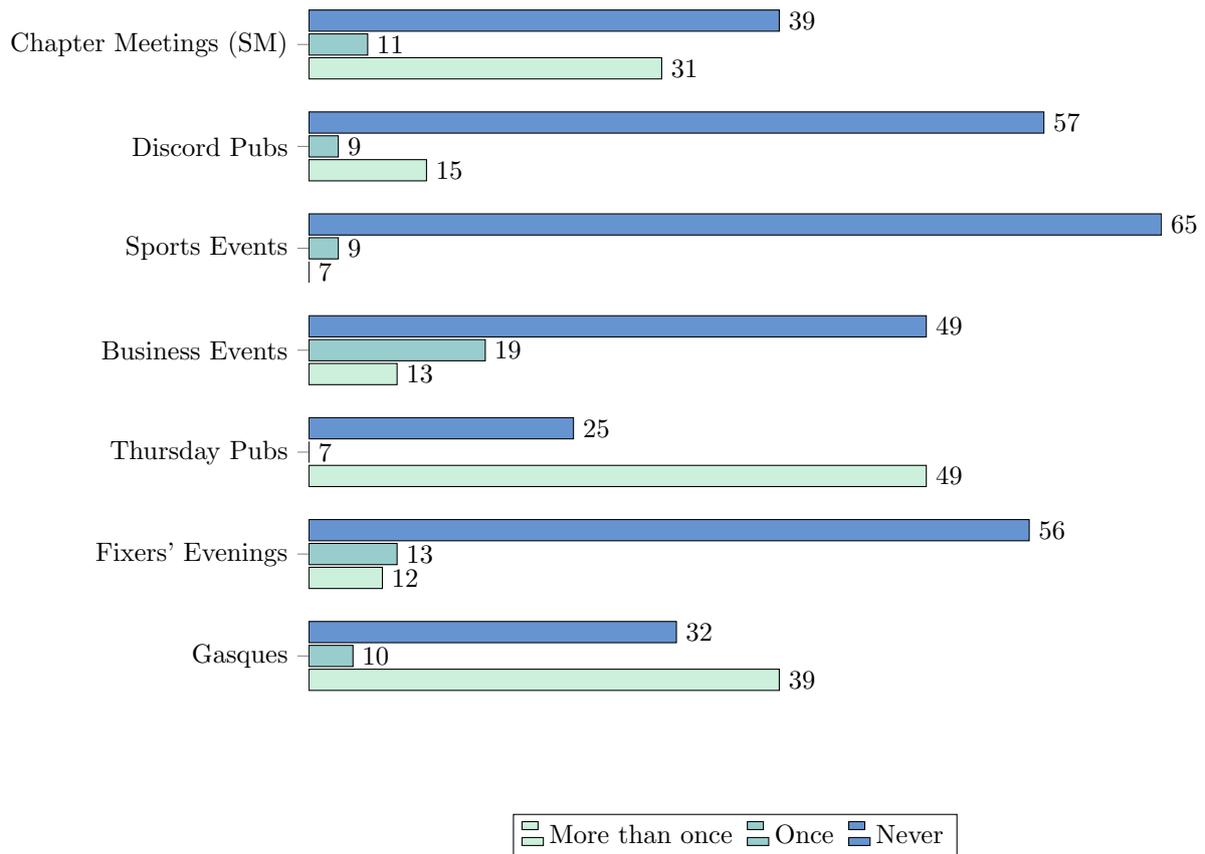


Figure 4: Responses to the question *How many times have you attended the following events in the past year?*

The following section pertains to questions on harassment and on the general atmosphere within the Chapters. As shown in figures 5 and 6, in the past year approximately 12% of respondents have been harassed, discriminated against, or otherwise treated poorly within their Chapters, and 23% have witnessed it happening to someone else. There was an option to elaborate on one's answer in a comment. Topics that featured included sexual harassment at parties, pressure in regards to drinking alcohol, and pressure in regards to grades.

