



Diana

Good afternoon! By way of introduction, my name is Diana Li, and I served as co-chair of the Quarter System Review Committee with my colleague Kendall Grant. Presenting with me are Brandon Greer, Shane Moore, and Callie Pina.



Active Committee Members

Name	Affiliation
<i>Kendall Grant – Co-Chair</i>	PHC; Greek
<i>Diana Li – Co-Chair</i>	Student Assembly; Greek
Niyah Barber	Freshman Perspective; Non-Greek
Blake Brown	IFC; Greek
Michael Colella	Varsity Athlete; Non-Greek
Maha Ghandour	Student Assembly; Greek
Brandon Greer	Data Analyses; Non-Greek
Varun Hegde	Data Analyses; Greek
Gabe Kaufman	Student Assembly; Non-Greek
Theodora Misthos	Varsity Athlete; Greek
Shane Moore	Cayuga's Watchers; Non-Greek
Callie Pina	CUEMS; Non-Greek
Adam Shelepak	IFC; Greek
Richard Wang	Data Analyses; Non-Greek

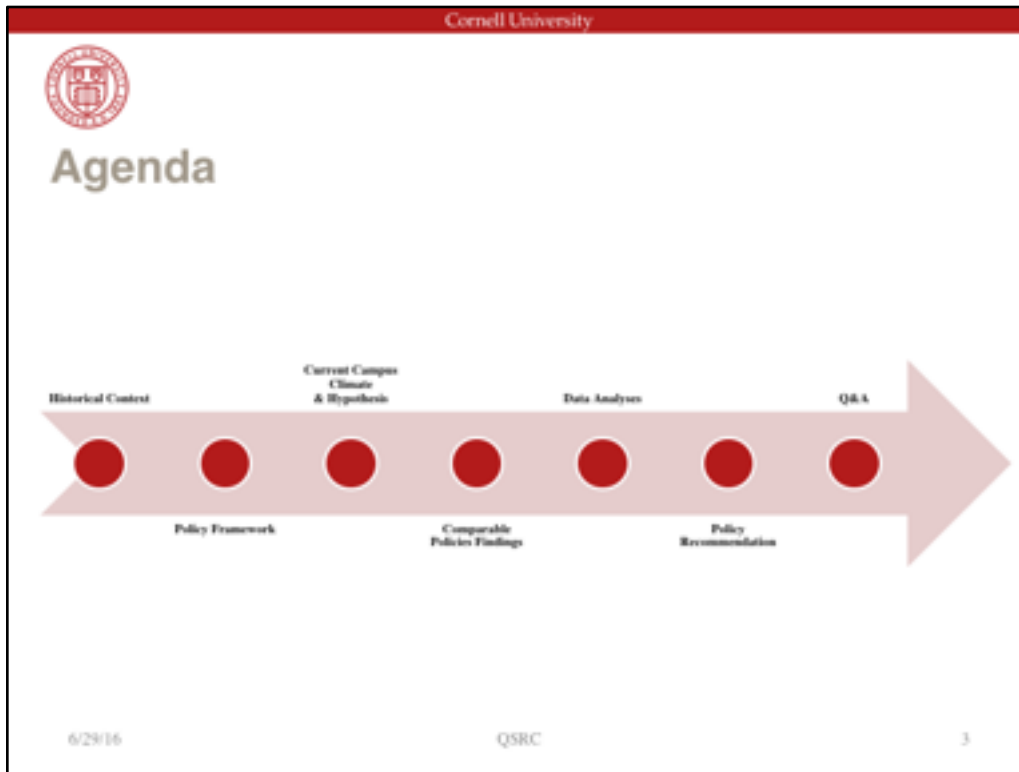
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Here is a list of our active committee members, evenly split between Greek and Non-Greek students, included for your reference.



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We will first review the history preceding the Quarter System, why it was implemented, and how the policy is currently structured. We'll then assess the current campus climate and our hypothesis, followed by our research on comparable policies at similar universities. Next, we'll dive into our data and analytical findings, followed by our policy recommendation. We'll leave time for Q&A at the end. Let's get started.

