

The First-Year  
Experience:  
*Getting Started at  
the Institute*

# The Surveys

- Summer Lottery Feedback (SUM)
  - 2002: 867 out of 983; 24 Questions
  - 2003: 954 out of 1017 students, 30 Questions
- Orientation Adjustment Lottery Feedback (OAL)
  - 2002: 568 of 751 “eligible” students; 24 Questions
  - 2003: 654 of 706 “eligible” students, 50 Questions
- First-Year Surveys (FYS)
  - Nov. 2002: 636 out of 980; Approx. 70 Questions
  - Nov. 2003: 619 out of 1018, Approx. 170 Questions
- Note: FYS will now be done every other year, though SUM and OAL will continue to be yearly surveys.

# Presentation Overview

- The First-Year Experience: Overall Perspectives
- Residence Halls & Residence Selection
  - Learning about the Dorms
  - Making Decisions about the Dorms
  - Pushes and Pulls to/from Residences
  - The Rooming Process
  - Overall Satisfaction
- FSILGs (selected information)

# An Overall Perspective...

- Academic Expectations and Preparation to Start Classes
- Feeling Welcomed by MIT and Orientation's Role in Creating Community
- Sense of Student Network of Support
- Dorm Expectations and Valuing Dorm Community
- Are You Known by GRTs and Housemasters?
- What Difference do Housemasters Make?

# Academic Expectations & Prepared to Start Classes

## Statistics

		Well Informed about Academic Expectations	MIT Prepared Me to Start Classes
N	Valid	525	1145
	Missing	730	110
Mean		3.18	2.86
Median		3.00	3.00
Mode		3	3

Question: Agreement with Statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree).

FYS '03

FYS '02 & '03

- Individuals who received fifth-week flags rated both questions lower than those who did not (by at least 0.40).
- No differences across international student status, gender, years (though academic expectations not asked in 2002), dorm movement, summer assignment, FPOP participation, RBA participation, Learning Community participation or type of advising (FAS vs. traditional).

# Orientation/Community and Feeling Welcomed

Statistics

Survey Year			Felt Welcomed by MIT Upon Arrival	Orientation Made Me Feel Part of the Community
2002	N	Valid	627	0
		Missing	9	636
	Mean		3.46	
	Median		4.00	
	Mode		4	
2003	N	Valid	533	524
		Missing	86	95
	Mean		3.34	2.99
	Median		3.00	3.00
	Mode		4	3

Question: Agreement with Statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree).

FYS '02 & '03    FYS '03

- In 2002, students felt more welcomed than 2003 (3.46 to 3.21).
- Also less likely to agree with feeling welcomed if one eventually changed Dorms during the OAL (3.42 to 3.21).
- No differences across international student status, gender, summer assignment, fifth week flag status, FPOP participation, RBA participation, Learning Community participation or type of advising (FAS vs. traditional).

# Network of Student Support

## Statistics

Good Network of Support from Other Students			
2002	N	Valid	626
		Missing	10
	Mean		3.47
	Median		4.00
	Mode		4
2003	N	Valid	532
		Missing	87
	Mean		3.30
	Median		3.00
	Mode		4

Question: Agreement with Statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree).

FYS '02 & '03

- 2002 higher than 2003 (3.47 to 3.30)
- Those in FPOPs more likely to agree (3.45 to 3.36).
- FILG male members more likely to agree (3.49 to 3.27); no data available for women.
- International students less likely to agree (3.13 to 3.41).
- No differences across gender, summer assignment, fifth week flag status, RBA participation, Learning Community participation or type of advising (FAS vs. traditional).

# Value Dorm Community and Understand Dorm Expectations

Statistics

		Value Being Part of My Dorm's Community	Well Informed about Dorm's Expectations of Residents
N	Valid	1152	527
	Missing	103	728
Mean		3.15	3.08
Median		3.00	3.00
Mode		4	3

Question: Agreement with Statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree).

FYS '02 & '03      FYS '03

- International students are less likely to agree with both questions. For Dorm Community difference is 2.87 to 3.17, for Dorm Expectations it is 2.72 to 3.11.
- Women higher than men for both. For Dorm Community (3.30 to 3.01), For Dorm Expectations (3.21 to 2.97).
- FILG male members less likely to value dorm community (2.79 to 3.19).
- For Dorm expectations, New, MacGregor and Simmons significantly less than Random (2.97 to 3.27).
- No differences across years (though dorm expectations not asked in 2002), dorm movement, FPOP participation, fifth week flag status, RBA participation, Learning Community participation or type of advising (FAS vs. traditional).

# Known by GRTs & Housemasters

Statistics

		At Least One GRT Knows Me	A Housemaster Knows Me
N	Valid	1155	532
	Missing	100	723
Mean		3.49	2.27
Median		4.00	2.00
Mode		4	1

Question: Agreement with Statement from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree).

FYS '02 & '03

FYS '03

- Women higher than men regarding GRTs (3.57 to 3.42)
- Less likely to agree with both questions if changed dorms and also if changed rooms. For GRTs, the differences were 3.58 to 3.46 for changing dorms and 3.51 to 3.29 for changing rooms. For Housemasters, the differences were 2.29 to 1.93 for changing dorms and 2.67 and 2.17 for changing rooms.
- Individuals in Random much more likely to feel their Housemaster knows them (3.27) than in Baker, MacGregor, Next, and Burton-Conner (1.94).
- No differences across international student status, gender, by year (though Housemasters not asked in 2002), fifth week flag status, FPOP participation, RBA participation, Learning Community participation or type of advising (FAS vs. traditional).

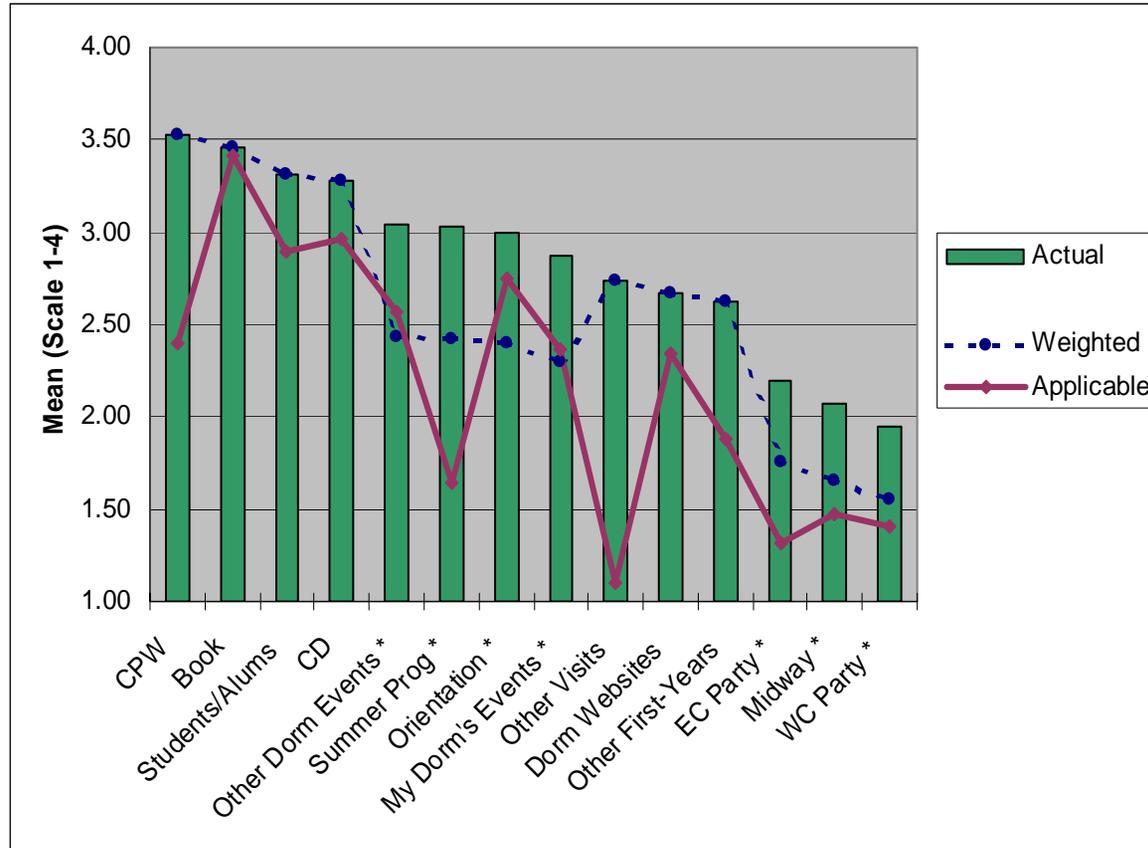
# **What a Difference a Housemaster Makes???**

*Those that agree a Housemaster knows them  
(as compared to those that disagree)...*

- Report a good student support network (3.42 to 3.23).
- Feel well informed of Dorm expectations (3.27 to 2.96)
- Value being part of Dorm community (3.34 to 2.96)
- Know by a GRT (3.73 to 3.36)
- Felt welcomed by MIT upon arrival (3.44 to 3.27)
- No differences on feeling MIT prepared student to start classes, on understanding MIT's academic expectations, or on having received fifth week flags.