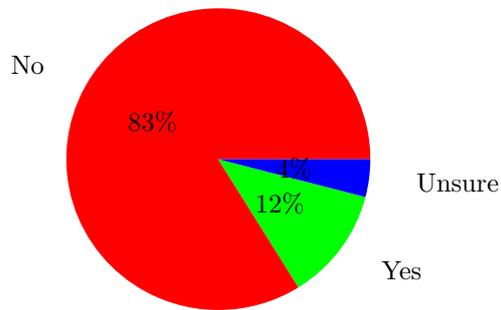


Figure 5: Responses to the question *Have you been harassed, discriminated against or in any other way been treated poorly by other chapter members?*

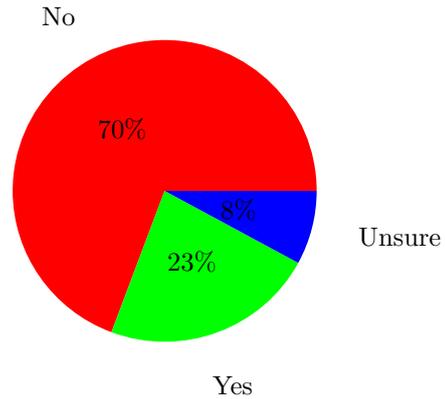


Figure 6: Responses to the question *Have you seen someone being harassed, discriminated against or in any other way being treated poorly by other chapter members?*

As seen in figure 7, more than half of the respondents are unsure about or do not know how to report harassment and discrimination. Respondents had the option to add where they would like to find such information. Several respondents stated they would like to find it on social media, KTH.se, the THS website, and the websites of their Chapters. Discord channels and the bulletin board at Tolvan were also suggested.

The question *Have you experienced that you, or someone else, has been receiving special treatment?* had an option to elaborate on one's response. Several respondents reported that Chapter members holding high-ranked posts in the Chapter receive special treatment, and that it is difficult to become active in the Chapter if one has not been active from the very beginning.

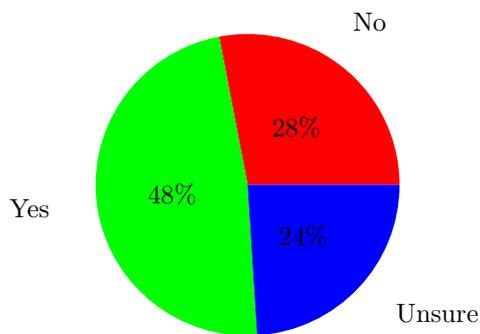


Figure 7: Responses to the question *Do you know how to report harassment, discrimination or poor treatment?*

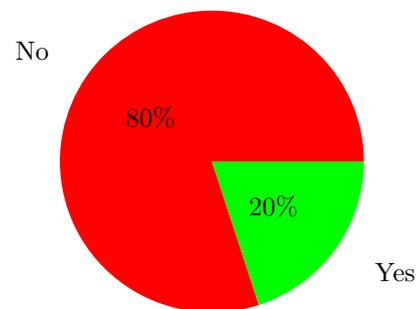


Figure 8: Responses to the question *Have you experienced that you, or someone else, have been receiving special treatment within the chapter?*

Most of the respondents feel at home in their Chapters, as can be seen in figure 9. The 2% that answered "Other" were texted answers that were variations of "No". Respondents had the option to elaborate with a comment. Many respondents answered that one's activity in the Chapter has a large impact on this. It is more difficult for students who are not active in the Chapters to feel invited and at home in the Chapters.

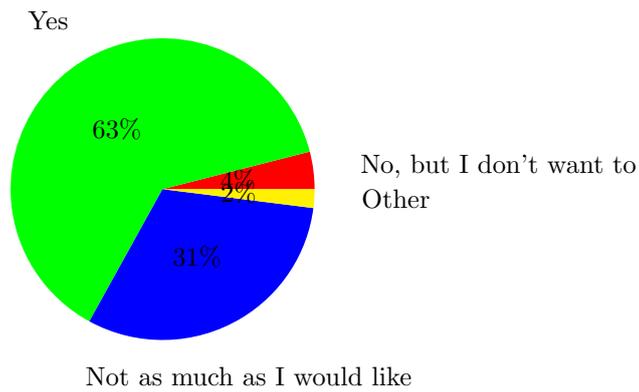


Figure 9: Responses to the question *Do you feel at home in the chapter?*

The question *How do you experience the social environment of the chapter?* prompted the respondents for a text answer. Fewer than half of the respondents answered this question. Of those who did, 65% considered the social environment to be positive; others brought up the recurring issue of a grouping within the Chapters that behaves in an elitist, exclusive manner. Some also saw the atmosphere as “dude-ish” and macho.

