



A Status Report on the Greek Community  
at California State University, Fresno

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# STATUS REPORT ON THE GREEK COMMUNITY



## INTRODUCTION

### **California State University, Fresno**

California State University, Fresno is committed to supporting the formation of and grants recognition to student organizations whose purpose and activities enhance the social, cultural, recreational, and educational mission and purpose of the University.

California State University, Fresno has just completed an important strategic planning process that will lead the university several years into the new decade and towards its centennial anniversary in 2011.

### **This Report**

The Greek community can look equally optimistic towards this centennial and the opportunity to develop a plan for growth and development of Greek organizations at Fresno State.

This "status" report on the Greek community is intended to offer a look at this past and present state of fraternity and sorority life at Fresno State, as well as the possibilities of its future in 2011.

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## STATUS REPORT ON THE GREEK COMMUNITY



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following notes summarize the status and/or trends of the Greek community at California State University, Fresno for the last four years, 1998-2002.

- **Academically, the Greek community continues to perform below the all-student grade point average.**  
Throughout the past ten years, the All-Greek average has been no higher than 2.58. This is less than even the all-Men's average of 2.60 and certainly lower than the all-student average of 2.71. Of the four (4) Greek constituency groups, the Panhellenic Association sororities consistently outperforms the others.
- **Campus involvement via Greek members in student leadership positions has varied.**  
Greek membership of the acknowledged campus student leadership positions has been steady at approximately 10-15%. This is considerably lower than the national average. Even more disappointing is the lack of attention or promotion given to Greeks who are involved – Greeks seem to take little pride in their members' success.
- **Just as the campus is considered to be commuter, so is the Greek community.**  
The exception to this is the Interfraternity and Panhellenic organizations, of which almost all operate chapter housing facilities. Even among the 6 Panhellenic organizations, all of whom own private facilities, so many of their members reside elsewhere that the facility have become financial burdens rather than coveted benefits. A total of 16 homes exist adjacent to the campus; with a majority on the west side of Millbrook Avenue. The sororities continue to have live-in house directors.
- **Judicially, the Greek community has been troublesome.**  
University and/or Council officials have received less than a handful of reports alleging hazing when environmental indicators suggest the practice is still very alive. Although reports regarding alcohol abuse and/or conduct had been traditionally minimal as well, the fall 2002 semester witnessed a significant increase in alcohol and conduct-related incidents. It is not clear whether conduct, a higher awareness of the problems, or increased police presence is the cause for the increase.
- **Total Greek membership has varied considerably.**  
Membership climbed from under 600 in 1996 to over 850 in 2000, but has since fallen slightly. A considerable increase in membership of among Hispanic and Latino organizations has been offset by a decline in the more traditional Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Association organizations.

Formal recruitment participation for National Panhellenic Conference chapters has remained low, with "quota" ranging from 7 to 11. While registration numbers have been promising, retention between interest and membership has been low.

The number of recognized chapters has increased from 33 to 38. This is due largely to newly-established Hispanic and Latino organizations. The most recently-established non-Hispanic organization is Sigma Alpha, an Agriculture-based sorority, established in 2000. Otherwise, the youngest is nearly ten years old. Three chapters, including two (2) Interfraternity Council fraternities, have lost recognition since 2000.



The individual California State Colleges were brought together as a system by the Donahoe Higher Education Act of 1960. In 1972, the system became The California State University and Colleges and, in 1982, the system became The California State University. Today, CSU campuses include comprehensive and polytechnic universities and, since July 1995, the California Maritime Academy, a specialized campus.

The oldest campus--San Jose State University--was founded in 1857 and became the first institution of public higher education in California. The most recently opened campus-- California State University, Monterey Bay--began admitting students in the fall of 1995. A new site has been conveyed and a 23rd campus, CSU Channel Islands, is being formally established in Ventura County.

Responsibility for the California State University is vested in the Board of Trustees, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Trustees appoint the Chancellor, who is the chief executive officer of the system, and the Presidents, who are the chief executive officers on the respective campuses.

The Trustees, the Chancellor and the Presidents develop systemwide policy, with actual implementation at the campus level taking place through broadly based consultative procedures. The Academic Senate of the California State University, made up of elected representatives of the faculty from each campus, recommends academic policy to the Board of Trustees through the Chancellor.