Cornell University

Historical Context

2002

- Cornell implements Medical Amnesty Protocol (MAP)

2011

- SAE fraternity found responsible for hazing in alcohol-related death of member
- Quarter System implemented August 4, 2011
- Cornell joins National College Health Improvement Project (NCHIP)
- NY State implements Good Samaritan Law; Cornell amends MAP to Good Samaritan Protocol

2012

- Cayuga's Watchers established

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To begin, Medical Amnesty Protocol was established at Cornell in 2001 to curb high-risk drinking behaviors such that students could receive help without penalty. In 2011, George Desdunes of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity tragically died from an alcohol-related hazing incident. The university responded promptly with a task force to fulfill President Skorton’s request to “end pledging as we know it.” The result was the Quarter System, implemented in August 2011 to curb hazing, high-risk drinking, and Greek contact with freshmen.

Subsequently, Cornell joined the National College Health Improvement Project and amended the Medical Amnesty Protocol of 2002 to meet the standards of New York State’s Good Samaritan Law. In 2012, Cayuga’s Watchers was established as the first student-led initiative to approach high-risk alcohol abuse and social safety.

I will now pass the presentation off to Brandon, who will review the Quarter System’s current policy framework.



Brandon

[Intro clause for transition]. The Quarter System is a non-academic calendar breakdown of the fall and spring semesters, aimed at mitigating risk among Greek and freshman students. The First Quarter, indicated as “Q1” on this matrix, is a no-contact period between Greek chapters and freshmen. Freshman students are responsible for their social and academic acclimation to campus, but they are in fact able to attend Tri-Council events. These include Meet the Greeks, IFC’s dodge ball, and Panhellenic’s breakfast, among others. The First Quarter takes place from Orientation Week to Fall Break, which is the first half of the fall semester. First semester freshman students “may not attend any form of fraternity or sorority sponsored events or activity,” which includes, but is not limited to, “open parties.” (Memorandum re: University Recognition Policy Amendment Implementation, 2009). The Second Quarter commences after Fall Break, culminating at the end of the fall term. During this time, chapters may participate in informal recruitment to add second-year Cornell students to their membership, and may host non-alcoholic events as well. These mostly include philanthropy events; however, no bid-promising nor premature recruitment, commonly referred to as “dirty rushing,” may persist during this time.


Formal Membership Recruitment for Panhellenic and Rush Week for the Inter-fraternity Council take place the week prior to the spring semester. Upon receiving

bids, new members enter the Third Quarter. This is an alcohol- and hazing-free period, which now stands at four weeks in length. The purpose of this time is for new members to become acclimated with the history and values of their respective chapters prior to initiation. All social events are non-alcoholic, but older members may host standard events at which new members are not permitted. The length of the New Member Education period has decreased since the Quarter System's installment in the interest of student safety. The Third Quarter's primary purpose is to prevent hazing, which is not tolerated in any form by the university. Although we have seen a great decrease in hazing figures historically, a share of students still report having experienced hazing while at Cornell. The New Member Education period continues to be improved with additional bystander intervention and consent education training, inter-chapter networking activities, and service projects.


Lastly, the Fourth Quarter commences with initiation, after which new members may engage in regular social activity. New members may now enjoy the benefits of full membership.

*Links: <https://www.adphicornell.org/120-adphicor/files/manuals/RecognitionPolicyImplementationPlanAug2011.pdf>
<https://hazing.cornell.edu/cms/hazing/issues/research.cfm>*

Cornell University

Current Campus Climate



Greeks comprise approximately 30% of the undergraduate population

- Dynamic social activity on & off campus
- Limited to certain populations
- Primarily confined to homogenous social groups



Isolation of Greek social activity may exacerbate divides between demographic cohorts

- The majority of Greek students are white, upper middle class, heterosexual, & cis-gender
- *Unintended implication:* first-year minority communities will most likely lack exposure to Greek social activity, leading to social exclusion
- At odds with the Tri-Council's diversity & inclusion initiatives