2.2 Access to Information

To the question *Do you feel that you are reached by the information you need / want? (From the chapters)*, the majority (67%) responded yes. Figure 10 shows that many receive information about Chapter happenings from their peers, as well as via Facebook. Figure 11 shows that the majority wishes they would receive more information from groups such as the Study Committees, Chapter Boards, and NLG/ArG. The vast majority would like to access this information via Facebook, e-mail or newsletters, and Instagram, as illustrated in figure 12.

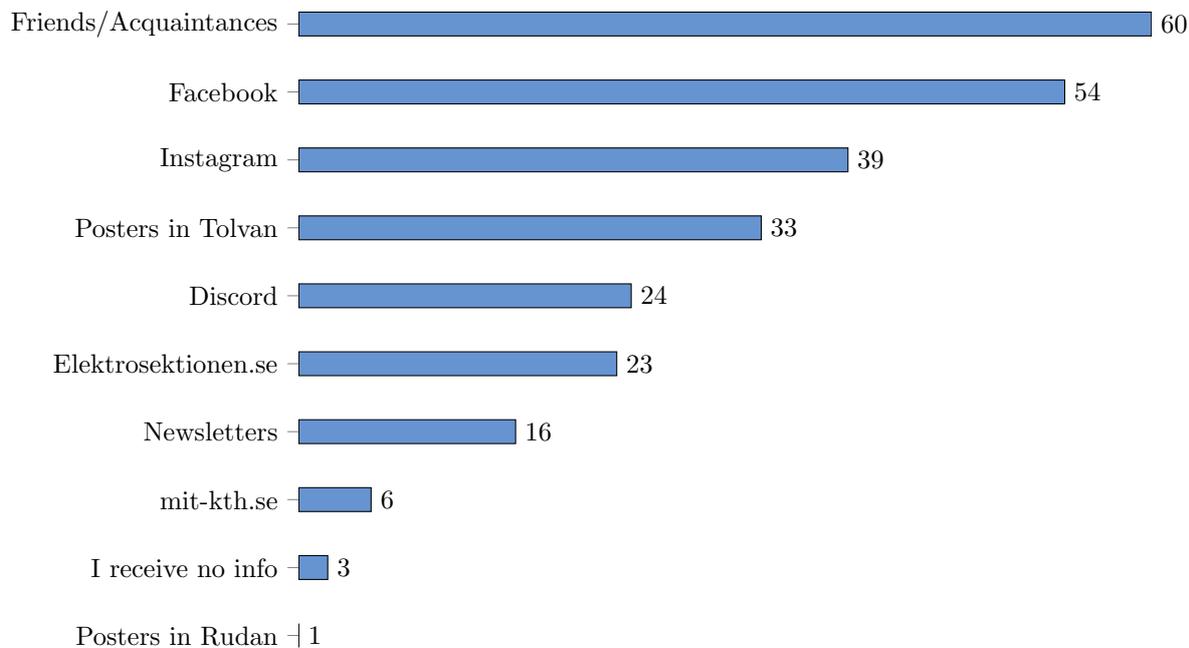


Figure 10: Responses to the question *How DO you get information about what is happening within the chapters?*