# **Learning about the Dorms**

# Sources of Information



SUM '03 and OAL '03

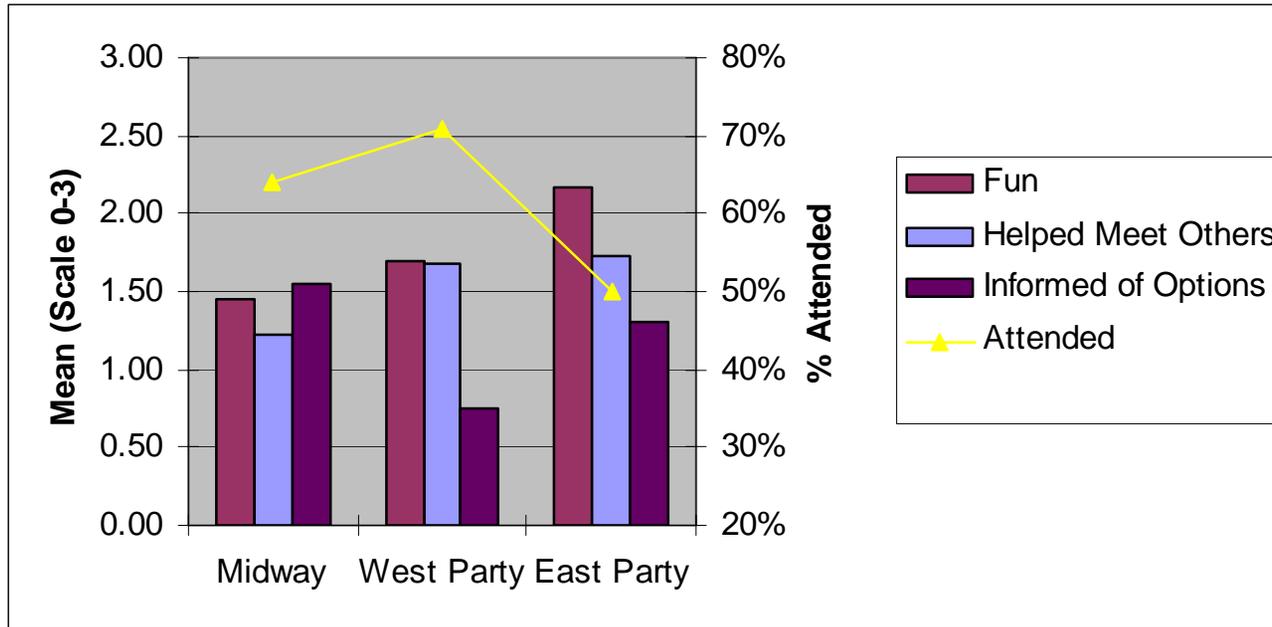
- Question as asked: "Please rate the importance of each of the following activities or sources of information in determining your Lottery Decisions.
- "Weighted" takes into account that "information received prior to moving to MIT" rated higher than any individual Orientation source of information.
- "Applicable" is the actual mean multiplied by the percent that attended/received the information.

# Closer Look: Information Prior to Arrival

- Overall, the trend is that MIT continues to do a better job of informing students of their residential options (2.8 in 2002, 3.1 in 2003).
- Less than 9% of students said they did not take their summer housing decisions seriously.
- Approximately 2/3 of the first-year students felt that had adequate information to make an informed decision prior to arrival.
- During the summer lottery, 872 said they felt well informed and 78 said they did not. Only 23 of these 78 requested a reassignment during the OAL.
- Students staying in FSILGs over CPW are just as likely to feel they received adequate housing information during CPW and throughout the residential selection process, as those that stayed in Dorms.
- Did summer information accurately predict the experience of visiting?
  - 2002 to 2003: Improvement from 2.89 to 3.04.
  - Squatters statistically more likely to think so (3.20 to 2.64), using 2003 data only.

# Major REX Events

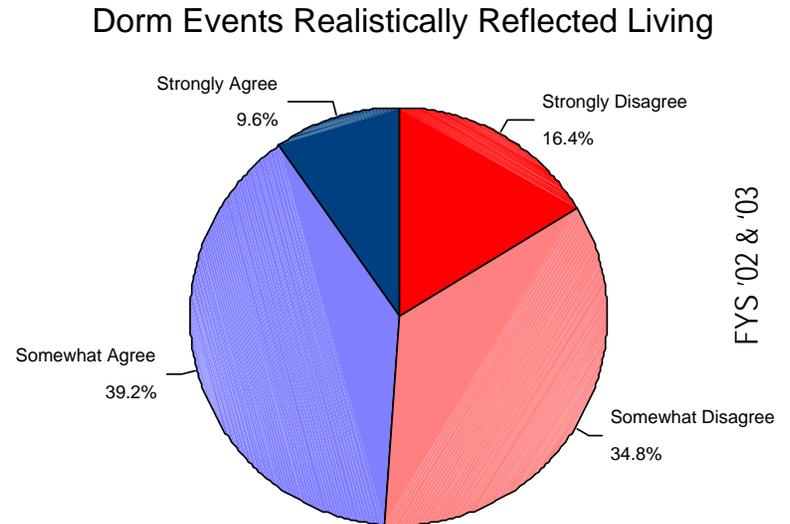
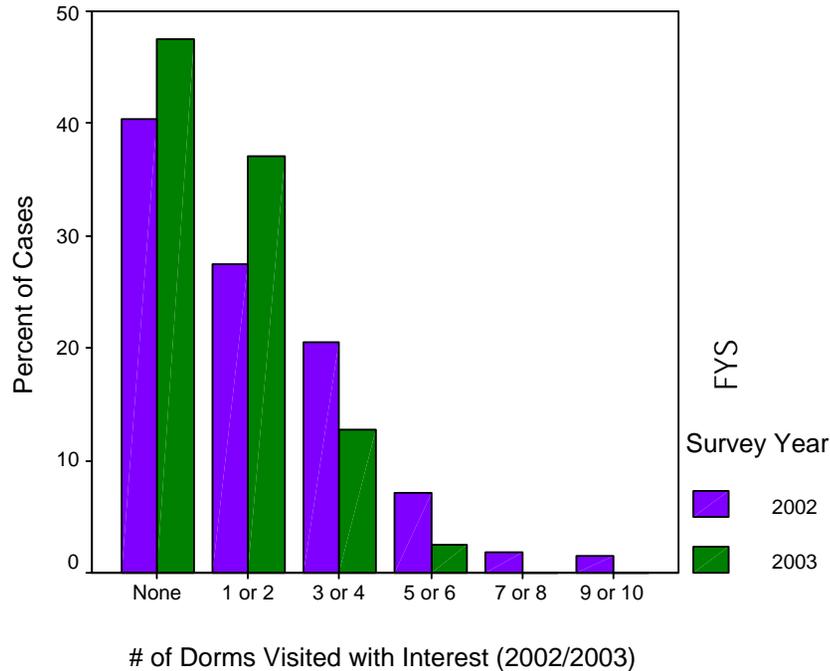
Note: Scale for agreement with statements is:  
 •Not at All (0)  
 •Slightly (1)  
 •Moderately (2)  
 •Highly (3)



OAL '03; not asked in '02.  
 Responses used only if  
 Individual reported attending.