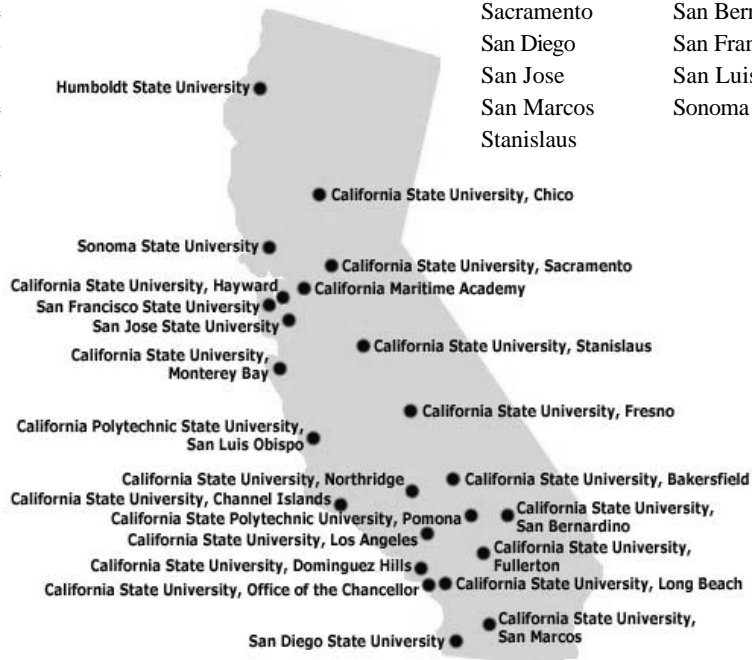
Academic excellence has been achieved by the California State University through a distinguished faculty, whose primary responsibility is superior teaching. While each campus in the system has its own unique geographic and curricular character, all campuses, as multipurpose institutions, offer undergraduate and graduate instruction for professional and occupational goals as well as broad liberal education. All of the campuses require for graduation a basic program of "General Education-Breadth Requirements" regardless of the type of bachelor's degree or major field selected by the student.

The CSU offers more than 1,600 bachelor's and master's degree programs in some 240 subject areas. Many of these programs are offered so that students can complete all upper-division and graduate requirements by part-time late afternoon and evening study. In addition, a variety of teaching and school service credential programs are available. A limited number of doctoral degrees are offered jointly with the University of California and with private institutions in California.

Enrollments in fall 2000 totaled nearly 370,000 students, who were taught by more than 20,000 faculty. The system awards more than half of the bachelor's degrees and 30 percent of the master's degrees granted in California. The CSU has awarded some 1.9 degrees since 1961.

**Campuses:**

- Bakersfield
- Chico
- Fresno
- Hayward
- Long Beach
- Maritime Academy
- Northridge
- Sacramento
- San Diego
- San Jose
- San Marcos
- Stanislaus
- Channel Islands
- Dominguez Hills
- Fullerton
- Humboldt
- Los Angeles
- Monterey Bay
- Pomona
- San Bernardino
- San Francisco
- San Luis Obispo
- Sonoma





California State University, Fresno was founded as Fresno State Normal School in 1911, became a teacher's college in 1921, and has offered advanced degrees since 1949. The university's popular nickname is "Fresno State." Fresno State is one of the 23 campuses of the California State University, the largest system of higher education in the world.

In recent years, U.S. News and World Report magazine's comprehensive listings of "Best Buys" among American colleges and universities have rated Fresno State as a "best buy," especially when compared to private colleges, or even other state universities, where students can pay double or triple the dollars.

In the list of western regional universities, several campuses of the California State University system appeared among the top ten because the CSU system, supported by the State of California, offers some of the best and most affordable education in the world.

### **Location**

Fresno State's 327-acre main campus and its 1,083-acre University Farm are located at the northeast edge of Fresno, California, at the foot of the majestic Sierra Nevada range. The surrounding San Joaquin Valley is one of the richest agricultural areas in the world, and Fresno County, with a population of over 1,000,000, is the sixth largest metropolitan area in California.

The university is within an hour's drive of many mountain and lake resorts and within a three- or four-hour drive of both Los Angeles and San Francisco. Recreational opportunities like backpacking, hiking, sailing, mountain climbing, skiing and horseback riding are just an hour's drive away.

### **President**

John D. Welty, Ed.D., was appointed in May 1991.