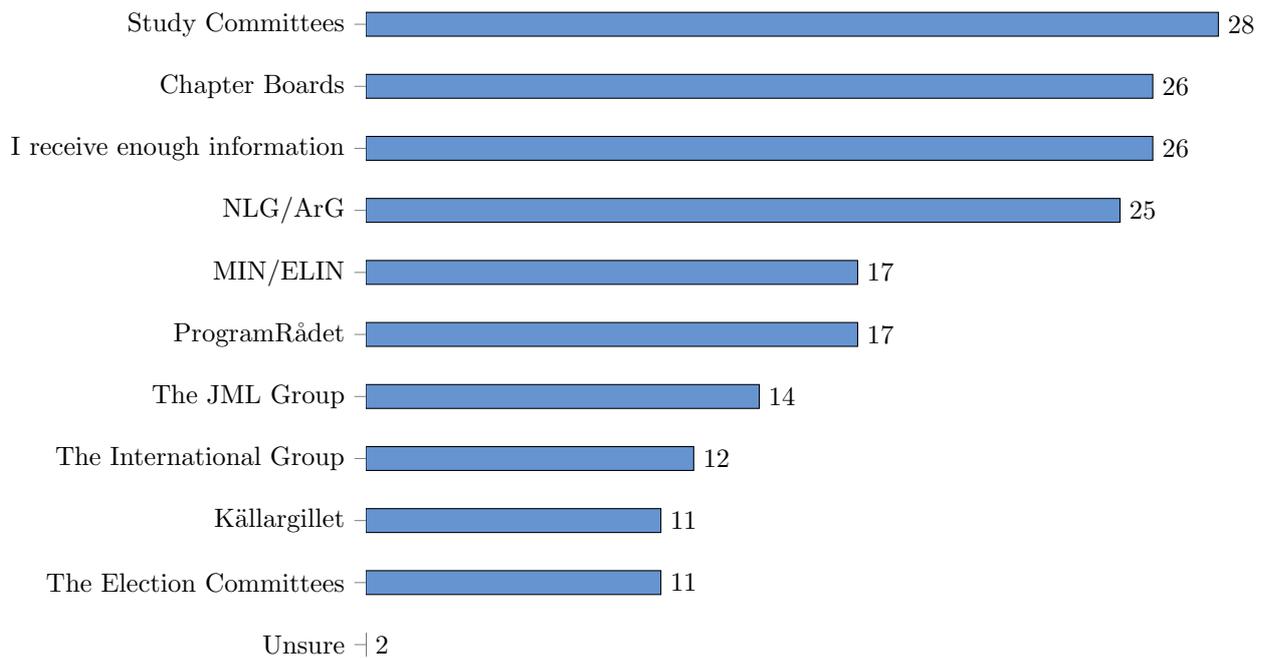
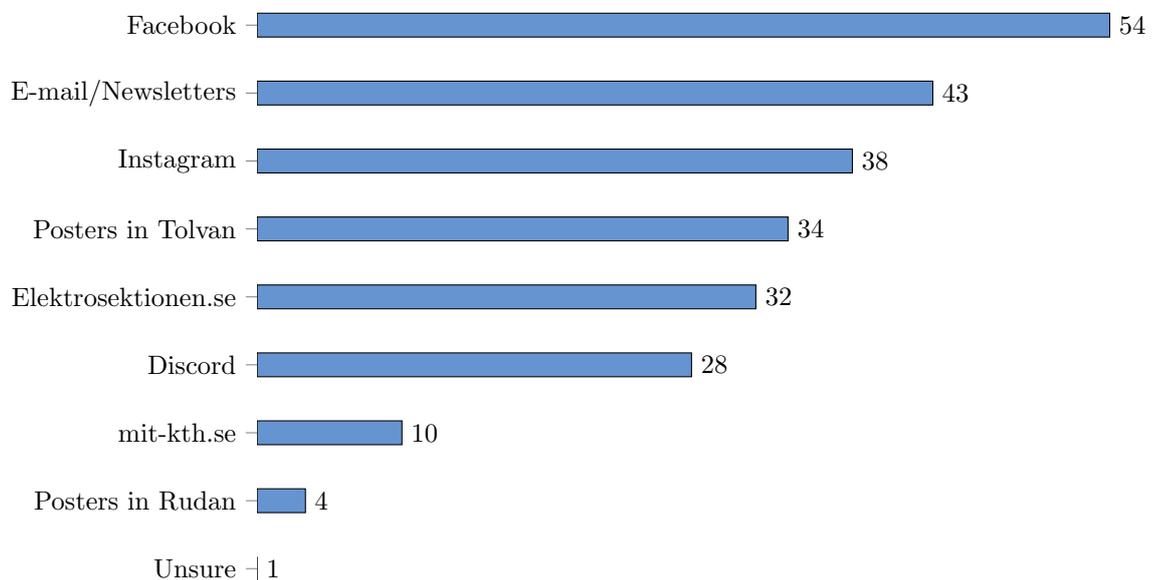