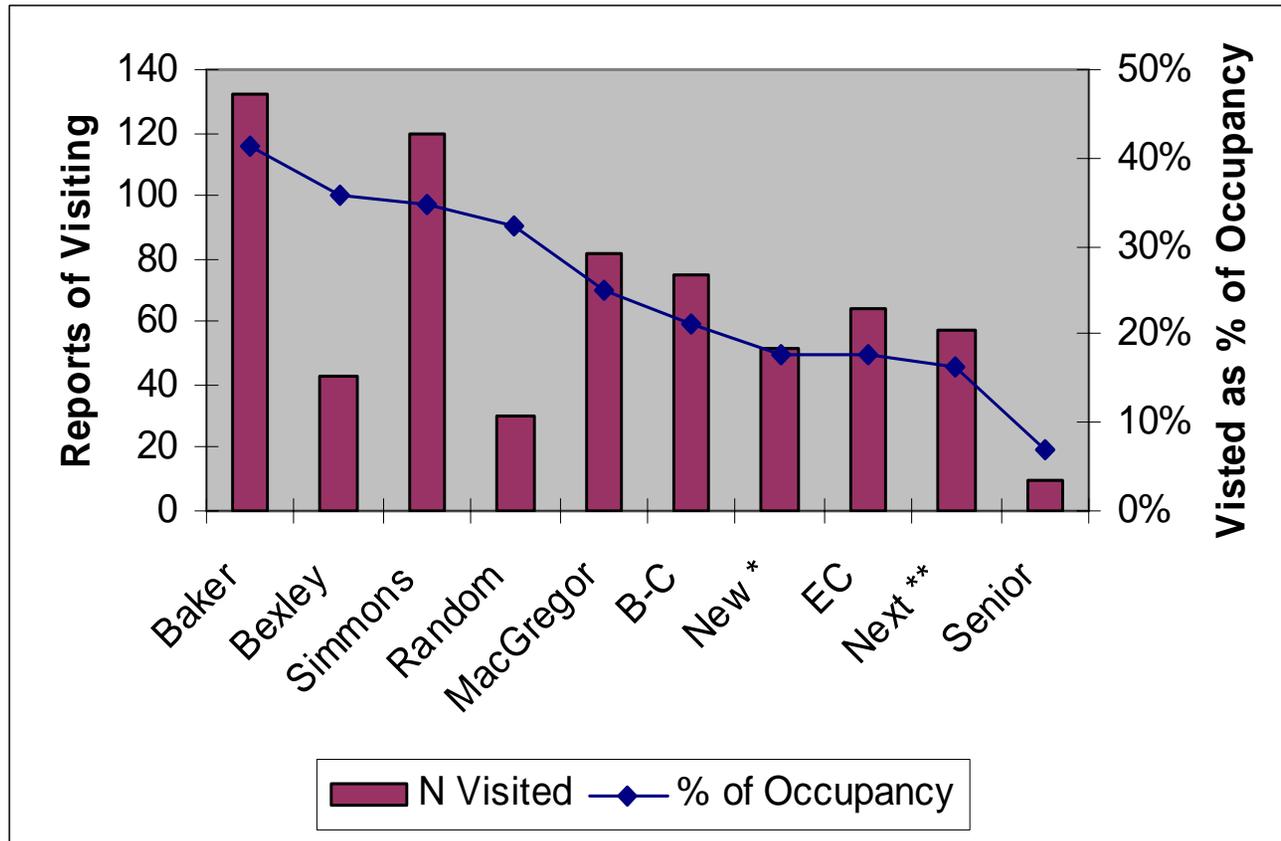
- Orientation Leaders did not discourage participation: 32.6% encouraged, 2.4% discouraged, and 65% were neutral (FYS 2003 data only).
- Less than 18% of students said FSILG participation in REX was a distraction. Those who requested a move were even less likely to say so.

# Individual Dorm Events



Statistical increase from 2002 to 2003 for "The events and activities that dorms sponsored during Orientation gave me a realistic idea of what it would be like to live there" (2.36 to 2.48), but pie chart represents them together.

# Visits to Dorms with Interest (2003)

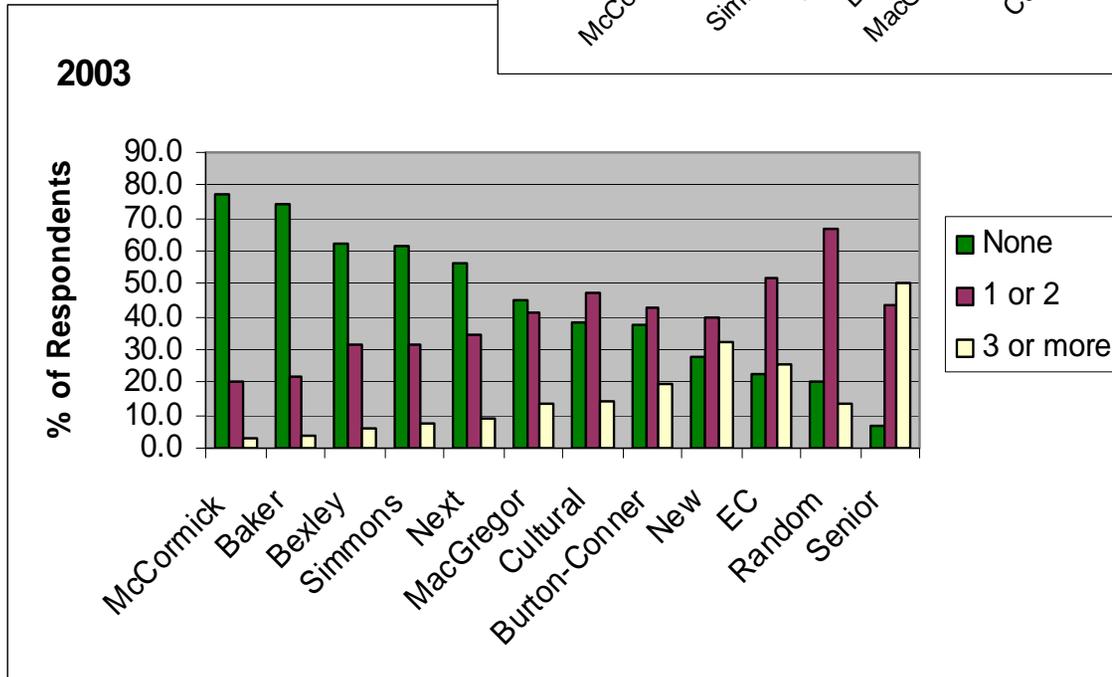
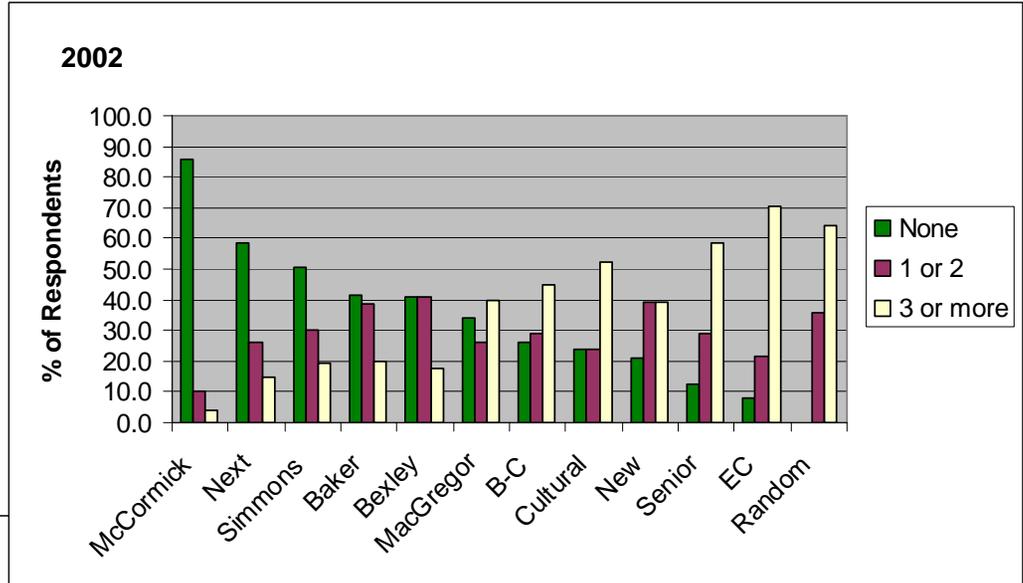


FYS '03

\* 30 reported visiting New House, 26 for Cultural Houses (only 4 reported both)

\*\* Students likely knew that Next House had fewer available spaces.