### **Enrollment**

Total: 19,118 (undergraduates: 15,416; graduate students, 3,702) in fall 2000.

### **Faculty**

1,096; 85 percent of the tenured faculty hold doctoral degrees in their areas of study.

### **Staff**

The university employs approximately 840 full-time staff and nearly 50-part-time staff.

### **Academic Schools**

The university offers 56 bachelor's degree programs, 40 master's programs, one doctorate (in education).

Agricultural Sciences and Technology; Arts and Humanities; Business; Education and Human Development; Engineering and Computer Science; Health and Human Services; Science and Math; Social Sciences. Graduate Studies; Extended Education.

### **Academic Calendar**

Fall semester: late August through December. Spring semester: late January through May. The university also offers shorter sessions in summer and during the winter break.

### **Costs**

Registration fees are approximately \$900 per semester (California resident, attending full-time). With books and supplies, housing, transportation and personal expenses included, a full-time student can expect costs for a semester to run from \$3,264 (living at home) to

\$4,860 (living in off-campus housing).

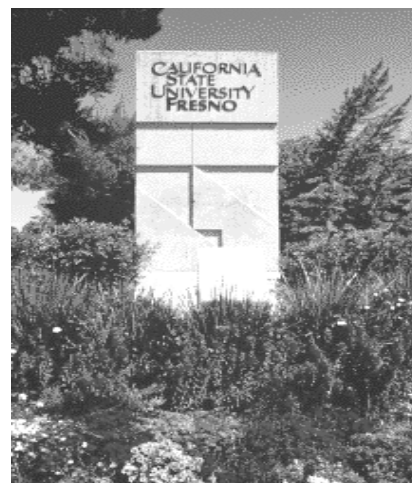
Non-California residents and international students pay \$246-per-unit non-resident tuition in addition to registration fees.

### **Residence Halls**

On-campus residence halls are home to nearly 1,000 students. Room choices include community-style suites or double occupancy or single rooms.

### **Athletics**

The Fresno State Bulldogs provide NCAA Division 1A sports excitement in an athletic complex that includes a 41,000-seat football stadium, a 4,575-seat baseball stadium, and a 3,000-seat softball stadium.





### University Experiences Changes

The following events or changes may have influenced the University and, in particular, the Greek community between 1991-92 and 1999-2000:

- University President John Welty took office in 1991.
- The university completed or engaged in two strategic planning periods. The first (1993-96) resulted in a “Plan for the 90s.” The second (1997-2000) gave birth to the university’s “Vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Plan for Excellence.”
- Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Dr. Judy K. Sakaki took office in 1995.
- There have been four (4) different individuals in the position commonly known as the “Director of Student Activities,” the position with supervisory responsibilities over the Greek Advisor. Three of those changes occurred in the last five years of the decade.
- There have been three (3) different Greek Advisors, with the most recent, Connan Campbell, taking office in September 1998. The first left office after the 1992 academic year. (Two of the three advisors are members of fraternal organizations.)

- The “Greek” staff has been transformed from a separate “Office of Greek Affairs” with two (2) professional staff and one (1) support staff member to one (1) professional staff member now enveloped in the umbrella “Student Activities” office. To supplement support for the one professional staff, there were, at times, student interns.

### 1990s: A Shift in Greek Life

The Greek community witnessed a decade of decline in almost every aspect of fraternity and sorority life.

As referenced earlier, the ‘90s began with a full compliment of staff working in Greek life. This operating level enabled sufficient support to recognized organizations and the offering of solid programs and services, including promotional publications, newsletters, and awards programs.

A major statewide budget crisis forced the restructuring of the “Greek life” office and elimination of some staff positions. Not surprisingly, this created a struggle to maintain the same level of administrative support and operations. Only a single staff person had responsibilities for Greek life between 1992 and 1998.

### The Ups and Downs of the Decade

- The number of recognized chapters has increased from approximately 20 to over 35, and is likely to grow to as many as 40 or more by 2003.
- “Local” Asian, Latino/a, and multicultural Greek chapters have been active since as early as 1991, but were not recognized by the university until February 1996 or shortly thereafter.

The total membership of these organizations was over 175 by fall 2000, and growing.

- Seven (7) National Pan-Hellenic Council member organizations were recognized by the university in the spring of 1997 after the Council was recognized as an official collegiate body of NPHC.