Figure 11: Responses to the question *From which part of the chapters would you like to receive more information?*



Posters in the vicinity of Tolvan 1

Figure 12: Responses to the question *How WOULD you like to get information about what is happening within the chapters?*

2.3 Alcohol/Pressure

25% of respondents have felt questioned on grounds of their alcohol consumption, as shown in figure 13. The numbers show the number of respondents (as opposed to percentages.)

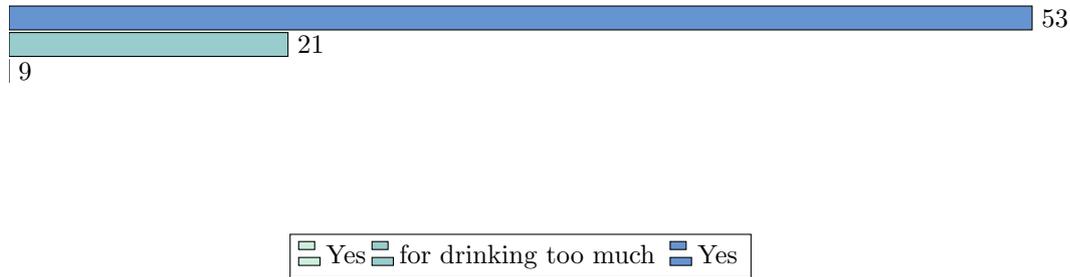


Figure 13: Responses to the question *Have you ever felt that you have been questioned because of your alcohol consumption?*

A comparison of figures 14 and 15 shows that more have felt pressured than felt that they were the ones exerting pressure. More respondents felt uncertain about whether they themselves exerted pressure, than about whether they were pressured. Both figures show that the vast majority of respondents have neither been pressured nor felt that they exerted pressure.

The question *Have you ever pressured someone to do something against their will? (either related to alcohol or something else)* gave the respondents the option to elaborate with a text answer. Some reported that there is a certain norm that one should stay late and forgo rest. Others responded that they have been pressured “in good faith” and not taken offense to it.

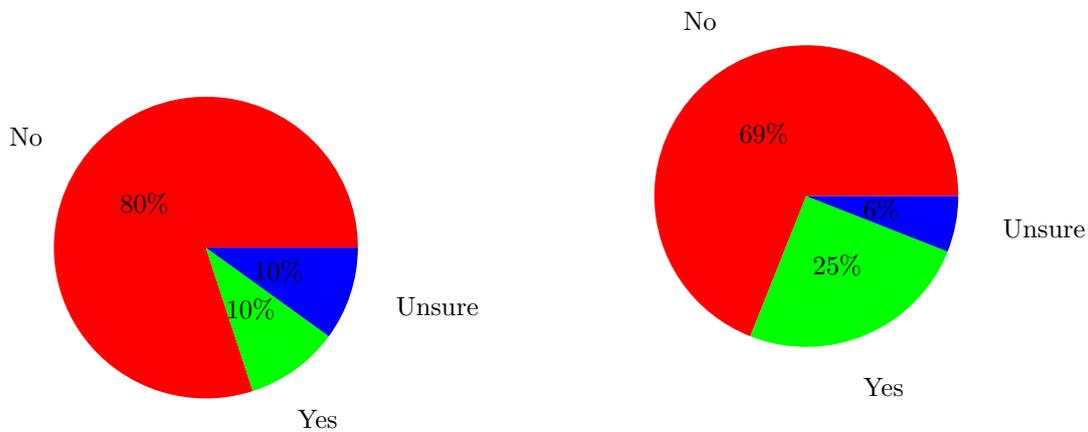


Figure 14: Responses to the question *Have you ever pressured someone to do something against their will? (either related to alcohol or something else)*

Figure 15: Responses to the question *Have you ever been pressured to do something against your will? (either related to alcohol or something else)*

The respondents were asked to rate the intensity of the pressure to drink within the Chapters. The results can be viewed in figure 16.