# Initial Assignment of Those with Interest in Moving



FYS '02

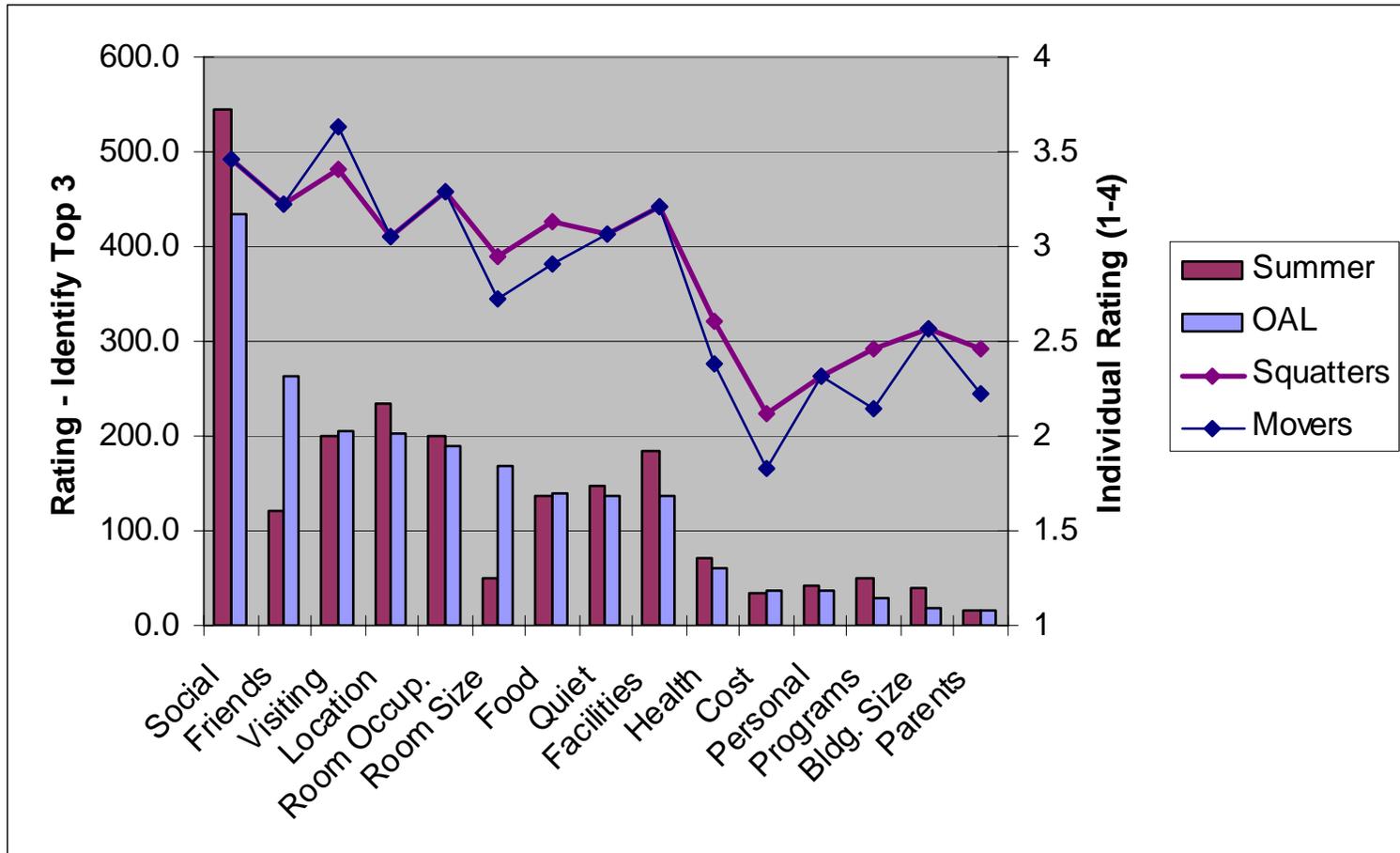
FYS '03

# Alcohol

- Out of 522 students, at least 300 reported the presence of alcohol in their dorm or another dorm during Orientation.
- Consumption does not necessarily follow from presence of alcohol.

# **Making Decisions about the Dorms**

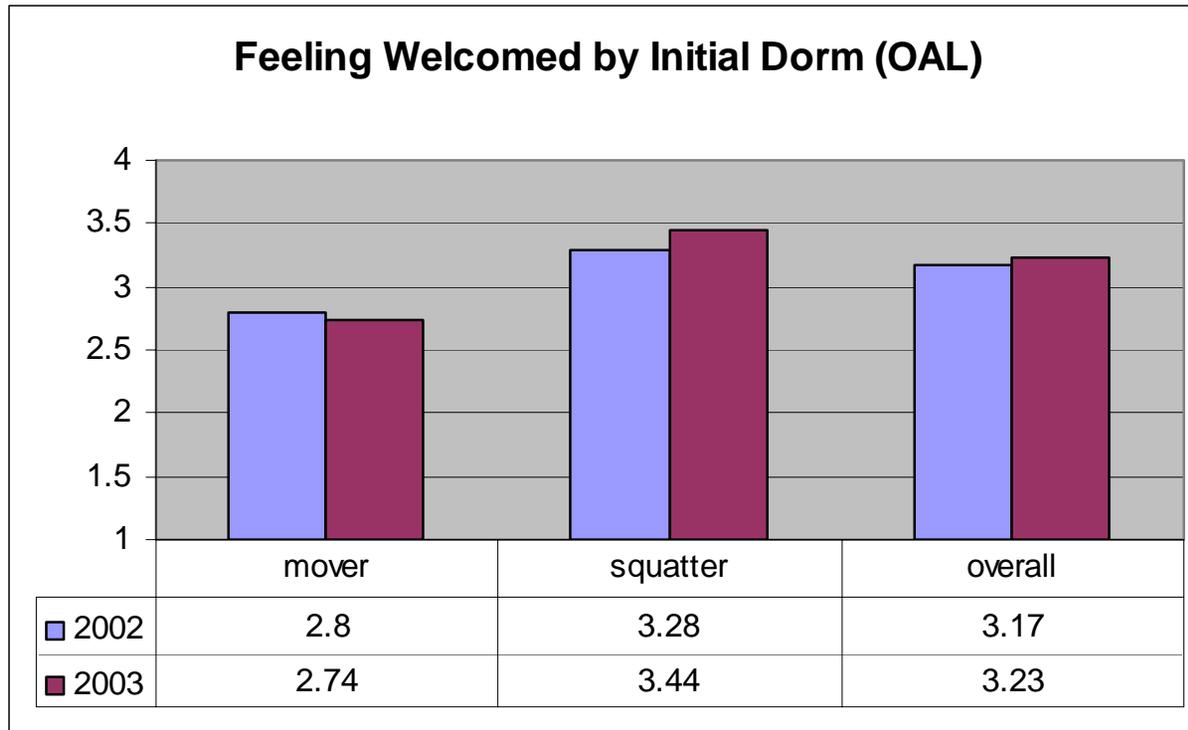
# Important Factors in Residential Decisions