Academic performance did not experience a drastic drop, but the all-Greek average certainly remained well below the all-student average.

Membership totals bottomed-out between 1994-96, rebounded for a couple years before being in a roller-coaster ride through the end of the decade.

Campus involvement, once a strong aspect of the Greek life at Fresno State, declined steadily throughout the decade. A slight and only brief rise occurred 1998-99 as a number of Greek leaders assumed major campus positions. At the time of this report (2001), there appears to be a positive increase in this aspect.

Under current recognition requirements, an organization seeking recognition as a Greek-letter fraternity or sorority must be single-sex and be affiliated/recognized through a representative “council.” There are currently four (4) such councils, each with a unique group of member organizations. The councils are described here, with additional details on the individual chapters included on the following page.



### **Interfraternity Council**

The Interfraternity Council (IFC), established in 1952, currently consists of twelve (12) fraternities affiliated with the National Interfraternity Conference (NIC), a federation of 67 international men’s college fraternities.

IFC organizations fit the “traditional” fraternity image of historically-white membership, homes, and social events involving alcohol. Ten of the twelve currently have homes. Slightly more than half of those reside in traditional-style homes with large living rooms and commercial-style kitchens. The others reside in homes that are more apartment style buildings, with separate apartments and open-air balconies and courtyards.



### **National Pan-Hellenic Council**

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), established in 1995, currently consists of six (6) historically African American fraternities and sororities. All are associated nationally with NPHC, the association of nine (9) organizations. Of the six organizations, three are fraternities and three are sororities.

Two additional organizations, one fraternity and one sorority, have been recognized members.



### **Panhellenic Association**

The Panhellenic Association, more often referred to as the Panhellenic Council (PC) or simply Panhellenic, was established in 1954 as the governing council for historically-white sororities nationally affiliated with the National Panhellenic Conference.

Panhellenic currently has six (6) full member chapters, all of whom are more forty years old. (The Council has two (2) associate members. One associate member has been with the council since 1990, and the second gained recognition in 2000.

Panhellenic organizations fit the “traditional” sorority image of being historically-white in membership, homes, and social events. All six have traditional sorority homes with commercial-style kitchens and live-in house directors.



### **Universal Greek Council**

The Universal Greek Council (UGC), established in 1996 as the Local Greek Council with both fraternities and sororities. Most are hispanic or multicultural in tradition and membership.

Approximately half of the chapters are affiliated nationally with the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations.

Five years after its founding, UGC is still the fastest growing constituency among Fresno State Greeks.



The Order of Omega National Honor Society’s Delta Alpha Chapter was first established at Fresno State in 1981. After approximately four years of dormancy, the chapter was re-established in Fall 1999. The chapter has since initiated approximately 50 or more new members.

### Interfraternity Council

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Founded</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Founded</i>	<i>Established</i>
	<i>Nationally</i>	<i>Locally</i>		<i>Nationally</i>	<i>Locally</i>
Alpha Gamma Rho	1908	1963	Delta Sigma Phi	1899	1991
Delta Upsilon	1834	1969	Kappa Sigma	1869	1951
Lambda Chi Alpha	1909	1948	Phi Gamma Delta	1848	1982
Pi Kappa Alpha	1868	1986	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	1856	1949
Sigma Chi	1855	1952	Sigma Nu	1869	1951
Sigma Phi Epsilon	1901	1994	Theta Chi	1856	1942

Other organizations that have been members of IFC include Theta Xi, which attempted to colonize during the 1996-97 academic year, but was unsuccessful in sustaining membership.

### National Pan-Hellenic Council

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Founded</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Founded</i>	<i>Established</i>
	<i>Nationally</i>	<i>Locally</i>		<i>Nationally</i>	<i>Locally</i>
Alpha Kappa Alpha	1908	1970	Alpha Phi Alpha*	1906	1957
Delta Sigma Theta	1913	1980	Kappa Alpha Psi	1911	1985
Omega Psi Phi	1911	1995	Phi Beta Sigma	1914	1975
Zeta Phi Beta	1920	1985			