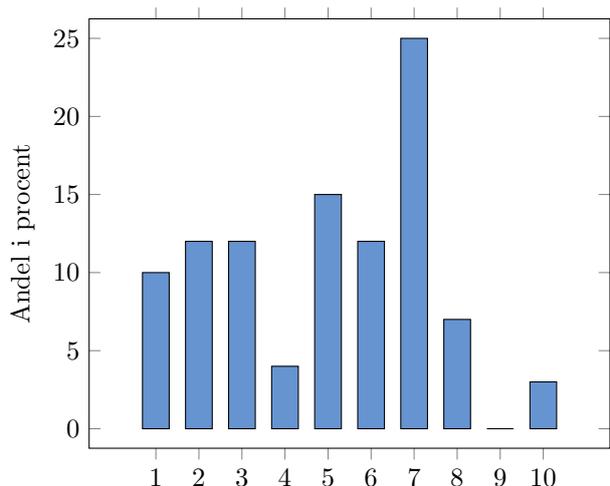


Figure 16: Responses to the question *How strong do you think the pressure to drink is in the chapters?*

Figure 17 shows that the vast majority feel comfortable with being sober at a party. Most added that it is not viewed in a negative light, but that it is less fun. Some brought up the recurring view that the social perception is that one should drink a lot, but that the the pressure to drink is comparatively very low in spite of this alcohol culture.

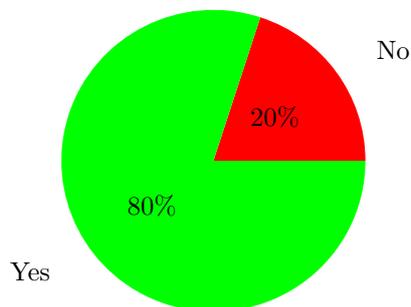


Figure 17: Responses to the question *Are you comfortable with going to a party and being sober?*

57% of respondents answered no to the question *Do you want the chapter to arrange more alcohol-free events?*. Those who answered yes had the option to add what types of alcohol-free events they would like to see. Among the suggestions were game nights, movie nights, sports events, sewing circles, and alcohol-free pubs. Various outdoor activities, as well as cultivation of potatoes in Berzelii Park, were also suggested.

3 Conclusion

The intensity of Chapter activity has fluctuated over the past years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this, we choose to compare this year's results with those from last year, with the impacts of the pandemic in mind. This year's respondents numbered an approximate third fewer than last year's, which may influence the results.

Compared to the previous survey, fewer respondents report being Chapter members this year. The popularity of Chapter activities that were present in last year's survey maintain a similar trend to last year's, while physical events reinstated as options this year list lower participation than they did in the 2020 (pre-Covid) survey.

A larger fraction of respondents report that they experienced or witnessed harassment/discrimination, or that they were uncertain if they had, this year compared to the last. Responses to the question about knowing how to report misconduct have a distribution similar to last year's.

The percentage of respondents who experienced or witnessed special treatment of any kind has increased from last year's 16% to 20%. Most of the reports specify preferential treatment.

The question about feeling at home in the Chapters saw more respondents who wish they had felt more at home than they currently do. Descriptions of the Chapters' general atmosphere yielded similar answers to last year's, although many of this year's respondents report distinct social grouping and exclusionary behavior.

The majority of last year's respondents reported that they received sufficient information from the various sectors within their Chapter. Many of this year's respondents express that they would like more information from the Study Committees, the Chapter Boards, and the business committees.

A greater fraction of respondents report having felt questioned for drinking "too little" this year. The prevalence of respondents who have pressured others, and those who have been pressured themselves, have both increased as well. Some respondents remark on the alcohol culture being greater than the actual pressure to drink. The percentage of respondents who feel comfortable attending a party sober has decreased slightly.

4 Closing Words

This year's survey has been modified to accommodate for the changes in restrictions due to the pandemic. Some response options that were previously removed have been reinstated.

The question pertaining to the respondent's age has been removed.

The question about the respondent's gender in the Swedish version has been altered to correctly reference gender identity.

The following question was added this year: *Are you an international student?*