SUM '03 & OAL '03; Question asked differently in 2002

	<u>Pulls/Important</u>	<u>Pushes/Unimportant</u>
Baker	Location, Social Atmosphere	# of Roommates, Privacy/Quiet
Bexley	Location, Room Sq. Ft.	Social Atmos., Parent/Guardian Input, Privacy/Quiet, Special Prog., <i>Feeling Welcomed</i>
Burton	Cost, Location, Cook/Dining Fac.	Visiting
EC	Cost, Friends Made, Location	Special Prog., Personal Consid., Facilities, Room Sq. Ft., Privacy/Quiet
MacGregor	Cook/Dining Fac., Privacy/Quiet, # of Roommates	Location, Room Sq. Ft.
New	Cost, Room Sq. Ft., Special Prog, Privacy/Quiet	-
Next	Special Prog., Privacy/Quiet, Cook/Dining Fac.	Location, Room Sq. Ft.
Senior	Cost, Social Atmosphere	Room Sq. Ft., # of Roommates, Cook/Dining Fac., Special Prog., Privacy/Quiet, Gender/Religion, <i>Feeling Welcomed</i>
Simmons	Room Sq. Ft., Cook/Dining Fac., Facilities, Privacy/Quiet	Location, Special Prog.
Cultural	Special Prog, Size of Community, Room Sq. Ft., Cook/Dining Fac., Cost, Social Atmos.	Location
Random	Social Atmos.	Location, Privacy/Quiet, Room Sq. Ft., Facilities, Special Prog, Health/Allergy, # of Roommates
McCormick	Parent/Guardian Input, Privacy/Quiet, Special Prog., Facilities, Location, Health/Allergy, Gender/Religion, Cook/Dining Fac., Room Sq. Ft.	-

# Felt Welcomed by Initial Dorm



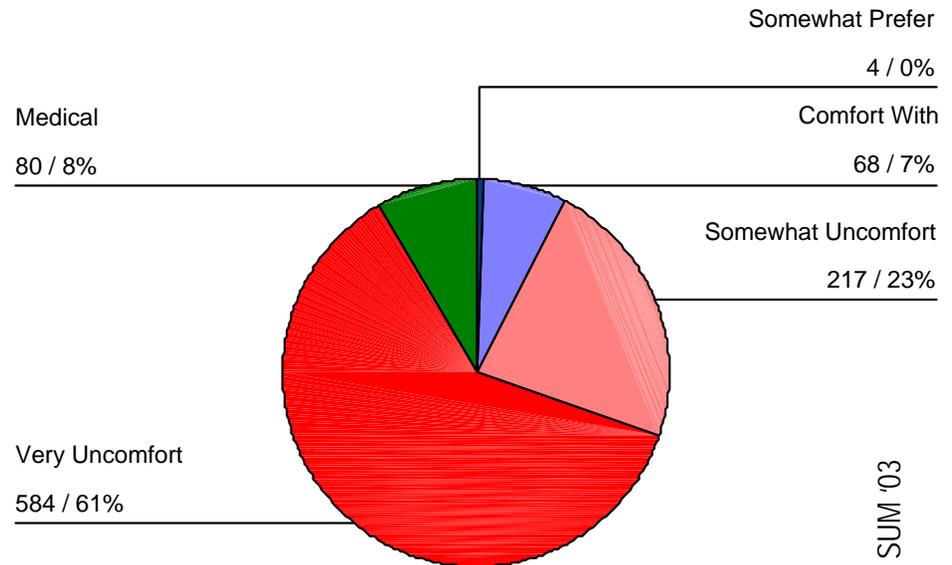
- Question as asked: "Please rate your satisfaction with feeling welcomed by the residence hall you were assigned to over the summer."
- All individual dorm Means are 2.92 or higher, except Bexley (2.08) and Senior House (2.64).
- Women who requested to move were less likely to feel welcomed than men (2.49 to 2.89).
- Mover/squatter difference is statistically significant.

# Smoking

## How Many Smokers?

When asked, 929 said they were not smokers, 5 said yes. 83 did not answer. Of those, 63 did not enter lottery on-line, 1 expressed a preference for a smoking environment, 10 expressed comfort, and 9 were uncomfortable.

## Comfort Living in Smoking Environment

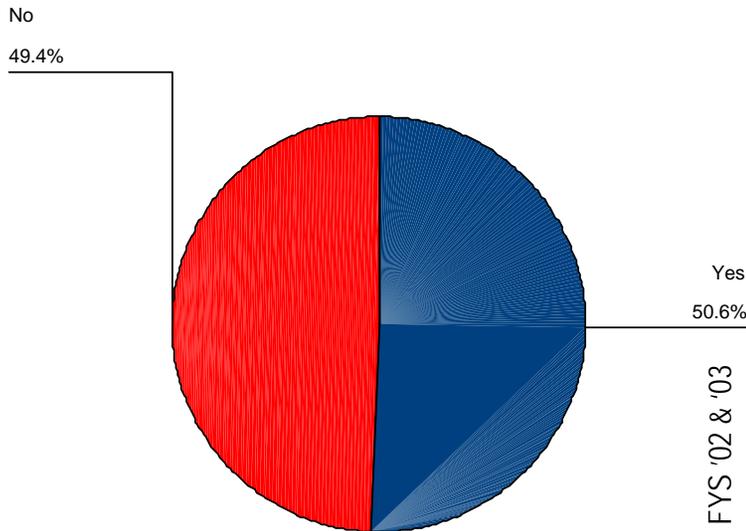


SUM '03

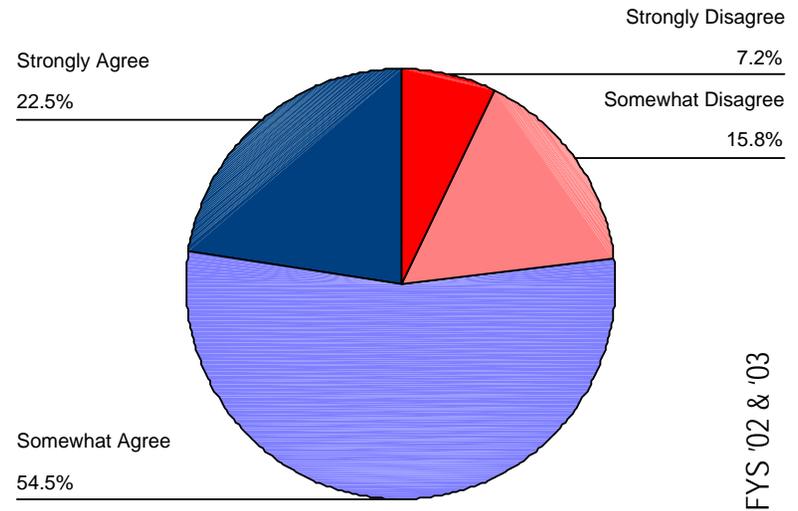
- Women are statistically less likely to be comfortable with smoking.