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Brandon

To shed some light on the current social dynamic at Cornell, we understand that Greeks comprise about one-third of the undergraduate student population. Most Greek social events are confined to Greek organizations, although social activity with athletic teams, a cappella groups, and other student organizations may persist irregularly. Further, more Greek organizations are hosting social events larger than those traditionally between two chapters. This may allude to “open parties” being held, yet masked under registered events. As such, the unintended result of such social limitation, largely in part due to the Quarter System’s ban on open events, is an exacerbated divide of demographic groups on campus. We ascertain that the majority of Greek students are white, upper middle class, heterosexual, and cis-gender. Their social activity, in response to the current policy’s limitations, may not reach diverse, minority groups of first-year students. This implication is at direct odds with the Tri-Council’s diversity and inclusion initiatives, and may perpetuate secondary, negative consequences on the social experience at Cornell.



Hypothesis

The implementation of the Quarter System will disproportionately affect call volume to CUEMS in Q1 & Q2 due to the prevalence of unregistered events containing hard alcohol, a lack of sober monitors, & increased distance from freshman dormitories. Freshmen are likely already exposed to Greek social activity in unregulated environments as well.

Brandon

Here is the core statement to be explored by our research. We hypothesize that the implementation of the Quarter System will disproportionately affect call volume to CUEMS in Q1 & Q2 due to the prevalence of unregistered events containing hard alcohol, a lack of sober monitors, & increased distance from freshman dormitories. Freshmen are likely already exposed to Greek social activity in unregulated environments as well.

Cornell University



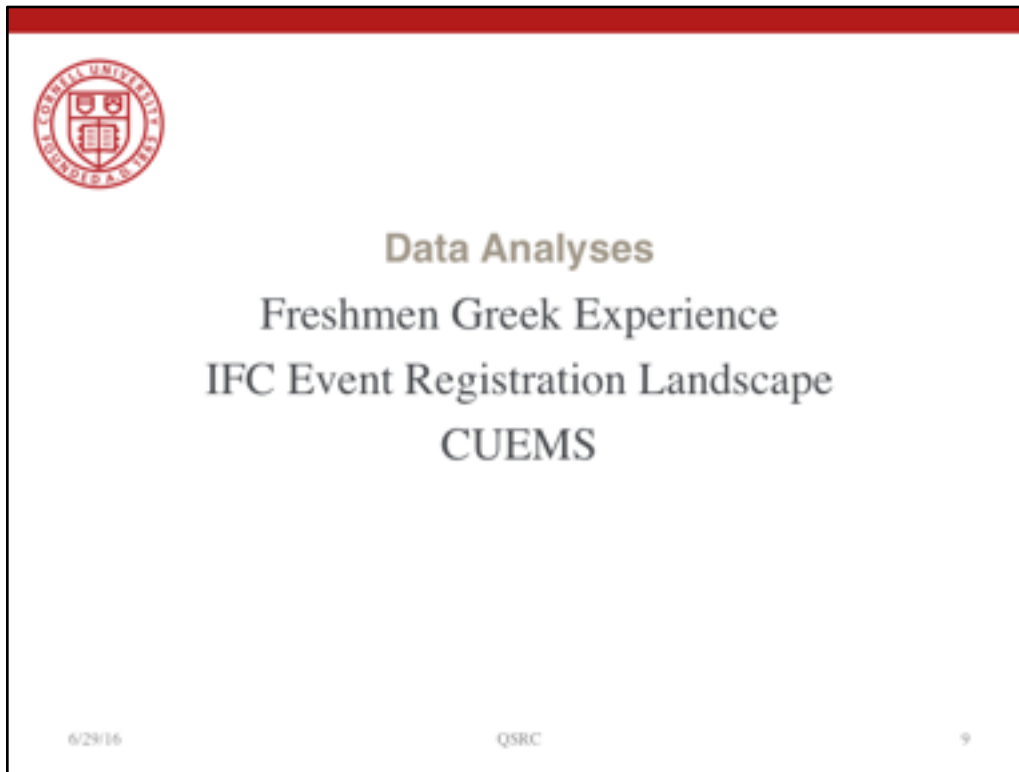

Comparable Policy Findings

Boston University	Middlebury College	Harvard University	University of Michigan	
Indiana University	Georgetown University	Ohio State University	University of Pennsylvania	
Dartmouth College	Pennsylvania State University	Princeton University	Rutgers University	Syracuse University