\* Not currently recognized

### Panhellenic Council

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Founded</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Founded</i>	<i>Established</i>
	<i>Nationally</i>	<i>Locally</i>		<i>Nationally</i>	<i>Locally</i>
Alpha Xi Delta	1893	1952	Delta Gamma	1873	1951
Delta Zeta	1902	1928	Kappa Alpha Theta		1870
	1953				
Kappa Kappa Gamma	1870	1951	Phi Mu	1852	1951
Lambda Sigma Gamma*	1986	1990	Sigma Alpha*		2000

\*associate member

### Universal Greek Council (formerly known as the Local Greek Council)

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Founded</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Founded</i>	<i>Established</i>
	<i>Nationally</i>	<i>Locally</i>		<i>Nationally</i>	<i>Locally</i>
Chi Delta Beta	1997	2000	Chi Rho Omicron	1995	1995
Epsilon Sigma Rho	1986	1991	Gamma Zeta Alpha	1998	1998
Lambda Theta Nu	1986	1992	Nu Alpha Kappa	1988	1992
Phi Lambda Rho	1993	1994	Sigma Alpha Zeta	1995	1993
Sigma Delta Alpha	1997	2000	Sigma Omega Phi	1990	1996

Other organizations that have expressed an interest in becoming members of UGC include Iota Psi Phi, which has struggled to obtain recognition since 1997.



### Academic Performance

	F 97	F 98	F 99	F 00	F 01	F 02
<b>All-Student Totals*</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.71</b>	
All-Women	2.81	2.81	2.81	2.81	2.81	
All-Men	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	
<b>All-Greek Total</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>2.49</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>2.44</b>	<b>2.56</b>	
Interfraternity Council	2.49	2.36	2.26	2.29	2.49	
Local Greek Council	2.5	2.43	2.56	2.38	2.48	
National Pan-Hellenic Council	2.38	2.46	2.06	2.42	2.65	
Panhellenic Council	2.65	2.65	2.58	2.70	2.70	

\* Since the early 1990s, the all-undergraduate grade point average of more than 15,000 – 18,000 students has ranged from 2.70 and 2.72.

### Campus Involvement

The chart below illustrates the number of fraternity and sorority members who have served in student leadership positions. The positions noted with an asterick (\*) have an approximated number of participants. While an exact count may not be available, it is easy to suggest that a mimum of 100 student leadership positions on a campus of more than 20,000 students. (Research is being conducted to determine the exact number of positions, as well as the exact number of fraternity and sorority members in these positions.)

	F 97	F 98	F 99	F 00	F 01	F 02
<b>All-Campus Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>		
Activities/Programing Board	12	12	12	12	12	
Admissions Ambassadors*	25	25	25	25	25	
Resident Advisors	12	12	12	12	12	
Special Event Committees*						
Student Government	25	23	23	23	23	
Student Union Board	10	10	10	10	12	
<b>Greek Totals</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	
Interfraternity Council	NR	2	1	2	3	
National Pan-Hellenic Council	NR	8	8	5	6	
Panhellenic Council	NR	1	3	2	6	
Universal Greek Council	NR	0	1	1	0	

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Since fall 1998\*, alcohol and “risk reduction” education has occurred on two levels; “system wide” towards all chapters and at the individual chapter level.

Initiatives aimed at the entire system have featured open-invitation educational speakers to a large audience. There presentations have been conducted both at Sthe Greek community’s semesterly “awards programs” and separately as individual programs.

## Awards Programs

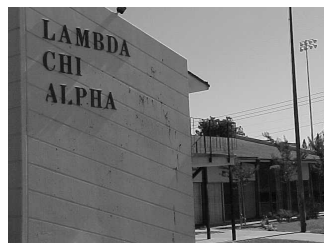
<b>Date</b>	<b>Keynote</b>
Fall 1998	None
Fall 1999	Will Keim
Spring 2000	Bob Kerr
Fall 2000	Debbie Poochigian
Spring 2001	Phi Mu Gender Gap
Fall 2001	None
Spring 2002	None
Fall 2002	None

## PROJECT O.M.E.G.A.

Spring 1999     Mike Green (Alcohol)  
December 2000     Danny Oliveira, NALFO  
February 2002     Lori Ebert (Alcohol)

## **Housing - Fraternities**

Of the twelve (12) IFC-member organizations, ten (10) have chapter homes. Six are located near the corner of Millbrook Avenue and Bulldog Lane west of Bulldog Stadium. These homes are the more “traditional” fraternity homes, and feature large common living areas and commercial kitchens. Each home can accommodate 30-35 residents.