# Parental Impact

Parent Had Impact on Housing Decision

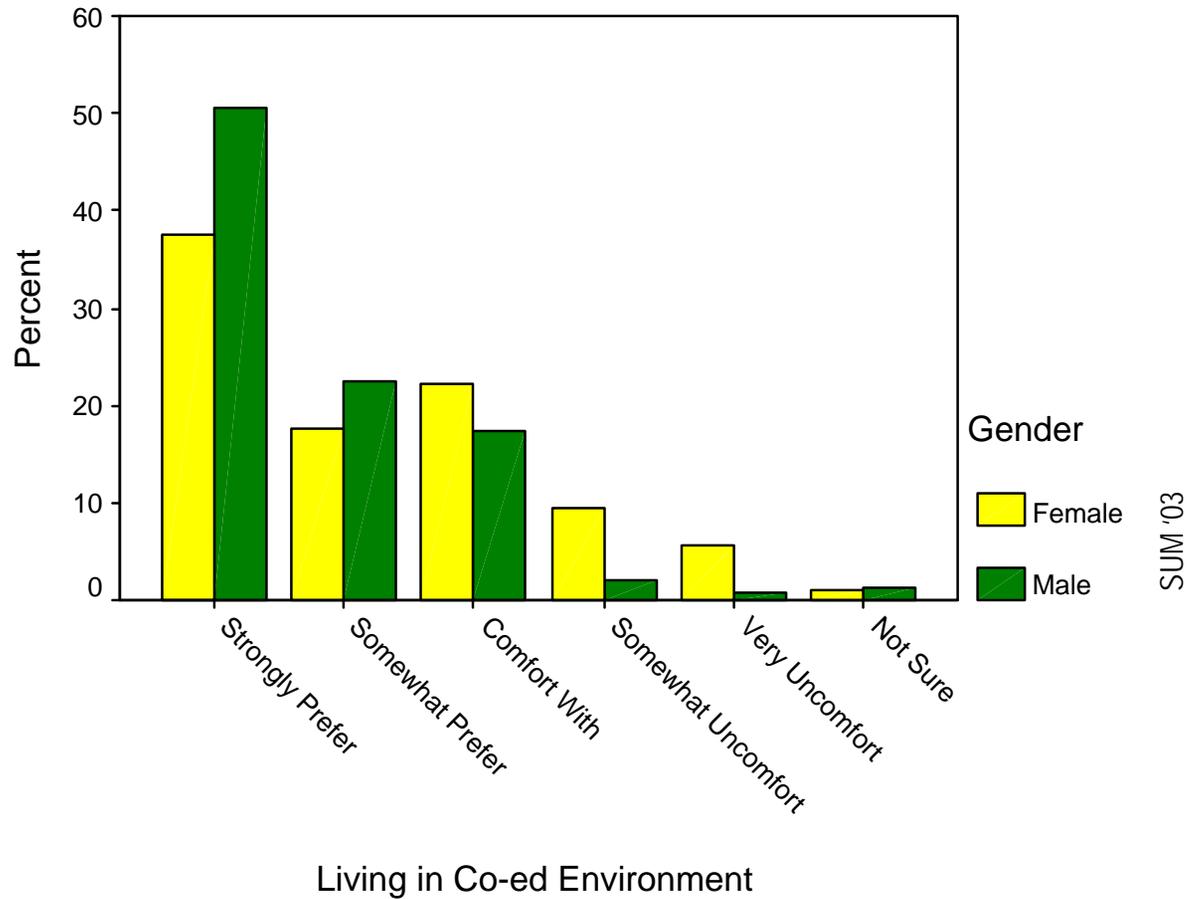


Parent Impact was Helpful



- No statistically significant difference for “parental impact was helpful” between 2002 and 2003.
- Response does not differ significantly if parents attended CPW or Orientation. The actual means for helpfulness when parents attended was higher, but not significantly so.

# Preference for Co-Ed Dorm Environments



# **The Rooming Process**

# Did You Change Rooms? Did You Want To?

In House Movement and Interest

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes and Wanted To	626	49.9	51.9	51.9
	Yes but Did Not Want To	183	14.6	15.2	67.1
	No and Did Not Want To	255	20.3	21.1	88.2
	No but Wanted To	39	3.1	3.2	91.5
	N/A	103	8.2	8.5	100.0
	Total	1206	96.1	100.0	
Missing	System	49	3.9		
Total		1255	100.0		

FYS '02 & '03

Those whose room movement action was counter to their desire to take that action...

- Were significantly less likely to value being a part of their Dorm's community (2.88 to 3.21)
- Were significantly less likely to feel they had a good student support network (3.19 to 3.45).

# Was the In-House Rooming Process Fair?

**In-House: Fair Process<sup>a</sup>**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	34	7.8	8.1	8.1
	Somewhat Disagree	49	11.2	11.7	19.8
	Somewhat Agree	162	37.2	38.7	58.5
	Strongly Agree	174	39.9	41.5	100.0
	Total	419	96.1	100.0	
Missing	System	17	3.9		
Total		436	100.0		

FYS '03, not asked in 2002  
 Excluding McCormick students and  
 those that moved since the OAL

a. Survey Year = 2003

- 56.6% of those in MacGregor disagreed with this question (26 of 46).
- 40% of those in Bexley disagreed with this question (4 of 10)
- No others had a disagreement above 25%.
- *NOTE: When asked if they understood the rules for In-House Rooming, less than 16% disagreed; however, 50% of those in Bexley and 37% in MacGregor did so.*

# Did In-House Rooming Help You...

## **Find Best Fit Area in Dorm**

- 70% Agreed
- 30% Disagreed
- Disagreement by Dorm:
  - 50% of Bexley (5 of 10)
  - 45% of Simmons (22 of 48)
  - 41% of MacGregor (19 of 46)
  - 36.4% of Baker (24 of 66)

## **Find a Compatible Roommate**

- 67% Agreed
- 33% Disagreed
- Disagreement by Dorm:
  - 62.5% of New/CH (15 of 24)
  - 42.2% of EC (8 of 19)
  - 40.4% of B-C (19 of 47)
  - 34.9% of Next (22 of 63)

# Were In-House Moves Well Organized?

In-House: Well Organized

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	36	8.3	8.6	8.6
	Somewhat Disagree	99	22.7	23.6	32.2
	Somewhat Agree	196	45.0	46.8	79.0
	Strongly Agree	88	20.2	21.0	100.0
	Total	419	96.1	100.0	
Missing	System	17	3.9		
Total		436	100.0		

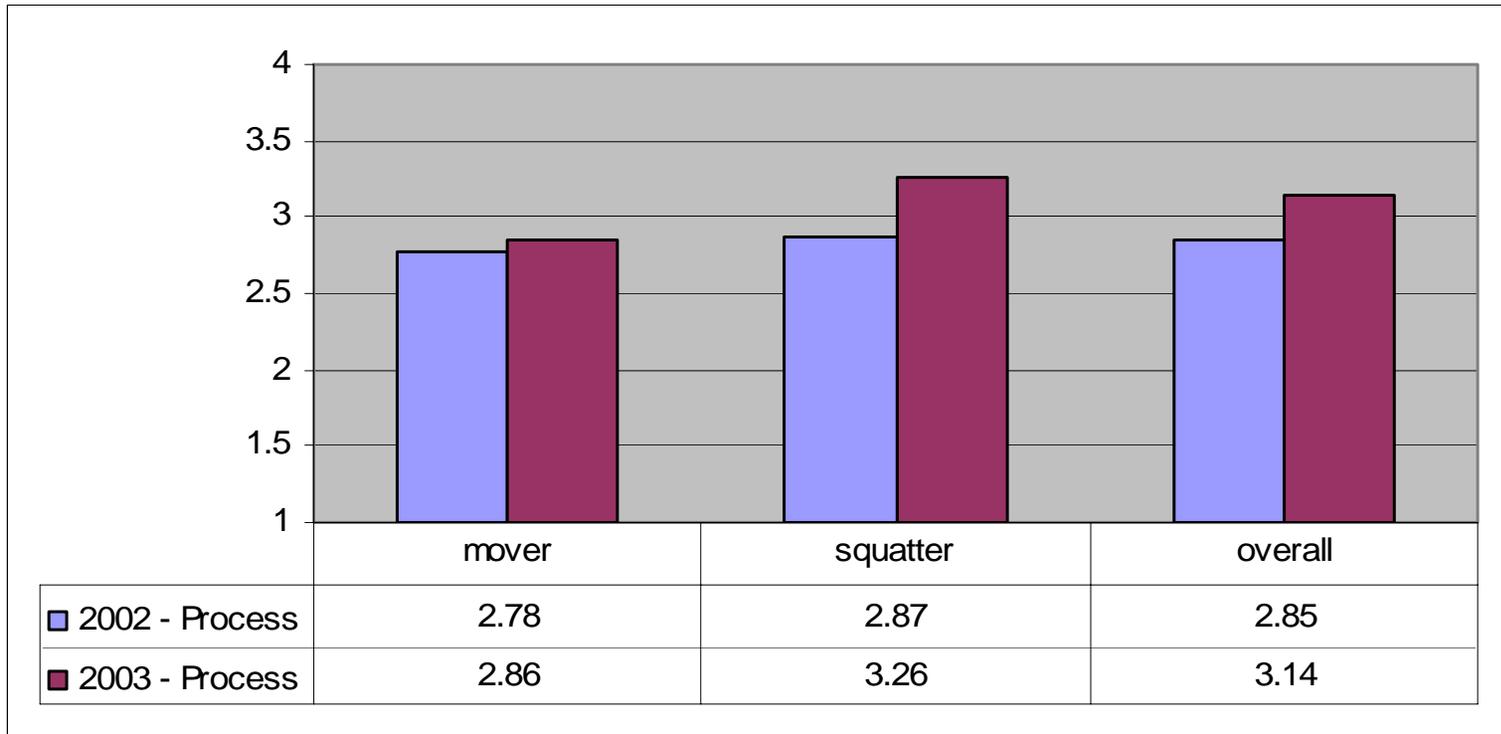
FYS '03, not asked in 2002  
Excluding McCormick students and  
those that moved since the OAL

a. Survey Year = 2003

- All dorms, except Next, Senior, East Campus, and Burton-Conner, had more than 25% disagreeing with this question.
- Bexley and MacGregor both had 50% or more disagreeing with this question.