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Brandon

First, we explored the recruitment, event management, alcohol and new member education policies of over a dozen universities. Those noted above are colleges similar to Cornell in either presence of Greek life on campus or in terms of academic prestige. Congruent with our hypothesis, we did not find a university whose policies were more comprehensive than those we have here. Our detailed Event Management Guidelines, University Recognition Policy, judicial proceedings, programming on alcohol and hazing awareness, and bystander intervention trainings are far more developed than those at most universities. As such, we are thankful for the subject matter expertise of those in the Office of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living, and have created our policy recommendation based upon the data, which Kendall will now dive into.



Kendall

[Transitional clause]. The findings for our policy recommendation were developed from these data. The first was a survey collected this past December from the Class of 2019, second is data from IFC on event registration from Spring 2015, and lastly are call trends over time from CUEMS.



Freshmen Greek Experience

Study Purpose:

- To gauge freshmen and Greek interactions in social settings

Methodology:

- A quantitative Qualtrics survey administered to the Class of 2019 in Fall 2015

Kendall

The Freshmen Greek Experience Survey was launched in Fall 2015 to assess first year students' interactions with Greek life. With over 400 respondents, we are able to assess how effectively the current prohibition on freshmen at social events is implemented, coupled with where freshmen students are finding their initial social outlet.



Freshmen Survey Results

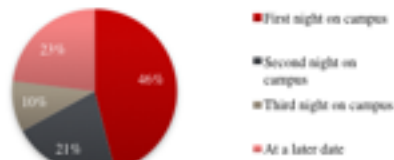
Have you attended a party in
Collegetown?



Have you attended a Greek chapter-
affiliated party in Collegetown?



If "Yes," when did you first attend a
party in Collegetown?



Have you attended a Greek chapter-
affiliated social event not in Collegetown
(i.e., at a fraternity house)?



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Kendall

Here are some striking findings from the survey. To begin, 82% of freshmen said they have attended a party in Collegetown, the majority, or 77% of respondents, attended events in Collegetown during Orientation Week. 70% said that they attended a Greek-affiliated party in Collegetown, and 70% also said they attended a social event at a fraternity house.



IFC Event Registration Landscape

Study Purpose:

- To assess where, when, and why IFC chapters host social events

Methodology:

- A quantitative and qualitative survey administered to IFC chapter leadership in Spring 2015

Kendall

Next we have data collected from Spring 2015 from Inter-fraternity chapter leadership. The purpose of this study was to gauge where social events are occurring, when, and the reasoning for both of those elements.



IFC Event Registration Survey Results

During Orientation Week did your chapter host any social events?



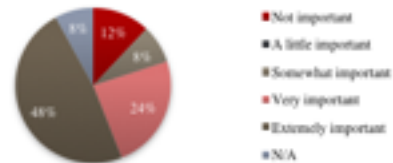
If your chapter hosted social events Orientation Week, were any of them unregistered events?