Four additional homes are located on Shaw Avenue between Cedar and Maple Avenues. These homes are apartment-style facilities, and do not feature kitchens nor common areas (other than outside patios).



**Housing – Sororities**

Six (6) sorority homes are located near the corner of Millbrook Avenue and Barstow Avenue west of Bulldog Stadium and north of the six nearby fraternity homes. These homes, like their neighbors, are the more “traditional” sorority homes, and feature large common living areas and commercial kitchens. Each home can house approximately 30-35 residents.

The “Sorority Mall” area itself is maintained collectively by a committee of alumnae from the organizations, which arranges for maintenance and any necessary repairs. This committee has also contracted for varying security services for the better part of two decades. This services was stopped in 2000 due to concerns over the ineffectiveness of the program’s cost. There were mounting concerns over the effectiveness of the spiradic security patrols and insufficient funds to contract for constant, consistent coverage.

In addition to the amenities mentioned, each home also houses a 12-month live-in resident director or “house mom.” These adult women have been part of sorority life at Fresno State since the opening of the homes, and are extremely common nationwide.



**Judicial Log**

The fall semester was an active one for the Greek community, in many ways. Unfortunately, along with an increase in the number of educational programs, there was an increase in the number of judicial cases stemming from inappropriate conduct of Greek members.

While I would like to suggest this rise in judicial cases was due to self-reporting or higher community standards to which organizations were holding each other accountable, it is more likely due to the visibility of the inappropriate actions. I personally witnessed some of the incidents. Others were witnessed by individuals outside of the Greek community, who are more likely than members of the Greek community to report such activities. Some incidents were reported directly to the Fresno Police

rather than to university officials or were observed by the Fresno Police officers themselves. These incidents, of course, resulted in written reports that were forwarded to university officials.

## Membership Trends

### University Enrollment

The first chart below illustrates trends in university enrollment. Specific demographics commonly asked (ethnicity, age, credit load) are also illustrated.

	<b>F 92</b>	<b>F 94</b>	<b>F 96</b>	<b>F 98</b>	<b>F 00</b>	<b>F 02</b>
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>18,902</b>	<b>17,277</b>	<b>17,213</b>	<b>18,101</b>	<b>19,118</b>	
Graduate	3,623	2,994	3,113	3,582	3,702	
Undergraduate	15,279	14,283	14,100	14,519	15,416	
African American	723	809	957	949	932	
Asian	1,556	1,662	1,764	1,974	2,136	
Hispanic	3,626	4,059	4,485	4,848	5,241	
White*	10,307	8,285	7,286	7,274	7,606	
Other, Unknown	2,690	2,462	2,721	3,056	3,198	
<b>FTE Undergraduates</b>	<b>13,838</b>	<b>12,986</b>	<b>13,009</b>	<b>13,070</b>	<b>13,664</b>	
Avg. Age of Undergraduates	21.54	21.62		22.09	21.87	
Avg. Credit Load of Und.	13.59	13.64	13.84	13.50	13.30	

\* Caucasian population has decreased from 59% in 1993 to 47% in 2000. The percentage of this population has decreased each of the last eight (8) years – regardless of the increases in gross totals.

### Greek Membership

This chart illustrates Greek membership total by representative council/constituency.

	<b>F 92</b>	<b>F 94</b>	<b>F 96</b>	<b>F 98</b>	<b>F 00</b>	<b>F 02</b>
<b>Greek Total</b>			<b>@650</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>870</b>	
<b>% of Undergraduates</b>			<b>4.61</b>	<b>6.31</b>	<b>6.37</b>	
Interfraternity Council			316	343	385	
% of FTE Men*			4.72	5.14	5.81	
National Pan-Hellenic Council		NA	NR	36	32	
% of Undergraduates				.25	.21	
Panhellenic Council			273	336	269	
% of FTE Women*			3.32	3.85	2.90	
Universal Greek Council		NA	NR	110	184	
% of Undergraduates				.74	1.19	

NR: No Record. Insufficient data exists on a majority of the chapters to calculate total membership.

\* Interfraternity and Panhellenic totals are compared to FTE totals rather than total undergraduate membership. At the time of this report, totals of undergraduate men and women was not available. FTE totals, however, are very comparable to undergraduate totals.