# Overall Satisfaction – Dorms and Residence Selection

# Overall Satisfaction

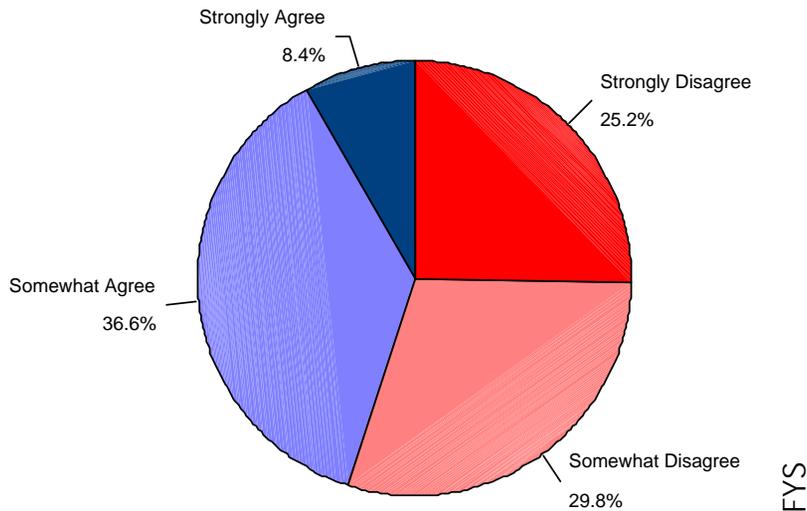


OAL '02 & '03

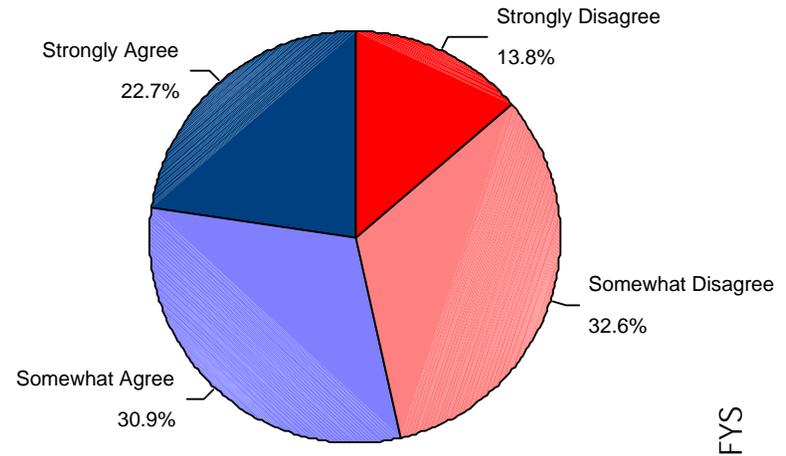
- Mover to Squatter difference is statistically significant, as is 2002 to 2003 increase.
- Questions as asked: "Overall how satisfied are you with the residence selection process, inclusive of both the summer and orientation adjustment lotteries?"

# Squatting and Acclimation

Option to Squat and Acclimation (2002)



Option to Squat and Acclimation (2003)



- Question as asked: "It would have helped me to better acclimate to MIT if I knew I had the option to stay in the room I started Orientation in if I wanted to do so."
- 2003 statistically higher than 2002 (2.62 to 2.28).

# Extent of Agreement with “My Current Dorm is a Good Fit for Me”

	<u>Changed Dorms</u>	<u>Changed Rooms</u>	<u>Did Not Move</u>
Not at All	2.8%	2.7%	3.3%
Slight	10.4%	6.5%	8.3%
Moderate	14.2%	14.0%	19.0%
Considerable	26.4%	34.2%	30.3%
Very Great	46.2%	42.6%	39.0%

*2002 and 2003 are not statistically different.*

# Extent of Agreement with “My Current Dorm is a Good Fit for Me”

	<u>FYS</u> (Fall '03)	<u>EBI</u> (Spring '02)	<u>COFHE ESS</u> (Spring '03)
Not at All	3.8%	3%	2.6%
Slight	6.7%	8%	7.5%
Moderate	12.5%	16%	17.9%
Considerable	32.6%	31%	36.0%
Very Great	44.4%	39%	36.0%

# Students in RBA...

- Are more likely to report being satisfied, overall, with their advisor (3.37 to 3.23).
- Are more likely to agree they had adequate time with their advisor during Orientation (2.95 to 2.81)
- Are more likely to feel their advisor is more knowledgeable of first-year subjects (3.09 to 2.83).
- Are more likely to feel their advisor is knowledgeable of academic resources (3.19 to 3.04).
- Were as likely as other students to believe their advisor is interested in them and their success (53% strongly agreed and 35% somewhat agreed).
- Are *less* likely to agree they were well informed of their advising options prior to arrival (2.64 to 2.87).

# **Fraternities,** **Sororites, and ILGs**

# First-Year Student Perceptions of FSILGs

## *East Campus and West Campus Dorms*

**Group Statistics**

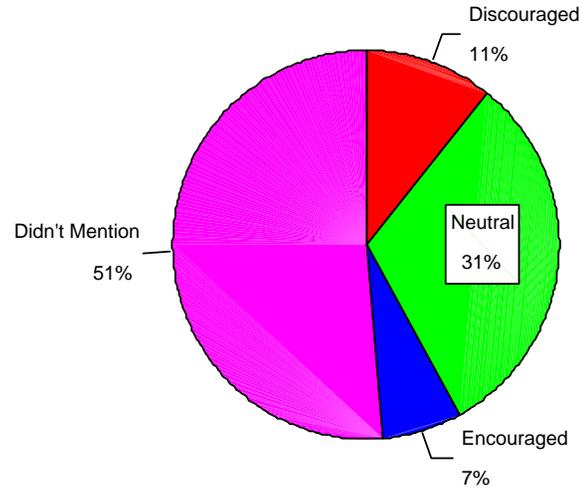
	Current Assignment - East/West Campus	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Positive Impression of Sororities	East Campus	144	2.49	.845	.070
	West Campus	778	2.80	.835	.030
Positive Impression of Fraternities	East Campus	176	2.56	.886	.067
	West Campus	896	2.92	.881	.029
Positive Impression of ILGs	East Campus	154	3.00	.758	.061
	West Campus	733	2.76	.801	.030

FYS '02 & '03 combined

- Each pair of means above is statistically significantly different.
- Students from West Campus are more likely to join or be open to joining FSILGs than students from East Campus. These differences are statistically significant.
- Random is statistically lower than B-C, Bexley, Next, Simmons, and Baker in impressions of Fraternities (2.11 to 2.96-3.13).
- Random is statistically lower than McCormick, Next, Bexley, and Baker in impressions of sororities (2.05 to 2.88-2.96).