Location of Unregistered Events during Orientation Week



Reason for not registering an event: Wanted to include freshmen at the event



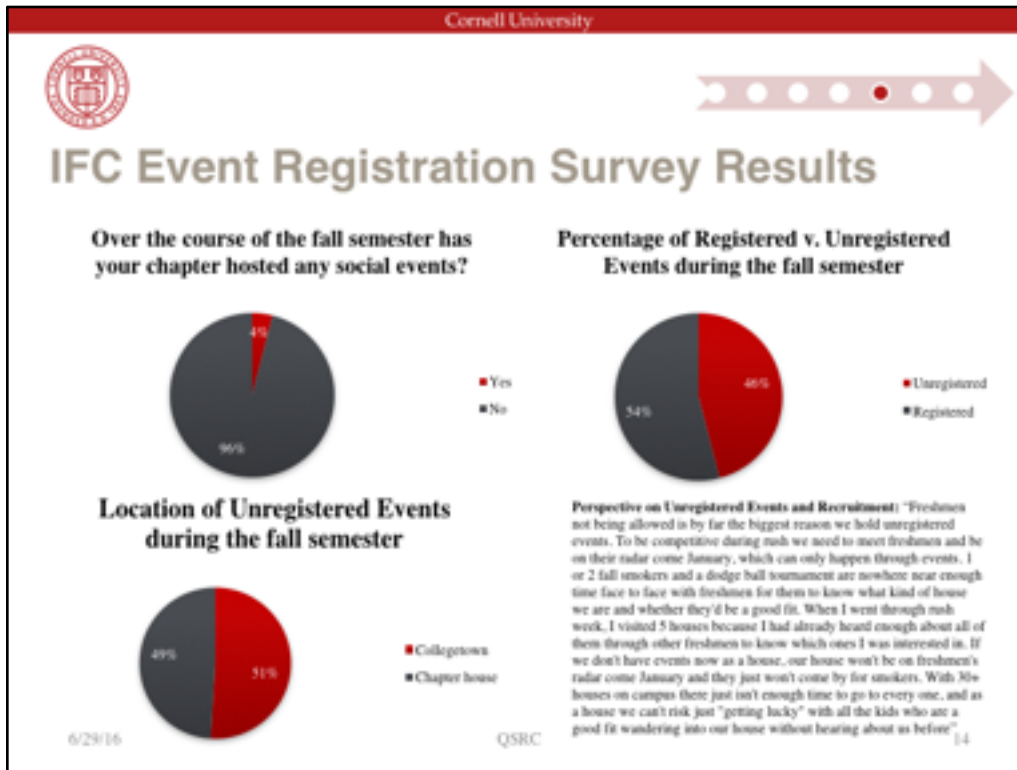
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Kendall

To begin, 88% of the 26 chapters participating in this study claimed to have hosted events during Orientation Week. Of those social events, 100% were unregistered, and 93% were located in Collegetown. When asking what was the primary incentive for hosting events off campus, 72% of chapters claimed that including freshmen at the event was either “very important” or “extremely important.”



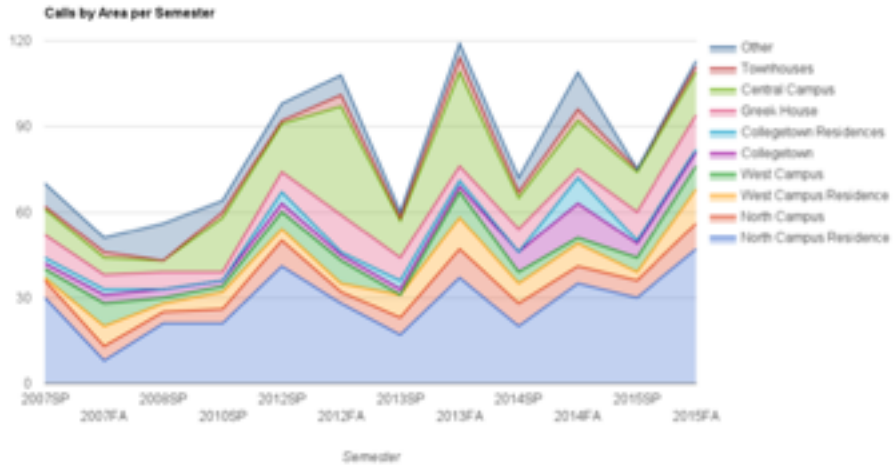
Kendall

Furthermore, throughout the fall semester, 96% of chapters reported hosting social events, 46% of which were unregistered, 54% of which were registered, and the locations of such events were split nearly 50/50 between Collegetown and chapter houses. Included in the bottom right is an anecdote from a survey respondent: he notes that attracting freshmen before Rush Week in January is critical to recruitment. The current policy framework includes limited time for interfacing with freshmen, and as such events in Collegetown mitigate this issue.

In short, we conclude that the majority of social activity in the fall semester is aimed at reaching freshman students, the vast majority of which reported having attended Greek-affiliated social events in Collegetown and at physical chapter houses. This data corresponds with our hypothesis that the Quarter System in its initial two quarters has pushed social activity off campus to circumvent regulation. I will now pass off the data analysis to Callie, representing CUEMS and their findings.



CUEMS: Call Volume per Semester



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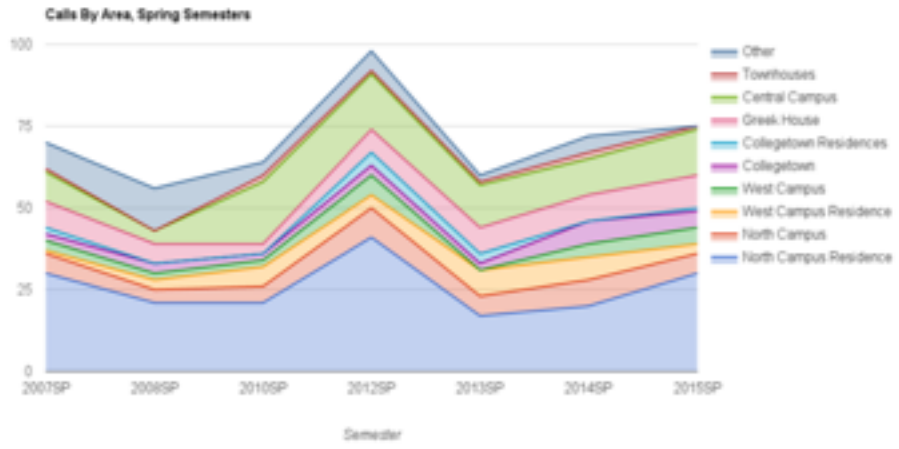
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Callie



CUEMS: Spring Semesters Only



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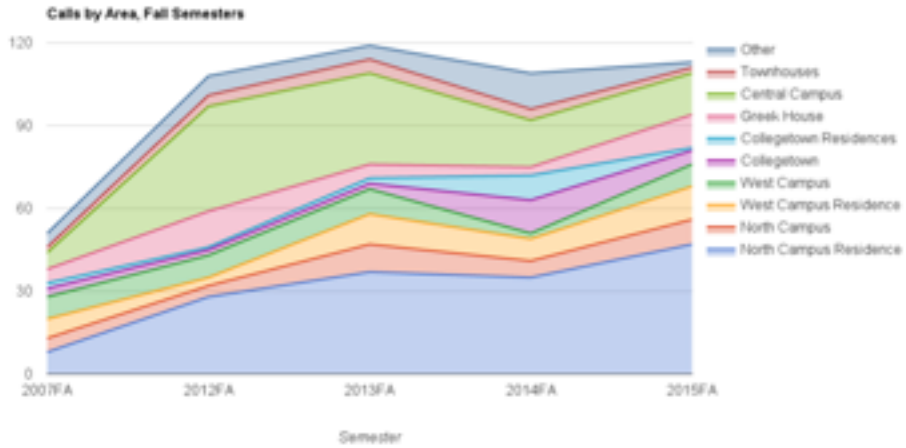
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Callie