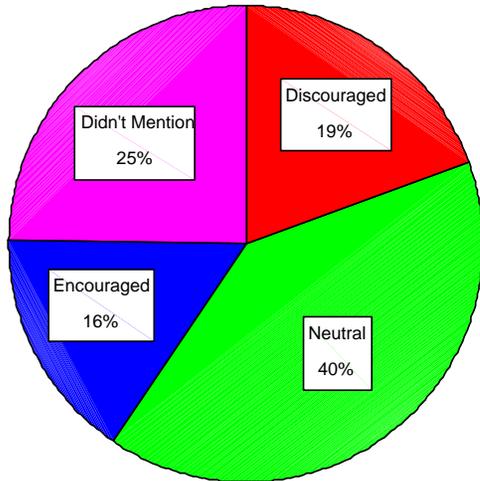
### Dorms and ILG Membership Interest

Note:  
All 2003;  
Sorority is  
Women  
Only



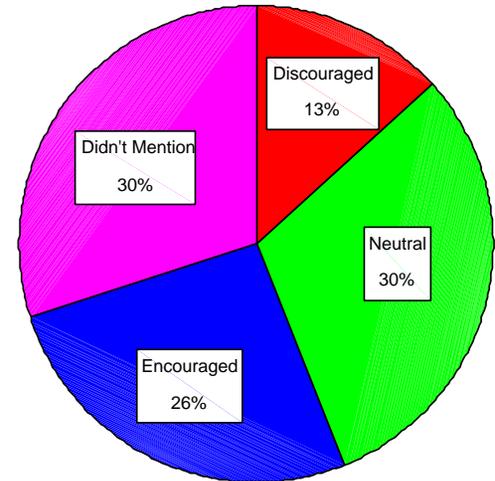
FY '03

### Dorms and Fraternity Membership Interest



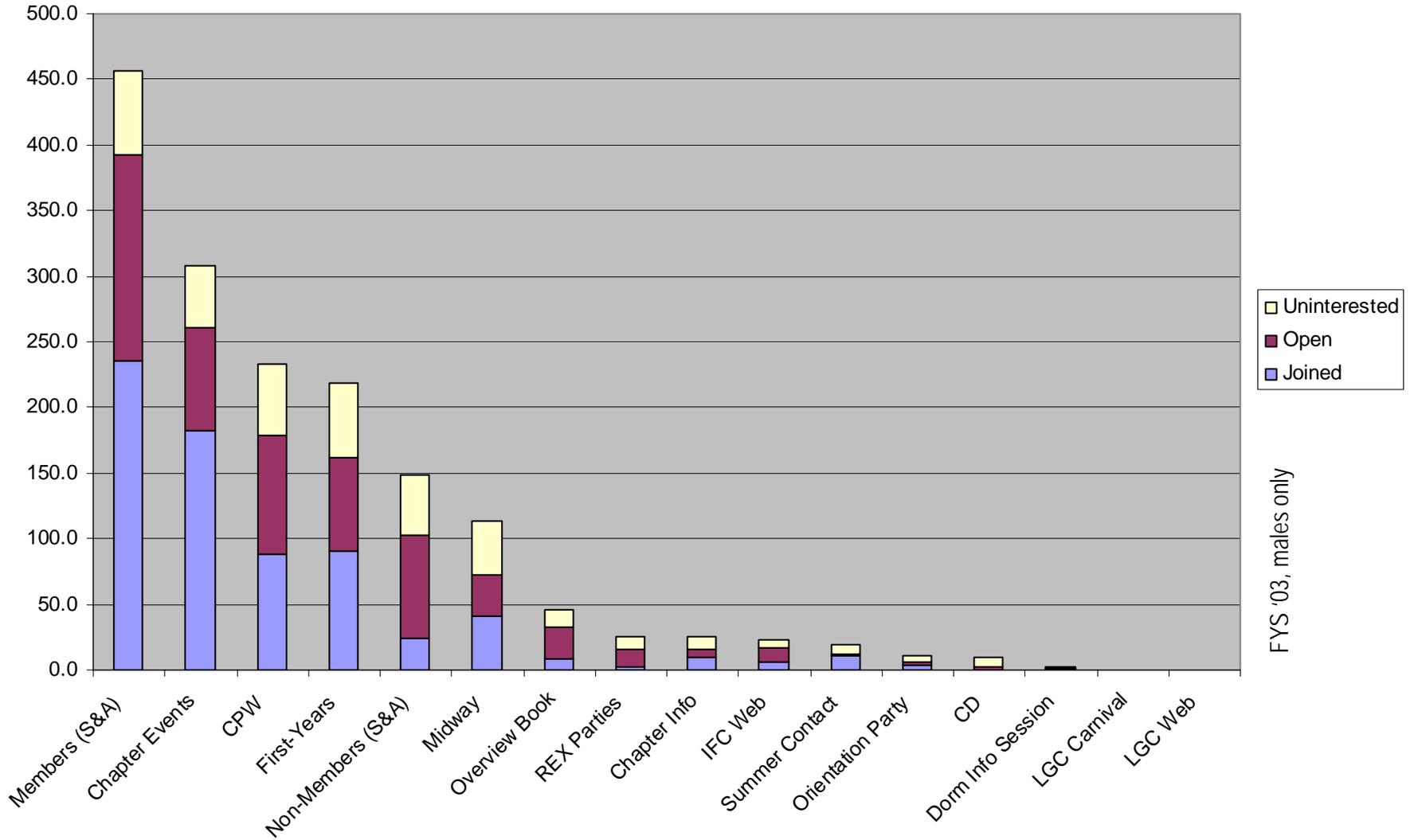
FY '03

### Dorms and Sorority Membership Interest



FY '03, females only

## Value of FILG Information Sources (2003 Males Only)



# Dorm Satisfaction and FSILG Interest

**FSILG Membership and Interest (Calculated) \* Current Dorm Good Fit (Two Groups) Crosstabulation**

			Current Dorm Good Fit (Two Groups)		Total
			Weak Agreement	Strong Agreement	
FSILG Membership and Interest (Calculated)	Joined	Count	110	178	288
		Expected Count	75.1	212.9	288.0
		Std. Residual	4.0	-2.4	
	Open	Count	125	351	476
		Expected Count	124.2	351.8	476.0
		Std. Residual	.1	.0	
	Uninterested	Count	59	304	363
		Expected Count	94.7	268.3	363.0
		Std. Residual	-3.7	2.2	
Total	Count	294	833	1127	
	Expected Count	294.0	833.0	1127.0	

FYS '02 & '03

*Overall Chi-Square is .000 (statistically significant)*

**# of Hours per Week at FILG Since Joining**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	0-4	32	11.4	11.6	11.6
	5-9	83	29.5	30.1	41.7
	10-14	77	27.4	27.9	69.6
	15 or more	84	29.9	30.4	100.0
	Total	276	98.2	100.0	
Missing	System	5	1.8		
Total		281	100.0		

FYS '02 & '03, males only

a. Gender = M

*Question as asked: “If you have joined an FILG, please estimate how many hours you spend at the house and/or participating in the organization’s activities in an average week.”*

### Sophomore Housing Prediction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Same Dorm	14	9.0	9.1	9.1
	Different Dorm	2	1.3	1.3	10.4
	FSILG	128	82.1	83.1	93.5
	Other	1	.6	.6	94.2
	Can't Predict	9	5.8	5.8	100.0
	Total	154	98.7	100.0	
Missing	System	2	1.3		
Total		156	100.0		

FYS '02, males who joined only

a. Gender = M, Survey Year = 2002

### Sophomore Housing Prediction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Same Dorm	9	7.2	7.2	7.2
	Different Dorm	5	4.0	4.0	11.2
	FSILG	101	80.8	80.8	92.0
	Other	2	1.6	1.6	93.6
	Can't Predict	8	6.4	6.4	100.0
	Total	125	100.0	100.0	

FYS '03, males who joined only

a. Gender = M, Survey Year = 2003

# **EBI/Housing Survey**

# Survey Overview

- All residents (current participation – 50%)
- Every other year; 1-7 Scale (4 is neutral)
- Satisfaction with aspects of residential experience, including:
  - Contribution to various abilities
  - Services and facilities
  - Fellow residents and roommates
  - Safety and Security
  - Graduate Resident Tutors
  - Overall Perspectives

# GRT Satisfaction

- Availability (61% selected a 6 or 7; 10% N/A)
- Efforts to Get to Know You (57%; 9%)
- Appropriate Referrals (49%, 30%)
- Maintaining a Quiet Environment (48%, 20%)
- Treating Everyone Fairly (70%, 12%)
- Organizing Events (63%, 10%)
- Gaining Your Respect (59%, 11%)
- Helping with a Problem (52%, 25%)
- Promoting Tolerance of Others (61%, 17%)
- Overall (66%; 9%)