CUEMS: Fall Semesters Only



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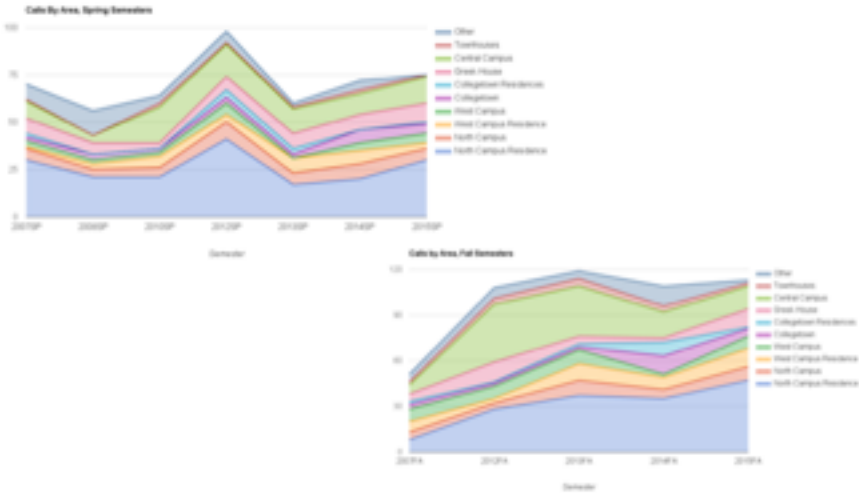
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Callie



CUEMS: Comparison





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Callie

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Policy Recommendation

Key Change	Rationale	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lift the prohibition on freshmen attendance at Greek social events in Q1 & Q2 <i>Mainain current framework for Q3 & Q4</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivize IFC chapters to host regulated events on campus Larger, 5-, 6-, & 7-way mixers at fraternity houses have evolved to mask open parties Provide freshmen with a social outlet on campus, rather than at unregulated events More robust safety mechanisms currently in practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cayuga's Watchers, Event Management Guidelines, & Good Samaritan Protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premature recruitment opportunities <i>Counterargument:</i> social activity with Greeks occurs otherwise Freshmen experience with alcohol <i>Counterargument:</i> social activity in Collegetown yields greater exposure to hard alcohol

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Shane

In conclusion, we recommend lifting the prohibition on freshmen attendance at Greek social events in the First and Second Quarters. Drawing on our data's findings, we understand that freshmen are engaging with Greeks in informal social settings, which largely occurs at unregistered events in Collegetown. We recommend maintaining the current policy for the subsequent Third and Fourth Quarters.

We understand that at face value, this looks like an endorsement of open parties. However, we note that the majority of freshmen are already attending Greek social events at Collegetown properties and physical chapter houses. Moreover, we have seen a greater share of large social events registered at fraternities in the form of 5-, 6-, and 7-way chapter mixers to mask the presence of freshmen at "pseudo open parties." It is critical to note that there are safety mechanisms in place that were not present prior to the Quarter System's implementation in 2011. We now have Cayuga's Watchers staffing a great number of registered events, SRC patrols, ID scanners provided to fraternity risk management to confirm underage party attendees, more robust Event Management Guidelines and sober monitoring, and Good Samaritan Protocol to incentivize members to call for help.

We have addressed the challenges to this recommendation, which include greater opportunity for "dirty rushing" and unsafe drinking behavior among freshmen. As

previously made clear, though, these social engagements are already occurring, but in unregulated environments.



Shane

Thank you for your time, and now we'll open it up for questions.



Appendix

Resource	Link
Memorandum <i>re</i> : University Recognition Policy Amendment Implementation, 2009	https://www.adphic Cornell.org/120-adphicce/files/manuals/RecognitionPolicyImplementationPlanAug2011.pdf
Cornell Hazing Data	https://hazing.cornell.edu/cms/hazing/issues/research.cfm
Freshmen Greek Experience Survey	https://docs.google.com/a/cornell.edu/spreadsheets/d/1pX3aHPQjHHS8rX20F9GloWxwex01sHBlynZEGa6p8yY/edit?usp=sharing
IFC Event Registration Landscape Data	https://drive.google.com/a/cornell.edu/file/d/0B90hT0TeazhT4U5sUXB2eDZjM3A5ejP0e0VDWUQ2U/ZhU/nNN/view?usp=sharing